

Growing number of states move to shield lottery winners

By **BOB CHRISTIE**
Associated Press

PHOENIX — A growing number of states are moving to allow the winners of big lottery jackpots to stay anonymous as privacy concerns are increasingly trumping lottery groups' wishes to publicize winners to boost sales and show that the games are fair.

Arizona could be the next state to join at least nine others with laws that let winners keep their names secret under a proposal headed to Republican Gov. Doug Ducey. Four years ago, just five states allowed anonymous winners, and a handful of others allowed trusts to claim prizes.

At least eight state legislatures considered measures shielding winners' names this year. Virginia's governor signed legislation allowing winners of \$10 million or more to remain anonymous. Proposals in Arkansas and Connecticut failed, while efforts in Massachusetts, Minnesota and Oregon are still being considered.

New Mexico's governor last week axed a similar proposal, with a

spokesman saying Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham decided to prioritize transparency.

"To be sure, the governor is clear about the concerns raised by proponents, i.e., that certain bad actors could take advantage of lottery winners if their names are made public," spokesman Tripp Stelnicki said in a statement. But "New Mexicans should have every confidence in the games run by the lottery."

Arizona's governor hasn't weighed in on the proposal before him.

The Arizona Lottery took no official position, but spokesman John Gilliland said "it is important that we have that transparency, because the lottery is nothing without integrity."

"And the only way the public has an absolute guarantee of integrity as far as real people winning these prizes is to be able to know who wins these prizes," he said this week.

Republican state Rep. Nancy Barto introduced the measure, saying she wanted to protect winners from harassment. State Rep. John Kavanagh pushed for current law that shields winners' names for 90 days but

said this week that it doesn't go far enough.

"After 90 days, the person is then subjected to all sorts of people hitting them up for loans, investment advisers trying to make them a client and the potential to be victimized by a burglar or, if it's a massive amount, having their kid kidnapped," the Republican said.

Balancing those concerns against the Lottery's interests in transparency isn't a close call, he said.

That's in line with a New Hampshire judge's decision last year to allow the winner of a nearly \$560 million Powerball jackpot to stay anonymous. The woman signed the ticket before she realized that state law would let her create a trust to shield her identity. The judge noted that she could be harassed or solicited for money.

Trusts are allowed in at least two other states besides New Hampshire, while a policy from South Carolina's lottery board allows anonymity. The winner of a \$1.5 billion ticket bought at a South Carolina convenience store last year remains unknown under that policy.

Case of abandoned foster child raises lawmakers' ire

SALEM (AP) — Oregon lawmakers are demanding answers from the state's child welfare agency after a report that a 9-year-old girl in foster care was sent to a Montana facility for six months and injected with Benadryl to control her behavior.

A legislative hearing Thursday largely focused on the news report this week by Oregon Public Broadcasting that also revealed caseworkers didn't visit the girl for months. OPB learned of the case through the child's public defender.

Officials are now working to bring the girl back amid growing concern over the state's embattled foster care system. Eighty-five children are currently living in out-of-state facilities, a number that's more than doubled since 2017, OPB reported.

Sen. Sara Gelsler, a Corvallis Democrat, said when she first received the list of the providers housing Oregon's children, she started searching the names online. Stories of licensing violations, arrests, sexual assaults and overuse of restraints all started coming up.

Gelsler also wondered how the state would know if there were other foster care children housed out-of-state who had similar experiences to the 9-year-old child. That case came to light because the child's family remains involved and because her public defender made personal contact with her in Montana and learned about the injections.



AP Photo/Anna Reed, File

In this March 3, 2016, file photo, Oregon state Sen. Sara Gelsler listens to a live stream as members of the House of Representatives finish business before adjourning the 2016 legislative session at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem.

The state is spending about \$35,000 a day on the foster care kids out of the state, she said.

"Something here has gone very, very wrong," said Gelsler, who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Services and convened the hearing. "We cannot ignore it and we have to keep this issue front and center until we are satisfied each of these kids are safe."

Gretchen Homrich, Acadia's director of investor

relations, didn't immediately return a call Friday.

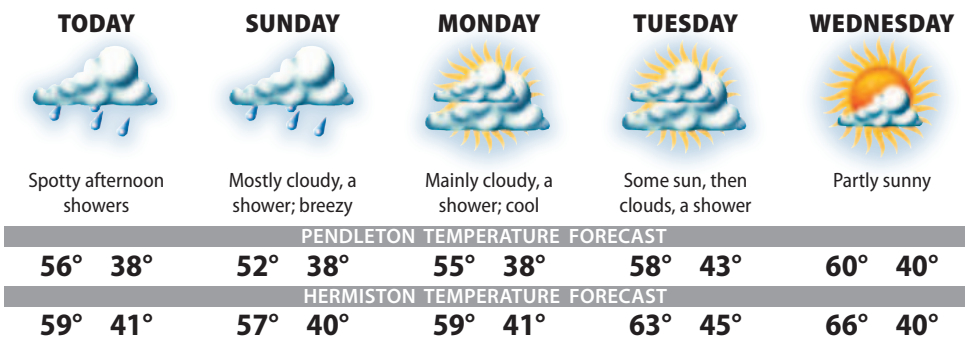
Fariborz Pakseresh, the head of the state Department of Human Services, said her agency had "dropped the ball" in the girl's case. "I own the mistake. We did make a mistake," she said at the hearing.

Pakseresh told lawmakers that part of the issue has been a reduced number of treatment beds available in Oregon.

Sen. Tim Knopp, a Bend Republican, asked why Child Welfare officials didn't bring that to lawmakers' attention earlier.

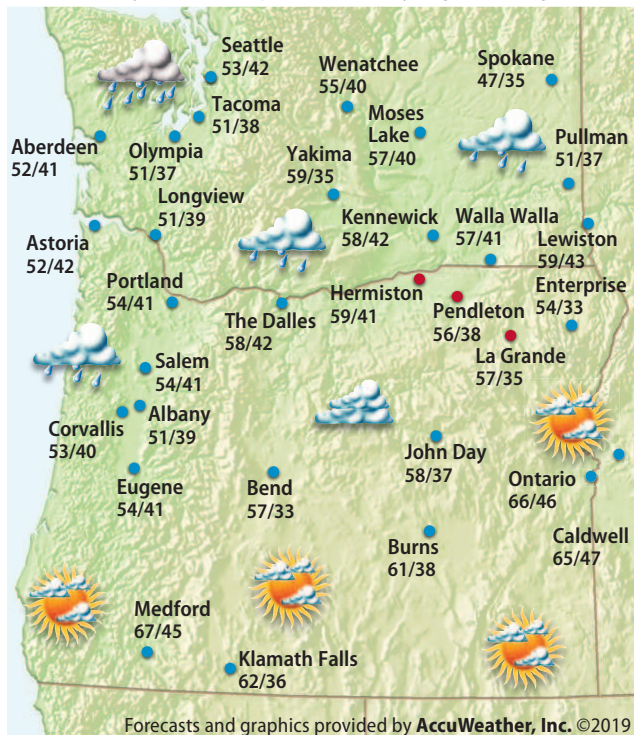
"I don't think there is anybody up here in this Legislature that isn't incredibly concerned this happened and we didn't know it was happening," he said.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



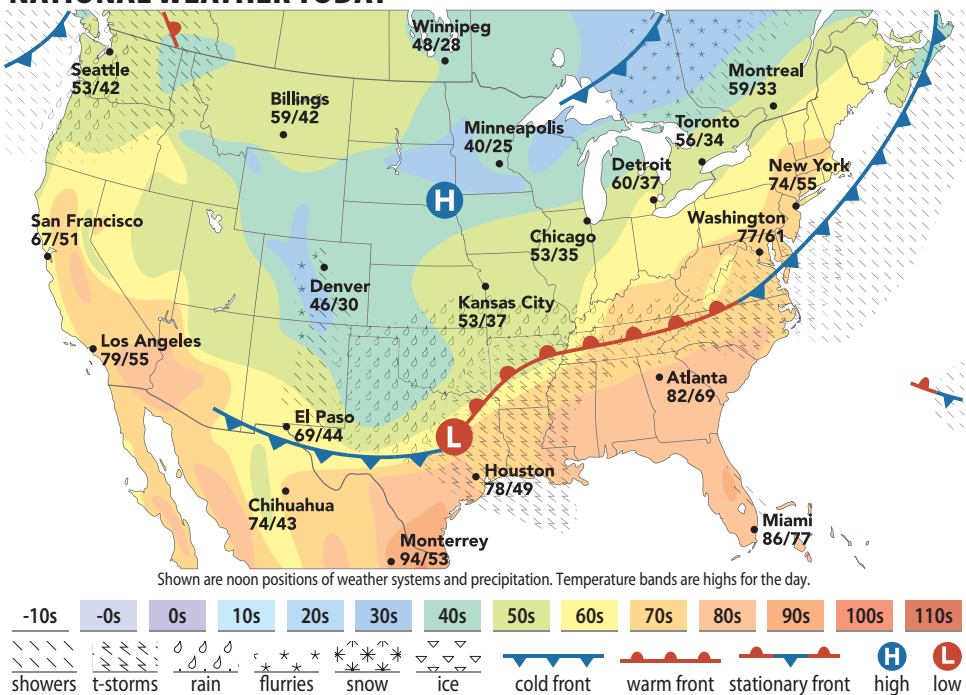
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	57°	43°
Normals	61°	39°
Records	85° (1934)	23° (1903)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.03"	
Month to date	1.19"	
Normal month to date	0.51"	
Year to date	7.27"	
Last year to date	4.61"	
Normal year to date	4.47"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	63°	48°
Normals	64°	39°
Records	89° (1936)	23° (2011)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace	
Month to date	0.21"	
Normal month to date	0.29"	
Year to date	3.80"	
Last year to date	3.48"	
Normal year to date	3.40"	
WINDS (in mph)		
Today	Sun.	
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 10-20
Pendleton	WSW 7-14	WSW 10-20
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	6:14 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:39 p.m.	
Moonrise today	12:42 p.m.	
Moonset today	3:15 a.m.	
Full	Last	New
Apr 19	Apr 26	May 4
First		
		May 11

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 91° in Immokalee, Fla. Low -1° in Burgess Junction, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



U.S. agency reconsidering status of bistate sage grouse

By **SCOTT SONNER**
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is revising its plans to protect a type of imperiled game bird found only along the California-Nevada line after a federal judge struck down its earlier decision to rescind a proposal to list it as threatened.

The agency announced late Thursday it will reopen the public comment period and reconsider whether to protect the bistate sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act through June 11.

A judge ruled last May that the agency acted illegally in 2015 when it withdrew an earlier proposal to list the bistate grouse as a distinct, threatened segment of the larger sage grouse.

The greater sage grouse is at the center of a dispute over Trump administration efforts to roll back protections adopted under President Barack Obama across 11 western states.

The U.S. Forest Service also is currently being sued over the bistate grouse by off-road enthusiasts in California and Nevada who say that agency's protection plans unnecessarily restrict motorized travel and could increase fire danger across

rangeland habitat in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the Sierra's eastern front.

Scientists say both types of ground-dwelling, chicken-sized birds need multiple miles of undisturbed habitat around their traditional breeding grounds known as "leks" free from oil and gas drilling, livestock grazing, mining and other development. But they say the bistate grouse is more at risk than greater sage grouse with as few as 5,000 remaining across 7,000 square miles of high-desert sagebrush.

The Fish and Wildlife Service announced Thursday it was reopening a 60-day comment period on the bistate grouse's status and plans to publish a final listing determination by Oct. 1.

In the meantime, the bird reverts to proposed listing status, which means other federal land managers must consult with Fish and Wildlife about any development or management plans that could encroach on its habitat, the agency said.

Pressed by conservationists in court, the Fish and Wildlife Service originally published a proposal in October 2013 to list the bistate grouse as a distinct population segment of the greater sage grouse that was threatened with extinction

in California and Nevada.

But in April 2015, the agency withdrew that decision based on its conclusion threats to the bistate grouse were "no longer as significant as believed" and that "conservation plans were ameliorating threats" to the bird, the agency said in Thursday's notification.

Desert Survivors, the Center for Biological Diversity, WildEarth Guardians and Western Watershed Projects filed suit over that decision in March 2016 and U.S. District Chief Magistrate Judge Joseph Spero ruled May 2018 in San Francisco there were "no rational grounds for the service's conclusion."

Ileene Anderson, desert public lands director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said Friday the bistate sage grouse "are in deep trouble" and need urgent protection from the Endangered Species Act to survive.

"We're counting on the Trump administration do the right thing and shield these beautiful birds from extinction," she said. "The goal is to increase the number of birds throughout their range and that means protecting their habitat."

A lawyer for the plaintiffs in the Forest Service suit didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

EastOregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255
or go online to EastOregonian.com
and click on 'Subscribe'

East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR.
Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801.
Copyright © 2019, EO Media Group

Subscriber services:

For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 1-800-522-0255 ext. 1

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$13/month	60 percent
52 weeks	\$173.67	41 percent
26 weeks	\$91.86	38 percent
13 weeks	\$47.77	36 percent

*EZ Pay = one-year rate with a monthly credit or debit card/check charge

Single copy price:
\$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday

Circulation Manager:
Bonny Tuller, 541-966-0828

ADVERTISING

Regional Publisher and Revenue Director:

• Christopher Rush
541-278-2669 • crush@eomediagroup.com

Advertising Services:

• Angela Treadwell
541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com
• Grace Bubar
541-276-2214 • gbubar@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia Consultants:

• Jeannine Jewett
541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com
• Audra Workman
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Business Office Coordinator

• Dayle Stinson
541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising

1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legal@eastoregonian.com

NEWS

• To submit news tips and press releases: call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com
• To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News: email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers at 541-966-0818.
• To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email rstuthers@eastoregonian.com or visit eastoregonian.com/community/announcements
• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips: 541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

Business Office Manager:
541-966-0822

COMMERCIAL PRINTING
Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com