

Vote

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southerners wanted them to be included in population to bolster their seats in Congress without giving them the right to vote. The north did not want slaves to be viewed as a full person because it would give the south a huge political boost.

“The three-fifths compromise has absolutely nothing to do with a critique on slavery at all,” Cotlar said, adding theories like Linthicum’s come from pro-Confederate versions of history that are inaccurate.

Cotlar was not the only one taken aback. Frederick was visibly upset. As Linthicum was talking, Manning quickly walked toward Senate Minority Leader Herman Baertschiger, R-Grants Pass, while gesturing to Linthicum.

When Linthicum finished talking, he and Manning moved off to the side of the floor where they talked for 30 minutes. Then Frederick began talking to Linthicum.

Manning said he respects Linthicum, but the two did not find common ground on this issue. He called Linthicum’s statements “offensive” and a “mischaracterization.”

“You can’t change history with theory,” Manning said. “History is recorded.”

It’s not the first time Linthicum has made statements perceived as racist which prompted quick backlash.

In February, Linthicum sent out a news release titled “I can’t breathe” in which he argued Eric Garner died because of high tobacco taxes created a black market for cigarettes.

Garner died after being choked by police during an arrest for selling cigarettes on the street.

Linthicum reasoned that if the taxes weren’t as high, Garner wouldn’t have been out on the street corner selling cigarettes. Linthicum was pushing back on a proposed tobacco tax increase.

Linthicum’s comments Tuesday were entirely unrepresentative of the rest of the debate, which centered around how moving to a popular vote would impact rural voters and how to empower voters that were historically disenfranchised.

But they did bring public rebuke from Frederick, Manning and Sen. Sara Gelser, D-Corvallis.

“Humans are humans, 100 percent, every day,” she said of the idea that the three-fifths compromise was beneficial.

Lawmakers talked at length about how two of the past three presidents did not win the popular vote.

“As long as they vote, their vote has the potential to make a difference,” Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, said. Dembrow is a chief sponsor and carried the bill on the floor.

Others were less enthusiastic.

Sen. Alan Olsen, R-Canby, said it would further disenfranchise rural voters. He also argued this system has been working for two centuries reliably.

“It’s interesting to me that we try and elevate ourselves to that of our forefathers,” Olsen said.

“Those guys are pretty doggone smart.”

The issue wasn’t partisan – it had bipartisan support and opposition.

Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, voted against it as did Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem and Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland.

Johnson and Sen. Lee Beyer, D-Springfield, said they felt this issue should be put forth to Oregon voters, rather than decided by the legislature.

Sen. Shemia Fagan, D-Portland, disagreed, saying the Constitution clearly says legislature determines how the state represents itself in national elections.

“This is a rare case where the constitution literally tells us it’s our job,” she said.

‘Bomb cyclone’ storm hammering central U.S.

Associated Press

Blizzard warnings were posted from Colorado to Minnesota on Wednesday and wildfires were a concern in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma as the second so-called “bomb cyclone” storm in less than a month hit the central U.S., raising the prospect of renewed flooding in the already drenched Midwest.

Heavy snow disrupted ground and air travel Wednesday. Roads became

impassable and visibility was down to a few feet in South Dakota due to heavy snowfall. About half of the daily flights at Denver International Airport were canceled.

Up to 2½ feet of snow was expected to fall in parts of South Dakota and Minnesota, the National Weather Service said. Winds in excess of 50 mph also were expected, creating life-threatening conditions.

“We’re calling it historic

because of the widespread heavy snow. We will set some records,” said Mike Connelly, a weather service meteorologist in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Transportation officials closed Interstate 29 from east central South Dakota to the North Dakota border and said other stretches of major interstates were likely to close as conditions deteriorated.

Numerous traffic crashes were reported in northeastern South Dakota, and the

storm knocked out power to thousands of homes and businesses in Sioux Falls.

Officials in Colorado closed a 150-mile stretch of Interstate 76 from just northeast of Denver to the Nebraska border, and Gov. Jared Polis activated the National Guard in case troops are needed to rescue stranded motorists.

Multiple crashes in Minnesota along a snowy stretch of Interstate 35 prompted officials to close about 10 miles of the high-

way about 50 miles south of Minneapolis.

In Nebraska, the State Patrol was sending additional troopers into the state’s panhandle, and officials closed Interstate 80 in that region.

“This storm is going to be dangerous,” Patrol Maj. Russ Stanczyk said.

An unusual weather phenomenon known as “thunder snow” — snow accompanied by thunder and lightning — was reported in South Dakota.

HazMat: Team responds to everything from spilled milk to gas

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who was in Hermiston on Tuesday for a presentation about HazMat services. “They certainly respond on a number of petrochemical highway incidents.”

Recently, the team also responded to a plane crash in a field near Hermiston. The plane, a crop duster, had been carrying Roundup pesticide, but its tank was empty. The team ended up not having to do any cleanup.

“The fuel had already leaked out, and there wasn’t anything for HazMat to do,” said Dennis McClure, UCFD’s HazMat team coordinator.

While the HazMat team responds to any situation that might pose a health risk to those around it, they encouraged people to educate themselves on resources.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal publishes an annual emergency response guidebook, which offers a comprehensive list of the different types of hazards,



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Lt. Dennis McClure holds a personal radiation detector firefighters would wear when responding to a radiological incident.

how to recognize labels for different hazardous materials, and how to respond to each one.

People also can access a database that tells them how many facilities within their county house more than a certain amount of hazardous materials. The “Community Right to Know Act” requires that facilities that store more than



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Umatilla County Fire District 1 Lt. Dennis McClure opens a drawer with spark-free tools in it on the HazMat response vehicle.

500 units of a hazardous substance have to report it. Community members can create an account and can look up any facilities statewide, by county, that meet that number. In Umatilla County, there are 382

active facilities, and in Morrow County, there are 140.

Those facilities can be less obvious than the casual observer would think. River Point Farms is one, as is BiMart.

“One facility that may have in excess of 500 gallons of battery acid is a cell phone tower,” Heffner said. “A warehouse with battery-powered golf carts or forklifts may also fall into that category.”

Flooding: Rising water invades homes and outbuildings

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said. “I have a couple of inches of water inside.”

He had already pulled up the laminate flooring inside the residence to allow the subfloor to dry. Moore, who has flood insurance, feels somewhat lucky. Pointing to property upriver, he said the resident had lost a shed and then a garage to the river.

Next door, Brent Hall said his house remained safe on slightly higher ground, but rising groundwater had flooded his shop. The invasion, though worrisome, caused only minor damage.

“There was 3 inches of standing water in my shop,” Hall said. “We lost some stuff in cardboard boxes. Rachael (Owen, his wife) did 11 loads of laundry.”

In another section of yard, a pump house had become an island surrounded by a lake of rising groundwater. Without the well, the family must depend on other sources of water. Hall, his wife and their children are new to the neighborhood, arriving in October.

The flooding came after



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Flood waters surround a shop on property off River Road on Wednesday east of Pendleton.

heavy rains that fell over a 72-hour period starting on Sunday.

“Two to 3 inches of rain fell in the Blue Mountains,” said Joe Solomon, National Weather Service meteorologist out of Pendleton.

The rain joined snow-melt in trickles that flowed into brooks, creeks and streams and finally dumped into the Umatilla River, which eventually crested. Solomon said the crest had worked its

way past Pendleton as of late Wednesday afternoon and was headed to Reith and Echo. The crest would move further along the river until it dumped into the Columbia.

“There is nothing to

indicate that we’ll go back up to flood stage,” Solomon said. “There is a downward trend in river levels.”

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Emergency: Board met Wednesday to discuss the issue

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water out at max capacity, 1,150 cubic feet per second, so McKay Creek was moving high and fast, and that was likely to last until Monday.

Roberts also patched in Ukiah Mayor Clint Barber, who said Camus Creek threatened to overwhelm the town’s water pumping station.

Fellows said Meacham had some flooding, and while the water levels were dropping, overflows from Mill Creek, Iskuulpa Creek and West Birch Creek caused some road damage. He added the Walla Walla River jumped Joe West Bridge, but Harris Park south of Milton-Freewater was OK.

Robert said as the lev-

els return to normal, there would be plenty of damage to assess.

Commissioners George Murdock and John Shafer passed the emergency declarations. Commissioner Bill Elfering was absent.

The National Weather Service reported a new cold front is moving over the area and would drop the freezing level to 4,000 feet. That should chill out melting from the snowpack and drop river levels.

Fellows said snow already was falling again at Tollgate.

The Umatilla National Forest reported two roads on the North Fork John Day Ranger District were unsafe to drive due to the recent rainfall and flooding rivers.

Mud, snow and satu-

rated conditions promoted the shutdown of Forest Service Road 5326 between Heppner and Ukiah. The public should instead use Highway 74 from Nye/Franklin Grade as an alternate route.

The Forest Service also closed its Road 54 off Pearson Creek Road, approximately 14 miles outside of Pilot Rock, due to water across the roadway and damage from erosion.

That road has no alternate routes.

Other flooding issues on the forest include the 32 Road near the Bar M Ranch and Umatilla Forks Campground on the Walla Walla Ranger District.

Water is crossing the road near the forest boundary. Additionally, many rivers on the Umatilla

National Forest are at risk of flooding.

Forest officials advised washouts or obstructions, such as rocks or boulders, could affect roads and trails, so the public should use caution when traveling though the national forest. Visitors should plan ahead and contact their local ranger district prior to starting their trip. Most forest roads remain inaccessible due to mud, snow or snow drifts.

In addition, traveling on thawing, saturated and muddy roads can result in resource damage and serious safety concerns.

“Forest conditions are dynamic this time of year and likely to change throughout the day and week,” according to Wednesday’s warning.

“Forest Service staff will be patrolling and reporting any road obstructions, road washouts, or downed trees. The public is encouraged to monitor the Umatilla National Forest Facebook page and website for updates on flooding.”

Many places in the Blue Mountains also have limited or no cellphone coverage.

“Forest visitors should always be prepared to spend the night in the forest with warm clothing, food and plenty of water,” the Forest Service advised. “Before heading out, always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.”

Additional information about the Umatilla National Forest is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>.