Senate leader Courtney says he's sticking around

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney says he has no plans to step aside, despite a bruising legislative session that saw two walkouts by Republicans and criticism from some of his fellow majority Democrats about the Legislature's failure to pass a climate change bill and other measures.

Courtney told The Oregonian/OregonLive that "I'm not going anywhere." The 76-year-old lawmaker says he's already conferring with House Speaker Tina Kotek about how to pass a cap-andtrade measure to curb greenhouse gas emissions next

That bill sparked the GOP's second Senate walkout of the 2019 Legislature. They returned after more than a week away from the Capitol after it became clear the environmental bill wouldn't pass this session.

Environmental activists took aim at Courtney, the longtime Democrat from Salem, after he conceded defeat on the climate bill five days before the 2019 session ended. With all 11 Senate Republicans still away from Salem, he announced his caucus of 18 Senate Democrats couldn't muster the needed 16 votes to pass the



OPB Photo/Bryan M. Vance, File **Democratic Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney is** shown in this undated file photo.

bill — clearing the way for Republicans to return and claim victory over its defeat.

Tom Kelly, chair of Oregon Business for Climate, issued a statement after Courtney's carbon bill announcement, calling it an "extraordinary breach of faith with how our legislative process should work.'

On Thursday, Kelly said he was frustrated Courtney announced the plan lacked Democratic support because "I was told by people, inside people, that there were the votes and votes had been counted by other people including our governor."

Whether Courtney should retire, Kelly said, "is not for me to say.

Sen. Jeff Golden, a liberal Democrat from Ashland, was among a handful of Democrats who pushed for caucus rule changes last fall that would have reduced the Senate president's powers, for example over which bills receive a vote. Golden said this week it's "time for a reset" and Democrats "need to find new ways to get legislation done."

He declined to comment "on supporting Peter or not right now."

Even if Senate Democrats did want a new leader, it's not clear who might ascend to the

The full 30-member Senate votes to select a president, so any Democratic senator would have to secure the votes of 16 in their party or line up bipartisan support. Courtney overwhelmingly won re-election in January with bipartisan support.

Telemedicine reproductive care connects options in Oregon

Clinical trial provides care for rural women using telemedicine

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Telemedicine has provided a new avenue for abortion access for Oregonians, utilized by about 50 patients in its first year.

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette is part of a trial by Gynuity Health Projects that is allowing some patients in Oregon, Washington and several other states to obtain abortion medication via telemedicine.

The sparse use of the option might be because many women don't know the service is available.

Women seeking an abortion can do so in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy by taking two pills, rather than a surgical abortion. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration tightly regulates the first of the two medications, mifepristone.

Patients can only get mifepristone by physically going to a certified provider at a clinic or hospital.

Participants in this research study, instead, can get necessary tests locally, consult with a Planned Parenthood clinician via videoconference, and then receive both med-

By DON JENKINS

EO Media Group

KENNEWICK, Wash.

U.S. farmers are apply-

ing less chlorpyrifos and

likely would adapt to a ban,

but keeping the insecticide

in reserve would be insur-

ance against outbreaks of pests, a Washington State

Measured in pounds,

chlorpyrifos remains the

most widely applied con-

ventional insecticide in the

U.S. But USDA numbers

show its use is declining,

even without the prohibition

entomologist

University

said Friday.

ications by mail.

Gynuity Health Projects is a New York research nonprofit focusing on reproductive and maternal health

Limited clinic access

Abortion providers are far sparser than pharmacies, particularly in rural

As of 2014, there were 27 non-specialized facilities in Oregon that provided abortion services, and 15 specialized abortion clinics, according to a 2017 paper published in the journal Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health.

At that time, about 30 percent of Oregon women lived in counties without a specialized abortion clinic. Oregon's easternmost Planned Parenthood clinic is in Bend. Some patients in Eastern Oregon travel to Washington or Idaho if clinics in those states are closer.

telemednew icine process has several steps. When a patient calls Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette seeking an abortion, the call center asks if they want to use the telemedicine option, and connects the patient with the organization's research coordinator, who explains the process.

If the patient is still interested, the coordinator helps them set up an ultrasound and blood tests through a local medical provider.

results After come

EPA stands by chlorpyrifos in

latest court-ordered decision

through, the patient has a videoconference with a clinician who discusses the results and prescribes the two abortion medications, if appropriate. Patients seeking a medication abortion don't necessarily need to see a clinician in person, said Dr. Paula Bednarek, medical director for Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette.

"You need an ultrasound and blood work somewhere, but you don't have to go far away for those, necessarily," Bednarek said. "And then the rest of the visit is really about counseling and education, and making sure everybody feels prepared, and then getting the medications to the patient."

Planned Parenthood then mails the medications. Once the patient takes the medications, Planned Parenthood is available around the clock to counsel them. Patients have a blood test, pregnancy test or ultrasound later to check that the pregnancy has been terminated.

But not many people know about the telemedicine option, Bednarek said.

"Patients don't know that it's available," Bednarek said. "And by the time they call our office, they've already figured out how to get themselves into a health center, and so they've spent a couple of weeks figuring that piece out, and they didn't realize this was an option."

Forecast for Pendleton Area WEDNESDAY TODAY THURSDAY



57°

59°

94°

98°









58°



93°

63°

FRIDAY



AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

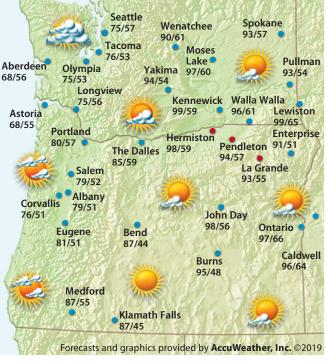
Sunny, breezy and pleasant

SATURDAY

55° 88°

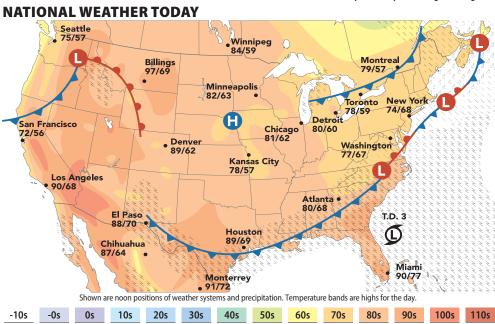
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FOR **52°** 60° 98° 67° 60°

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



NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 108° in Needles, Calif. Low 34° in Old Faithful, Wyo.



cold front

ALMANAC

PENDLET	ON through 3	p.m. yest.
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	94°	65°
Normals	90°	60°
Records	111° (1905)	41° (1897)
PRECIPITA [*]	TION	
24 hours ending 3 p.m.		0.01"
Month to date		0.03"
Normal month to date		0.22"
Year to date		9.60"
Last year to date		6.49"
Normal year to date		7.80"
HERMIST	ON through 3	p.m. yest.
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	95°	63°
Normals	90°	59°
Records	108° (1938)	43° (1982)
PRECIPITA [*]	TION	

24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace Month to date Normal month to date Year to date Last year to date Normal year to date WINDS (in mph) Boardman WSW 7-14 WSW 6-12 Pendleton W 6-12 W 7-14 **SUN AND MOON** 5:28 a.m. Sunrise today unset tonigh Moonrise today none 12:05 p.m. First Full

sought by environmental groups, said Allan Felsot, a professor and extension specialist at WSU Tri-Cities. "There's no doubt there are going to be specific situations where it's effective,"

he said. "A compromise position for the industry could be ... only use it when you need to." The Environmental Protection Agency reaffirmed

Thursday that it won't outlaw chlorpyrifos, at least not yet. The EPA maintained its stance that ban advocates haven't proven that even at low levels chlorpyrifos permanently damages unborn children and infants and lowers their IQs.

The EPA announcement met a deadline set by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A dozen groups represented by Earthjustice petitioned to prohibit the chemical. Seven states, including Washington and California, backed the petition.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee on Friday equated chlorpyrifos with pollution. "Again and Again, the Trump administration puts polluters before our children and their futures," tweeted Inslee, who linked to a New York Times story on EPA's decision.

Secretary Agriculture Sonny Purdue tweeted his approval of EPA's position.

'For more than 50 crops, chlorpyrifos is the only line of defense and a cost-effective crop protection tool for farmers. We appreciate the EPA's support of American farmers and producers in its commitment to factbased regulatory oversight of crop protection tools," he wrote.

The Obama EPA tentatively proposed banning chlorpyrifos in 2015, but resisted pressure from the 9th circuit to make a final decision until after a change in White House administrations. The Trump EPA has taken the position that it won't ban chlorpyrifos, but will complete a review by Oct. 1, 2022, or earlier.

The EPA has restricted the use of chlorpyrifos over the past two decades. The agency said more limits could be coming.

"Registration review is comprehensive, scientific and transparent process that will further evaluate the potential effects of chlorpyrifos," the EPA said it a statement.

"EPA has also been engaged in discussions with the chlorpyrifos registrants

that could result in further use limitations affecting the outcome of EPA's assessments."

Felsot said he's neutral on whether to ban chlorpyrifos. "I'm not worried about it," he said. "I know people are going to adapt."

But he defended farmers.

"I don't like agriculture being impugned, when actually it's already changing, and they're not using this stuff," he said.

The volume of insecticides used in the U.S. declined from 99 million pounds in 2000 to 60 million pounds in 2012, according to a 2017 EPA report. Four million to 8 million pounds of chlorpyrifos were used in 2012.

The EPA said farmers shifted away from chlorpyrifos and other organophosphates in favor of other classes of pesticides. Chlorpyrifos has been used in U.S. agriculture since

Product makers voluntarily stopped using chlorpyrifos in for household purposes, except in ant and roach bait that came in childproof packages. More recent USDA fig-

ures for individual crops suggest farmers are continuing to shift away from chlorpyrifos, even as the insecticide gets more attention, Felsot said.

"In a way, this whole issue has jumped the shark," he said. "We're not in the real of scientific information. We're in the realm of social aspects."

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.

flurries

— 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

warm front stationary front

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Local home delivery Savings (cover price) **EZPay** \$13/month 60 percent 52 weeks \$173.67 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 Dept. 800-781-3214

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: Jeanne Jewett

541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com · Audra Workman

541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com **Business Office Coordinator**

541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising 1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678

classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legals@eastoregonian.com

• 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 rstruthers@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:**

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

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