

Dems propose pension reform to appease GOP

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN
Associated Press

SALEM — Democrats unveiled a plan to rein in Oregon’s rising pension costs in an attempt to coax protesting Republicans back to the state Capitol. Senate Republicans were again absent on Friday and have now shut down the official business in the chamber for four straight days.

A Democratic supermajority was poised to pass a \$1 billion a year increase in school funding but the vote was delayed when Republicans fled the capitol in protest. Conservatives say they’re against any new funding that doesn’t address the state’s \$25 billion in pen-



AP Photo/Connor Radnovich
A sign reading “Real PERS Reform Now” lies on the empty desk of a Republican senator after they didn’t show up for Senate floor session at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem earlier this week.

sion debt. Teachers are just some of the public employees covered by the Public Employment Retirement System, or PERS. Democrats are proposing to refinance the debt from 20

to 22 years, which would bring down yearly payments but increase long term costs. They’re also suggesting diverting some employee contributions to pay down the funding liability.

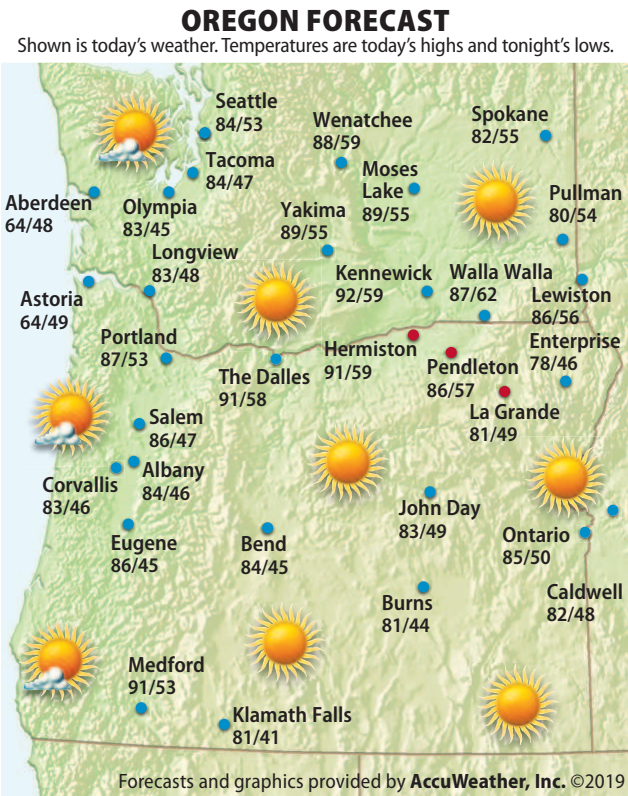
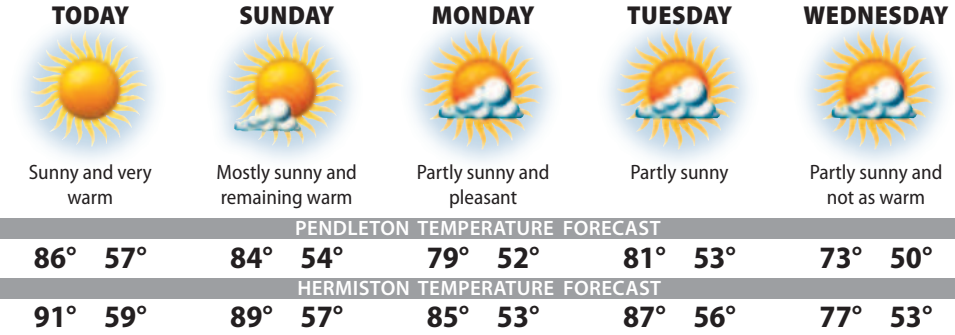
City, state partner to deal with Portland Superfund site

PORTLAND (AP) — The city of Portland and the state of Oregon say they’re partnering to address the Portland Harbor cleanup efforts. Last December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the entire Portland Har-

bor site must meet certain goals toward figuring out a cleanup plan by the end of 2019. Oregon Public Broadcasting reports that under the new proposal announced Friday, the city and state will each contribute up to \$12 million to

finalize blueprints for site cleanup design. The Portland Harbor Superfund site is highly contaminated with dozens of pollutants from a century of industrial activity. The EPA spent 16 years developing a \$1 billion cleanup plan for the site.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	80°	40°
Normals	70°	45°
Records	93° (1924)	29° (1999)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.37"
Year to date	7.76"
Last year to date	5.79"
Normal year to date	5.48"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	83°	40°
Normals	72°	45°
Records	96° (2013)	25° (1999)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.39"
Year to date	3.88"
Last year to date	4.65"
Normal year to date	4.38"

WINDS (in mph)

Today	Sun.
Boardman W 3-6	WSW 7-14
Pendleton NNW 4-8	W 7-14

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:29 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:14 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:44 a.m.
Moonset today	2:01 a.m.

First

Full

Last

New

May 11

May 18

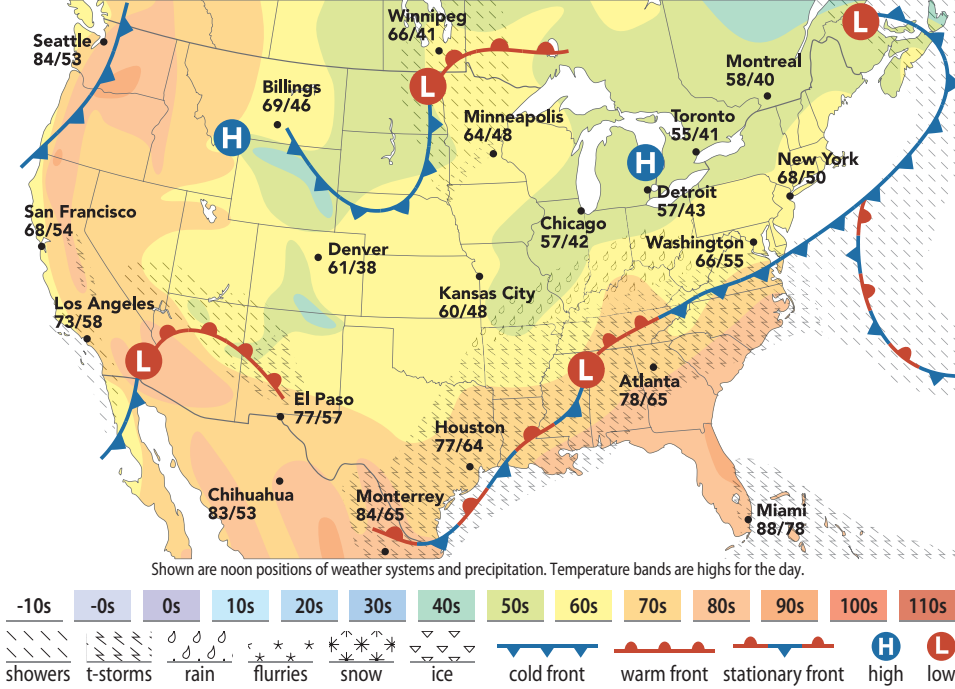
May 26

June 3

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 93° in Immokalee, Fla. Low 14° in Aspen Springs, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Critics warn chlorpyrifos ban would set dangerous precedent

Supporters argue bill is needed necessary for Oregon lawmakers

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Critics of a proposed ban on chlorpyrifos insecticides in Oregon argue the bill would not only harm farmers but also set a dangerous legislative precedent. Supporters of House Bill 2619 argue that it's necessary for Oregon lawmakers to take action due to uncertainty about the chemical's regulation at the federal level.

A prohibition on spraying food crops with chlorpyrifos was proposed by the Obama administration but reversed by the Trump administration in 2017.

The federal government's regulation of the pesticide is currently the subject of a legal fight before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that chlorpyrifos must be banned last year but has more recently reconsidered that decision.

Rep. Ken Helm, D-Beaverton, said he was "alarmed" by the chemical's toxic effects, including reduced cranial size and cognitive impairment in infants.

The validity of those adverse impacts isn't in question in the legal dispute, which centers on the jurisdiction of federal courts over the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Helm said.

Under these circum-

stances, it's appropriate for lawmakers to remove chlorpyrifos from use in Oregon before the court case is resolved, he said.

"We're here for a short period of time to protect our public," Helm said.

Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis, R-Albany, urged the House Rules Committee against passing the HB 2619 because lawmakers "are not scientists" and such regulation is better left to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Under another piece of legislation, House Bill 3058, the ODA would be directed to study the latest scientific data regarding chlorpyrifos and issue recommendations next year.

“WE COULD CREATE AN ENDLESS RABBIT HOLE OF PICKING WINNERS AND LOSERS.”

Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis, R-Albany

The ODA can delve into questions about the chemical's safety more deeply than lawmakers can during a handful of public hearings, she said

If the Legislature does ban the substance, lawmakers would likely be asked to make similar decisions about other agricultural technologies, Boshart Davis said. "We could create an endless rabbit hole of picking winners and losers."

If Oregon were to ban chlorpyrifos, farmers here would be less competitive than growers in Washington and Idaho but retailers could still bring in onions

from those states, said Mark Dickman, a farmer near Mt. Angel.

"It's a mistake to legislate pesticide use state-by-state," he said. "EPA is well-equipped to do this, Oregon is not."

Critics of the bill also cited several examples of crops that lack readily available alternative treatments for some pests, including needle midge in Douglas fir Christmas trees, sod webworm in fescue grass and seed weevils in clover.

"It's not a tool we use all the time, it's a tool we use when we need to target specific pests," said Jenny Dresler, a lobbyist for the Oregon Farm Bureau.

Supporters of the law countered that organic farmers use other methods to control insects, such as selective breeding and natural insect predators.

"There are alternatives to chlorpyrifos and alternative modes of agriculture," said Jonathan Manton, of the Oregon Organic

Coalition.

Farmworker advocates testified that a prohibition against chlorpyrifos is justified by the need to protect laborers who commonly spray farm chemicals and are most vulnerable to toxic effects.

Yolanda Gomez, a college student, said her father was a victim of chronic pesticide exposure that led to weight loss, fatigue and ultimately the non-Hodgkins lymphoma that ended his life.

Passing the bill would be a step in the right direction, she said. "We will not let another worker suffer the way my father did."

Man sentenced on rape, sexual abuse charges

PORTLAND (AP) — A 33-year-old man has been sentenced to 25 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to committing multiple sex crimes against three underage girls.

KOIN reports that Fernando Lugo-Gongora pleaded guilty to first-degree rape, three counts of

first-degree sexual abuse and first-degree sodomy on Wednesday. He was sentenced on Friday.

The rape and sexual abuse of the three minors happened between 2013 and 2014 in Multnomah County. One girl was under the age of 12 when the abuse happened and the other two

were under the age of 14.

The investigation started in April 2015 when one of the victims told her doctor that she had been sexually abused by Lugo-Gongora while at his home playing hide and seek with a friend. Authorities later learned two other friends reported similar allegations of abuse.

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