

U.S. judge in Washington state blocks new Trump abortion rule

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A U.S. judge in Washington state Thursday blocked new Trump administration rules that would provide additional hurdles for women seeking abortions, including by banning taxpayer-funded clinics from making abortion referrals.

Judge Stanley Bastian in Yakima granted the preliminary injunction in cases brought by the state and abortion rights groups, Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson said. The new rules were due to take effect May 3.

“Today’s ruling ensures that clinics across the nation can remain open and continue to provide quality, unbiased healthcare to women,” Ferguson, a Democrat, said in an emailed statement.

The ruling came two days after a federal judge in Oregon, hearing a separate challenge by 20 states, said he intended to at least partially block the rules. That judge, Michael McShane, suggested he was reluctant to issue a nationwide injunction, but said the admin-



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File

In this Feb. 25, 2019, file photo, Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson speaks at a news conference announcing a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration’s Title X “gag rule” in Seattle.

istration’s new policy was motivated by “an arrogant assumption that the government is better suited to direct women’s health care than their providers.”

Title X is a 1970 law designed to improve access to family planning services, especially for low-income women and those in rural areas, but abortion opponents and religious conservatives say it has long been used to indirectly subsidize abortion providers.

Abortion is a legal medical procedure, but federal

laws prohibit the use of Title X or other taxpayer funds to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the woman.

Clinics that receive money under Title X provide a wide array of services, including birth control and screening for diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases and cancer. The program serves 4 million patients, about 1.6 million of whom obtain services through Planned Parenthood.

In addition to banning abortion referrals by tax-

payer-funded clinics, the changes would prohibit clinics that receive federal money from sharing office space with abortion providers — a rule critics said would force many to find new locations, undergo expensive remodels or shut down.

“All over the country, there are Title X providers looking at their patient schedules and wondering what they were going to do,” said Clare Coleman, president of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, which sued. “Now we know that everyone can continue to do their care as they have been doing for the past 50 years.”

The judge made his ruling from the bench and issued a written opinion later Thursday.

“Plaintiffs have demonstrated the Final Rule likely violates the central purpose of Title X, which is to equalize access to comprehensive, evidence-based, and voluntary family planning,” Bastian wrote.

The Department of Health and Human Services declined to comment, citing a policy of not commenting on litigation.

Troubled foster care facility target of legislative hearing

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN
Associated Press

SALEM — Child welfare officials say there was credible information that foster children kept at a converted juvenile detention center in southern Oregon were subjected to strip searches, bullying and unwanted physical contact.

Top officials with the Department of Human Services revealed the information at a legislative hearing Thursday, shedding more light on the living conditions at the Youth Inspiration Program in Klamath Falls, a facility included in a federal lawsuit against Oregon’s foster care system.

DHS Child Welfare Director Marilyn Jones said there were reports that foster care youth at YIP had little access to recreational and extracurricular activities. Residents of the facility also reported that their contact with family members were also limited.

At least one child reported being bullied by another peer, and there were also credible reports

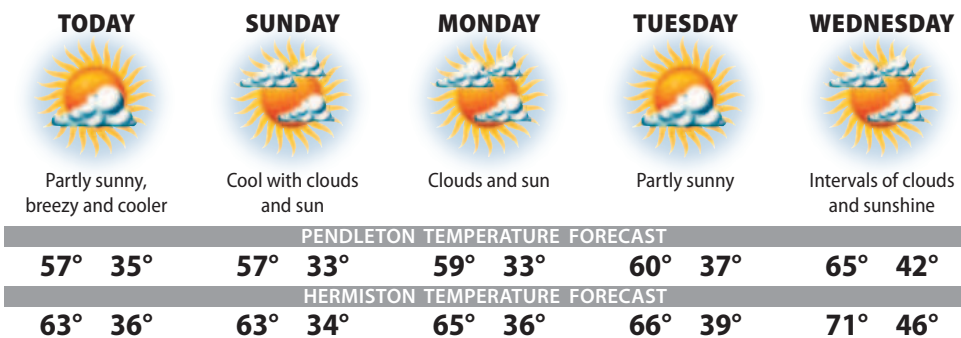
of youth being subjected to strip searches, in which children would change into robes and hand their clothing over to staff to be searched.

Oregon has increasingly sent foster care children to converted juvenile jails and to other institutional settings after DHS committed to no longer keep some of the state’s most high-needs children in hotel rooms.

The hearing came as Gov. Kate Brown forges ahead with her own plan to tackle Oregon’s foster care crisis. The governor announced the members of her Child Welfare Oversight Board, a nine-person panel that will meet every other week to craft solutions to challenges within DHS. Members will include a former circuit court judge, a DHS caseworker, and officials with expertise in youth intellectual and developmental disabilities.

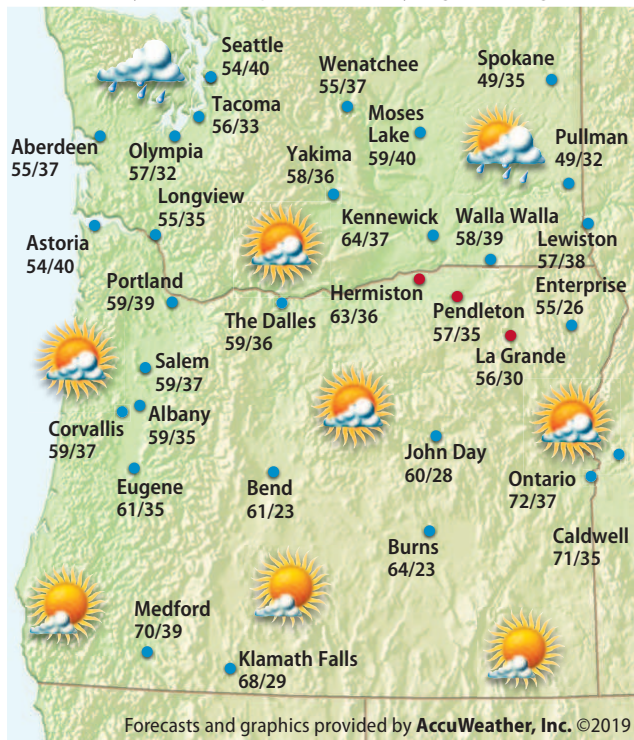
“One of the things we are working to do is to build capacity of the system and ensure that all of the kids are getting their needs met,” Brown told reporters Thursday.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



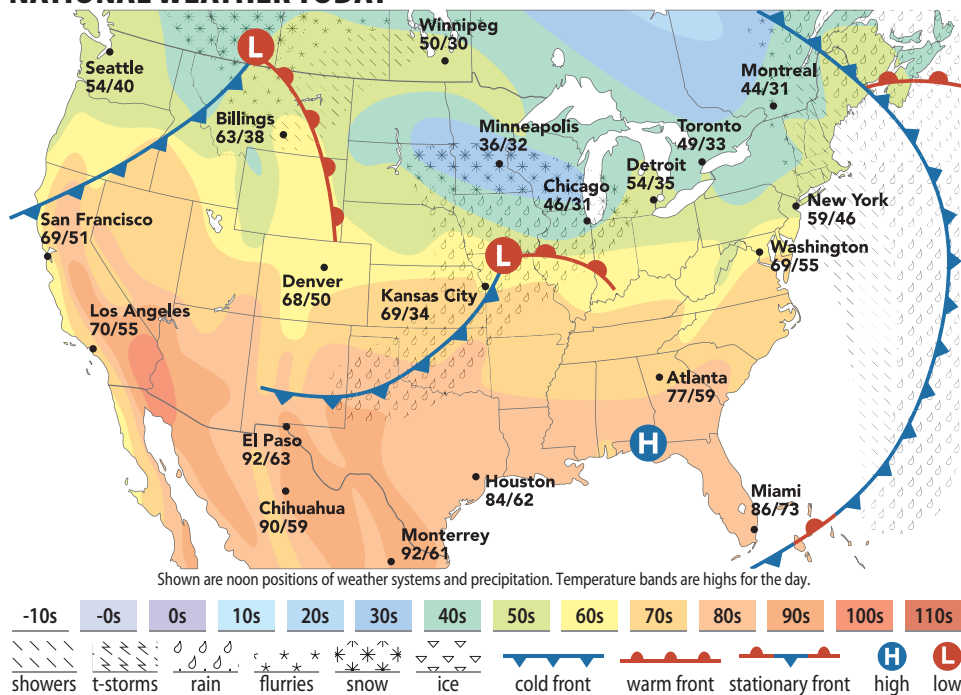
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	65°	46°
Normals	65°	41°
Records	86° (1904)	25° (1924)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	1.68"	
Normal month to date	1.00"	
Year to date	7.76"	
Last year to date	5.08"	
Normal year to date	4.96"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	73°	49°
Normals	68°	41°
Records	84° (2013)	25° (2008)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.29"	
Normal month to date	0.74"	
Year to date	3.88"	
Last year to date	3.93"	
Normal year to date	3.85"	
WINDS (in mph)		
Today	W 10-20	Sun. NNE 6-12
Pendleton	W 15-25	NW 6-12
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:50 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:57 p.m.	
Moonrise today	2:58 a.m.	
Moonset today	12:36 p.m.	

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday’s National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 103° in Thermal, Calif. Low 18° in Hettinger, N.D.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



BRIEFLY

Train attack suspect removed from courtroom after outburst

PORTLAND (AP) — A man accused of fatally stabbing two men on a Portland light-rail train in 2017 was removed from a courtroom after an outburst in which he yelled that he was the victim.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports defendant Jeremy Christian’s outburst Friday followed a comment by Demetria Hester, an African American woman who has said Christian threw a Gatorade bottle at her the day before the stabbings.

Hester urged the judge not to postpone Christian’s aggravated murder trial and described the train attack as “a senseless hate crime.”

“Manufactured!” Christian yelled. Multnomah County Circuit Judge Cheryl Albrecht warned Christian to be quiet but he continued, saying he didn’t care, he was the victim and Hester was a liar. Deputies removed him.

Christian is accused of spewing hate speech at black teens on the train, and then stabbing three men who intervened. He has pleaded not guilty.

Oregon county reports \$17M in damage from February storms

EUGENE (AP) — Agencies in a western Oregon county say the snowstorms that hit in

late February caused more than \$17 million in damage.

The Register-Guard reported Thursday that the storms deposited 18.8 inches of snow in Lane County over four days, marking the most snowfall in the area since 1971.

According to the state Office of Emergency Management, five counties have reported public damage that adds up to \$30 million.

About \$14 million of the damage in Lane County was associated with the costs to restore power to tens of thousands residents. The snow knocked down trees that hit power poles and lines.

TriMet eyes \$200 mil plan to bring light rail to Hillsboro

PORTLAND (AP) — TriMet is moving forward with an estimated \$200 million light-rail project to extend Red Line trains into Hillsboro and bring more reliable service to and from Portland International Airport.

The Oregonian/Oregon live reports that by the end of April, TriMet will apply for funding through the Federal Transit Administration. If approved, the federal government would be expected to contribute \$100 million toward the project.

The project is one of the most expensive currently being considered by the tri-county transit agency.

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