

# GO-STEM connects students to businesses

GO-STEM offers presentations, classes, clubs, prospective internships

By **SABRINA THOMPSON**  
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — Organizations and businesses in Union County learned a little bit more about the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the GO-STEM luncheon Tuesday afternoon at The Landing Hotel in La Grande. The event showcased how companies can get involved in creating the next generation of students interested in STEM fields.

“There is a lot of interest and curiosity about (the fields) and support from the state,” said Abigail Southgate, a coordinator of the Chief Science Officers organization. The organization seeks to “elevate the student voice by bringing their peers and community leaders together to ignite new opportunities in STEM and innovation,” according to the CSO website.

The luncheon involved members of local businesses and government including the Forest Service, the Center for Human Development, doctors and land surveyors coming together to

learn about how their groups can help bring more STEM education and opportunities to Union County. They also shared what is already being done.

“We are trying to bring private, public, nonprofit and government together with the same passion for STEM,” GO-STEM Programs Director Donna Rainboth said.

GO-STEM represents the “Greater Oregon” area, encompassing Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Grant, Baker and Harney counties. The organization’s mission is to be “a regional partnership cultivating a community that values STEM learning, prepares youth for successful STEM careers and builds pathways and pipelines to meet workforce needs,” according to GO-STEM’s website.

GO-STEM combines education and professional development to reach students who may never have considered a career in the fields of STEM. CSO helps with that professional development by actively getting students involved in leadership and group activities under the umbrella of STEM.



EO Media Group Photo/Sabrina Thompson

**Programs director for GO-STEM, Donna Rainboth, spoke on Tuesday during a luncheon about the importance of getting students involved and interested in STEM.**

“One of the biggest things I have learned is how there are so many different careers people don’t know about,” Savannah Shorts, a CSO member and senior at La Grande High School, said.

GO-STEM aims to connect students to businesses through presentations, classes, clubs and prospective internships, with funding from the state of Oregon and grants to help companies who might otherwise not consider taking on these

teaching opportunities due to time or budget constraints.

“GO-STEM is wide open in how we partner,” Rainboth said. “Whatever you see us doing as best fitting in, from setting up talks to connecting students with internships, it is about how to bring STEM to the community.”

According to Southgate, there can often be misconceptions about what types of careers are in the STEM fields. She said that

GO-STEM hopes to change that misrepresentation by introducing students, from elementary school to college, to all of the careers that could be considered STEM.

Through activities and programs, Southgate hopes exposure to these careers can help fulfill the local workforce needs.

“Rural Oregonian people also have a strong sector interested in STEM, it would be wrong just to focus

on urban areas,” GO-STEM member Michael Jagger said. “While the focus here may be on agriculture and food processing, they all have (some sort of) STEM focus.”

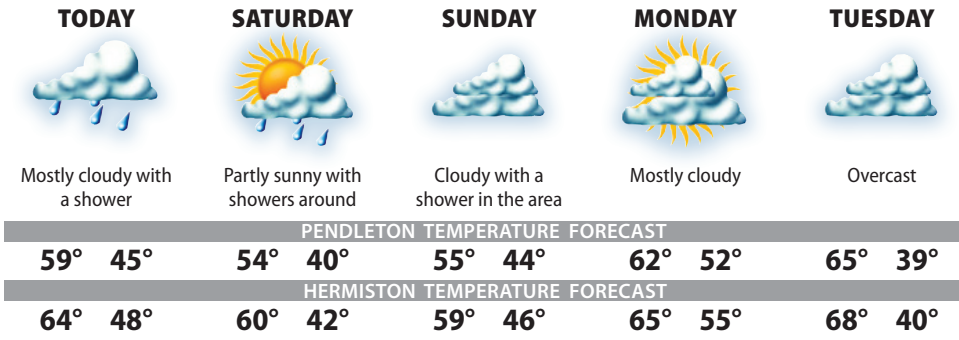
In addition to these programs and partnerships, GO-STEM wants to help students see that there are many STEM jobs and opportunities in which they could make a good wage here in rural Oregon.

“Some of the people who grew up here are motivated to stay here,” Charlie Tracy, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative’s director of engineering, said. “To develop that interaction and show that there are tech jobs here will help build interest and keep them here.”

GO-STEM doesn’t want to only educate students, however. Some of its programs involve working with educators and businesses on how to connect with the younger generation, offering classes and programs on presenting to and teaching youths.

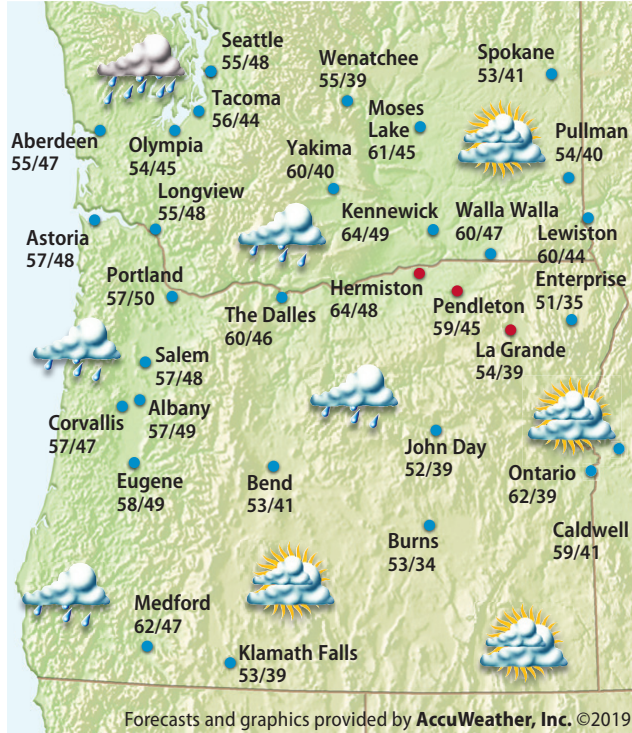
“Our goal right now is really getting partnerships established through the region, and getting these programs to be self-sustainable,” Rainboth said. “We are teaching professionals how to teach and interact.”

## 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	61°	48°
Normals	63°	39°
Records	82° (2003)	23° (1897)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.14"
Month to date	0.19"
Normal month to date	0.56"
Year to date	11.04"
Last year to date	7.91"
Normal year to date	9.50"

**HERMISTON** through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	65°	52°
Normals	65°	38°
Records	80° (2003)	20° (1948)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace
Month to date	0.04"
Normal month to date	0.30"
Year to date	4.80"
Last year to date	6.29"
Normal year to date	6.86"

**WINDS** (in mph)

	Today	Sat.
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 12-25
Pendleton	WSW 8-16	W 12-25

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today	7:15 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:05 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:12 p.m.
Moonset today	12:05 p.m.

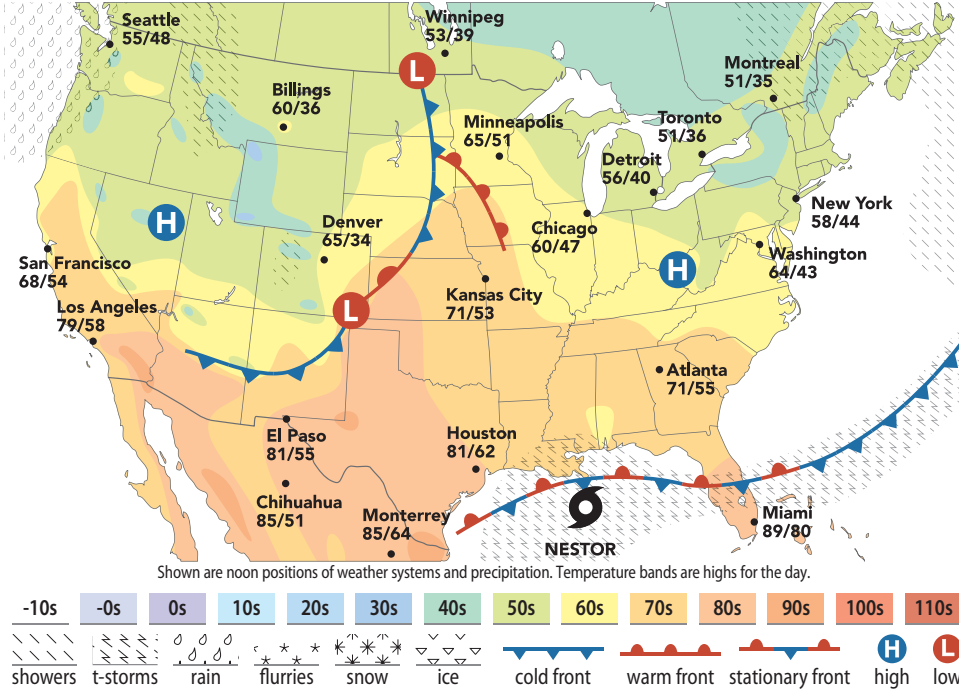
Last New First Full  
Oct 21 Oct 27 Nov 4 Nov 12

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 96° in Phoenix, Ariz. Low 9° in Angel Fire, N.M.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Oregon Teachers' union to withhold contributions over PERS reforms

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — A third Oregon union says it won't endorse or contribute to primary campaigns for candidates who voted for reforms to Oregon's costly public pension system earlier this year. The announcement by the Oregon Education Association, the state's largest teachers' union, on Wednesday followed similar withdrawals this fall by Oregon AFSCME and the Oregon AFL-CIO.

That may put dozens of Democrat incumbents, many of whom receive a high share of donations from unions, in a tricky spot.

Labor groups gave about \$3.67 million to Oregon legislative candidates in the two years leading up to the 2018

election, according to the National Institute on Money in Politics, which tracks campaign donations. Overall, state house and senate candidates raised nearly \$29 million in that election cycle.

Democrats will try to maintain their grip on their large majority of legislative seats they secured last year, that, in theory, allows them to pass tax increases without any Republican votes.

In a statement, Rebecca Levison, the chair of the education association's political action committee, said Senate Bill 1049 cut “hard-earned benefits for tens of thousands of educators.”

“Lawmakers must answer for their votes,” said Levison, who teaches English as a second language in Portland. “Educators work hard for our benefits and still make

22% less than folks in the private sector with similar education. We won't spend our hard-earned dollars to re-elect people in the primary who don't understand that.”

There is no race for governor next year, but there will be an election for state treasurer as well as for the secretary of state.

Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, Rep. Jennifer Williamson, D-Portland, and 2018 Democratic candidate for Congress, Jamie McLeod Skinner, have announced they'll run for the Democratic nomination for secretary of state, making that a competitive primary.

Both Hass and Williamson voted for the pension reforms, which were aimed at saving the state money on employee retirement benefits while it wrestles with billions in pension debt.

## BRIEFLY

### Bend ranks third on fastest-growing cities list

BEND — Bend is the third fastest growing city in the United States, according to the annual city growth review by the personal-finance website WalletHub.

Lehigh Acres in Florida topped the list, with Mount Pleasant in South Carolina at No. 2. After Bend, Enterprise in Nevada and Frisco in Texas rounded out the top five of the 515 cities surveyed.

Shreveport in Louisiana came in last. WalletHub compared cities across 17 key metrics covering the past seven years. The ranking included population growth, college-educated population growth, and unemployment.

### Woman gets 5 years for DUI crash that killed daughter

SALEM — A woman arrested on manslaughter charges following a 2018 DUI car crash that killed her toddler daughter has been sentenced to five years and 10 months in prison.

The *Statesman Journal* reports that 34-year-old Jamie Miller pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of second-degree assault for causing injury to her daughter along with charges of DUI and four counts of reckless endangerment.

The first-degree manslaughter charge against her was dismissed as part of a plea

agreement. One count of methamphetamine possession was also dismissed.

Miller was arrested in March, almost a full year after her 2-year-old daughter, Ellie Jane Bruce, died in the crash in Salem. Miller's blood-alcohol content at the time of the crash was at least 0.15%, according to court records.

### Federal agency finds Oregon school district discriminated

WOODBURN — The U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division has concluded that a school district in Oregon serving primarily Latino students discriminated against a non-U.S. citizen who sought a job as a teacher.

The Department of Justice did not identify the person, who was considered the most qualified applicant by the Woodburn School District's hiring committee, or provide the person's nationality. The department said the person was authorized to work in the United States.

Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband of the Civil Rights Division said DOJ is committed to removing unlawful discriminatory barriers.

Jenne Marquez, executive secretary to the school district's superintendent, was quoted as saying by Oregon Public Broadcasting that the district will use this as a training opportunity to prevent future incidents.

The district must pay the rejected applicant \$5,800 and a penalty of \$5,500.

— Associated Press

# EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211  
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Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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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.  
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\$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday

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