

# Portland 'ground zero' for protests between right, left-wing

By GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Hundreds of far-right protesters and anti-fascist counter-demonstrators swarmed downtown Portland on Saturday for a long-hyped rally that attracted President Donald Trump's attention and resulted in at least 13 arrests.

Police seized metal poles, bear spray and other weapons and closed bridges and streets to try to keep the rival groups apart. They were largely successful. Six minor injuries were reported.

"This was a dynamic event with demonstrators frequently moving from one part of the city to another," Mayor Ted Wheeler said at an evening news conference.

Leaders of the right-wing groups vowed to return to Portland, saying they would keep coming back to the liberal West Coast city so long as the left-wing antifascist, known as antifa, groups remained active.

President Donald Trump weighed in early Saturday, writing on Twitter that "Portland is being watched very closely... Hopefully the Mayor will be able to properly do his job."

He also wrote that "major consideration is being given to naming ANTIFA an 'ORGANIZATION of TER-



Members of the Proud Boys and other right-wing demonstrators march across the Hawthorne Bridge during an "End Domestic Terrorism" rally in Portland on Saturday. The group includes organizer Joe Biggs, in green hat, and Proud Boys Chairman Enrique Tarrío, holding megaphone.

AP Photo/Noah Berger

ROR." It wasn't immediately clear what he meant by that because there's no mechanism for the United States government to declare a domestic organization a terror group.

Joe Biggs, the organizer of the right-wing gathering, said it was a success.

"Go look at President Trump's Twitter," he told *The Oregonian/OregonLive*. "He talked about Portland, said he's watching antifa. That's all we wanted."

At the evening news con-

ference Portland's mayor said Biggs was not welcome. "We do not want him here in my city. Period," Wheeler said.

Wheeler tied the demonstrations to "a rising white nationalist movement" and a growing sense of fear in the country.

"We're certainly seeing that play out," he said. "Portland being a very progressive community is always going to be at or near ground zero of this battle."

The events began late Saturday morning. Flag-wav-

ing members of the Proud Boys, Three Percenters militia group and others gathered downtown, some wearing body armor and helmets like the antifa protesters. Police said they had seized the weapons, including shields, from multiple groups as they assembled along the Willamette River, which runs through the city.

More than two dozen local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, were in the city for the right-wing rally.

Portland Police said all of the city's 1,000 officers would be on duty for the gathering that was hyped on social media and elsewhere for weeks.

As of early afternoon, most of the right-wing groups had left the area via a downtown bridge. Police used officers on bikes and in riot gear to keep black-clad, mask-wearing anti-fascist protesters from following them.

But hundreds of people remained downtown and on nearby streets, and there were skirmishes throughout the day. Police declared a gathering of mostly left-wing protesters near Pioneer Courthouse Square a "civil disturbance" and told people to leave.

Police spokeswoman Lt. Tina Jones at one point said there were about 1,200 on the streets, but that number fell throughout the day.

The self-described anti-fascists had vowed to confront the right-wing rally, while leaders from the far right urged their followers to turn out in large numbers to protest the arrests of six members of right-wing groups in the run-up to the event.

Patriot Prayer's Joey Gibson, who organized similar rallies in 2017 and 2018 that erupted in clashes, sur-

rendered Friday on an arrest warrant for felony rioting. He was at a confrontation that broke out on May 1 outside a bar where antifa members had gathered after a May Day demonstration.

In a video he livetreamed on Facebook, Gibson accused the police of playing politics by arresting him but not the masked demonstrators who beat up conservative blogger Andy Ngo at a June 29 rally that drew national attention.

A video of that attack went viral and led the Proud Boys, who have been designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, to organize Saturday's event.

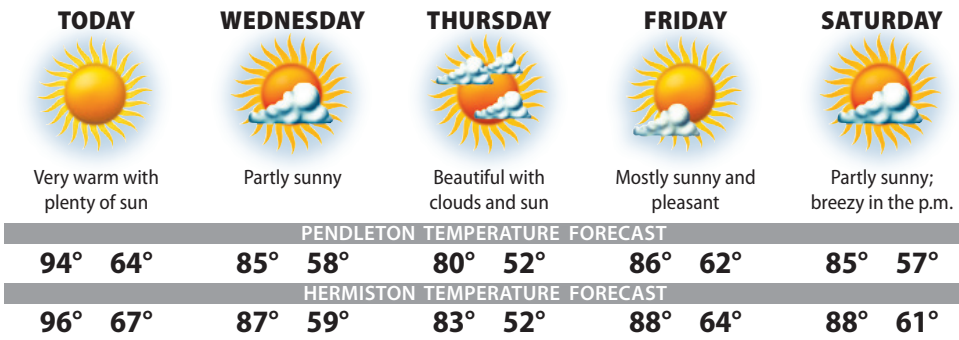
Police continue to investigate several incidents from clashes on May 1 and June 29 and are politically neutral, Jones said.

Authorities had asked residents not to call 911 Saturday unless it's a life-threatening emergency and to stay away from the heart of downtown.

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said authorities tried to keep everyone safe and allow people to exercise their free speech rights during the rallies.

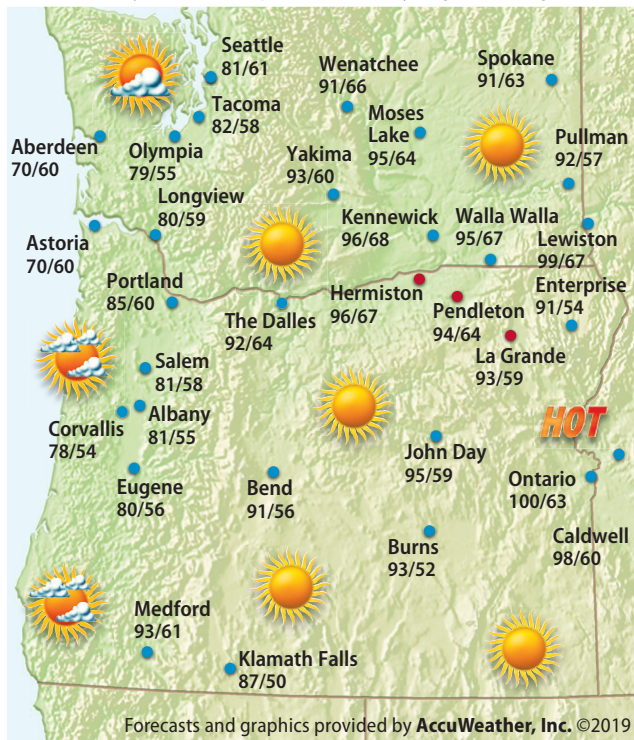
"Today was a long and arduous day," Outlaw said at the news conference. "The disruptions were held to a very small area of downtown Portland."

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



## ALMANAC

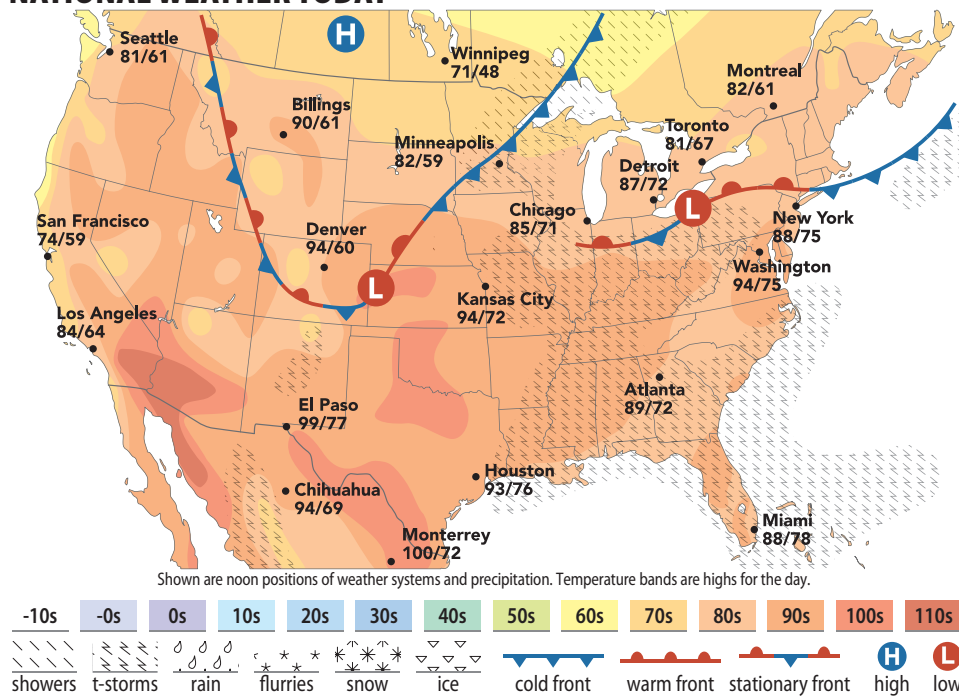
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	88°	55°	
Normals	87°	57°	
Records	109° (1897)	37° (1916)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.10"		
Normal month to date	0.26"		
Year to date	9.71"		
Last year to date	6.49"		
Normal year to date	8.21"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	90°	66°	
Normals	87°	57°	
Records	106° (1967)	42° (1973)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.05"		
Normal month to date	0.12"		
Year to date	4.61"		
Last year to date	5.13"		
Normal year to date	6.04"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	WSW 3-6	WSW 8-16	
Pendleton	NNW 4-8	W 8-16	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	6:01 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	7:55 p.m.		
Moonrise today	10:30 p.m.		
Moonset today	10:57 a.m.		
Last	New	First	Full
Aug 23	Aug 30	Sep 5	Sep 13

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 110° in Needles, Calif. Low 30° in Stanley, Idaho

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



## La Grande pastor launching DREAMS program for middle school students

By DICK MASON  
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — Father Saji Thomas is returning to his roots this week at La Grande Middle School.

Thomas, who served as an educator in India for a decade before moving to La Grande in 2015, is helping to oversee the start of a new three-year program for LMS students designed to help them develop greater feelings of self-worth, learn how to set goals, form values and much more.

The program is named DREAMS, and got off to a promising start last week. A total of 23 children, all weeks away from entering sixth grade, attended a five-day kickoff camp for DREAMS, which stands for Desire, Readiness, Empowerment, Action, Mastery and Success. The program was brought to La Grande by Thomas, pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. Thomas said he wanted DREAMS started in La Grande because he saw how successful it has been in other communities

in the United States and in India.

Thomas is enjoying the opportunity to again work with children as an educator.

"I like teaching children and helping them grow," he said.

Thomas is not only advising students, but also giving them the opportunity to instruct him. For example, one student, Ella Ganung, taught him a card game during a break Thursday.

Thomas was a principal in India a total of 10 years before coming to La Grande. His last five years in India were spent as principal of a large school for students in kindergarten through 12th grade in the city of Bangalore.

He learned about the DREAMS program through one of its primary founders, Father Lijo Thomas of India, who is also a Catholic priest. (Lijo and Saji are not related.) Lijo Thomas developed the curriculum for the program as part of the thesis he wrote for a doctorate in education degree he earned from the University of Lou-

isiana at Monroe.

Lijo Thomas was instrumental in bringing DREAMS to La Grande, Saji Thomas said, along with people including Al Adelsberger, a La Grande businessman. The La Grande School District, which is not affiliated with DREAMS, has also helped by providing space for program sessions.

Saji Thomas is one of the 12 mentors in the La Grande DREAMS program. The mentors are a mix of community members, Eastern Oregon University students and La Grande High School seniors. After this week's five-day camp ends, the mentors will meet with the DREAMS students every three months for a day to advise them and see how they are doing. The mentors will also meet with the DREAMS students at five-day camps in 2020 and 2021.

Sophia Madsen, one of the mentors, is looking forward to the follow-up sessions.

"I'm excited about seeing them grow and keeping up with them," she said.

## BRIEFLY

### Entire OPT wolf pack in NE Washington killed

SPOKANE — All members of a wolf pack that had been preying on cattle in northeastern Washington state have been killed.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife announced Friday that the four remaining members of the OPT wolf pack on Ferry County had been killed.

The wolf pack had been responsible for 29 depredation incidents on cattle since 2018, the agency says.

Agency director Kelly Susewind authorized the deaths on July 31.

Environmental groups opposed the killings, which they contend benefit only one ranch operation in the Kettle River range.

The agency believes it has removed all members of the OPT pack, although another wolf was sighted in the area this spring. It may be from another pack.

There were 27 wolf packs in Washington by April.

### Crews battle large blaze in Salem

SALEM — Crews battled a four-alarm blaze at a wooden pallet facility in Salem.

The *Statesman Journal* reported the fire was initially reported before 3 a.m. Monday.

Fire officials stated that the blaze engulfed a large number of wooden pallets but crews had made good progress and had the fire spread contained as of 6 a.m.

Authorities said all structures at the Oregon Pallet location and surrounding businesses were not burned in the blaze.

Several units from Salem Fire Department were on scene with units from surrounding agencies.

— Associated Press

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