

DRIVING:

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mit they have extended, multi-message text conversations while driving.

Fraser said even if people feel secure looking up and down every few seconds, the reality is that no one can guarantee they won't seriously hurt someone while texting and driving. She shared stories of people who were affected by distracted driving and how texting while driving can forever alter a person's life.

In one example, a teen hit and killed a bicyclist after responding with a simple "LOL" text message to a friend while driving. In another, a teenager had

to grieve the death of her sister, who died after she crashed her vehicle after looking at a text message.

"While you can cheat the law, you can't cheat the laws of nature," Fraser said.

During the class, Fraser also reminded students about the benefits of wearing a seatbelt at all times.

"The air bag is not going to protect you, alone," she said. "It is designed to work with everything else."

Students in Mosher's class found the presentation enlightening and informing.

"It was really eye-opening," senior Ramiro Rubio said after class got out.

Rubio said hearing about the trauma that can result from someone sending a simple text message made

the topic relatable. Senior Diana Garcilazo agreed.

"You never know how a simple text can lead to that much," she said.

Garcilazo said she has changed her mind about driving while distracted.

"We've heard this before, but (the presentation) made it more realistic," she said.

Fraser said distracted-driving classes for teens and adults are offered regularly through a partnership between GSMC and the Hermiston courts. She said the course costs \$40 and takes place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month. For more information, people can contact the GSMC education department at 541-667-3509.

TOBACCO:

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retailers in the county to participate in the survey, and 90 percent agreed. For the survey, each described the types of tobacco products they sold and where they are placed in the store.

Jones said she was surprised to see how many tobacco products or advertisements were placed near or next to items that youth are more likely to purchase.

About one in five retailers in Umatilla County display advertisements for tobacco or e-cigarette products within a foot of candy, toys, gum or a slushy or ice cream machine.

"Who is bending over to get that ice cream?" she said. "Most likely, it is going to be a youngster."

Jones said tobacco and e-cigarette products were also often displayed and presented with bright and colorful advertisements, which could attract the attention and curiosity of young children.

"E-pens, electronic hookahs, they are not black," she said. "They are all these bright banana, grape (flavors) ... which are very attractive to kids."

Jones said several retail stores in the region had advertising for tobacco products that was directly at eye level for young children.

Additionally, at nearly every convenience store, which accounted for 67 percent of those she surveyed, stores had what she Jones referred to as a "power wall" of advertisements and other promotions, situated at the point of sale near the check-out counter. Included in that power wall are brightly colored advertisements, promotions and discounts for items such as cigarettes, flavored cigars and other tobacco products geared toward grabbing people's attention.

Jones said what is scary about that is youth are more likely to be exposed to those tobacco advertisements because they frequent convenience stores. She said about 70 percent of youth will go into a convenience store at least once a week where they are inundated with advertising.

Advertising is also heavier in rural areas than in urban communities, Jones said.

"We have the lowest prices and the highest percent of tobacco promotions in advertising," she said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nearly every convenience store in Umatilla County features what Umatilla Public Health educator Janet Jones refers to as a 'power wall.' Included on the wall are a variety of advertisements and colorful tobacco products and geared toward catching customers' attention.

TOBACCO USE HIGHER THAN THE STATE

Jones said after completing the survey, she can see why tobacco rates are higher in Umatilla County than in the rest of the state, especially among the youth population.

According to data provided by Umatilla County Public Health, 17 percent of 11th-graders in Umatilla County smoke compared with the state rate of 12 percent.

Jones said smokeless tobacco numbers are even more alarming. According to numbers provided by Umatilla County Public Health, 29 percent of 11th-graders in Umatilla County are using chewing tobacco compared with the state average of 10 percent.

"While we have made progress ... our chew rate for 11th-grade males is almost three times the state rate," she said.

About 16 percent of 11th-graders in Umatilla County are also using cigars or cigarillos compared with the state average of 8 percent, and about 10 percent are using electronic cigarettes compared with the state rate of 5 percent.

LIMITING EXPOSURE TO YOUTH

Jones said there are some things that local communities can do to limit the youth's ability to obtain tobacco.

Jones said one of the things communities can do is institute a comprehensive tobacco retail license. Currently, she said Oregon is one of the few states that does not have a law that requires anybody that sells tobacco to be licensed. She

said what a license would do is give communities the ability to track which stores sell tobacco products, hold those stores accountable for rules and regulations and impose consequences for violations.

Jones said local communities also have the right to ban flavored tobacco, which may appeal to children.

"So, we wouldn't have to have grape-flavored Swisher Sweets or peach-flavored chew," she said. "There are no rules that say that local communities can't ban flavored tobacco."

Jones said local communities can also prevent price discounts and the redemption of tobacco coupons. She said many tobacco companies will offer incentives such as \$1 off a pack of cigarettes or 50 cents off a can of chewing tobacco. She said the more expensive those products are, the less likely people will purchase them.

Jones said Lane County just passed a tobacco retail license that prohibits price discounts and new stores from opening within 1,000 feet of where children are present, such as schools, Head Start locations and parks. She said Lane County also banned sales of electronic cigarettes to minors.

"There is no age limit, right now in Oregon, on the ability to purchase e-cigarettes," she said.

Jones said tobacco use is currently the leading cause of preventable death at the county, state and national levels. More than 160 people die each year from tobacco-related ailments in Umatilla County, and 3,180 people suffer from serious illness caused by tobacco. Every year, she said \$30.7 million is spent on medical care related to tobacco in Umatilla County.

Boysen said. "We usually have a big crowd."

Tickets cost \$35 per person and can be purchased at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, which accepts credit card payments, or at the Hermiston School District office, which only accepts cash or check.

Boysen said organizers hope to sell out of tickets this year. As of Tuesday afternoon, they had 70 tickets left, she said.

"They're going fast," she said.

Boysen said the foundation is grateful for community members' support.

"It is obvious they care about our students and our schools," she said.

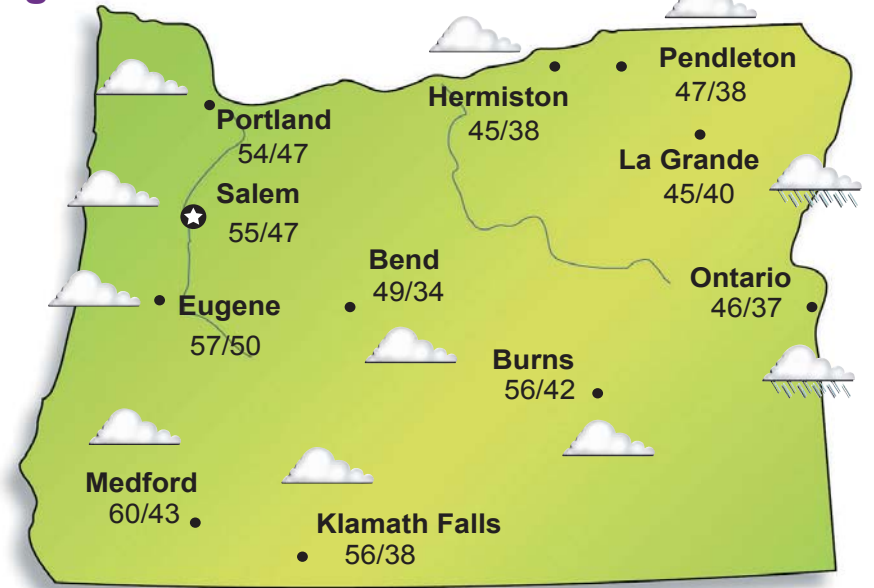
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 2/4	Thu 2/5	Fri 2/6	Sat 2/7	Sun 2/8
45/38	54/48	56/52	60/45	60/45
Overcast. High around 45F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 40s.	Chance of showers. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 50s.	Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise 7:15 AM Sunset 5:07 PM	Sunrise 7:14 AM Sunset 5:08 PM	Sunrise 7:12 AM Sunset 5:10 PM	Sunrise 7:11 AM Sunset 5:11 PM	Sunrise 7:10 AM Sunset 5:13 PM

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Oregon At A Glance



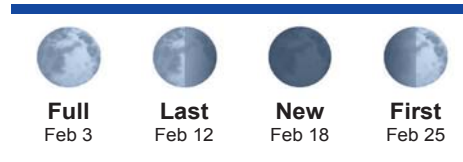
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Albany	54	48	cloudy	Florence	58	52	cloudy	Newport	58	52	cloudy
Ashland	59	44	cloudy	Grants Pass	58	45	cloudy	Pendleton	47	38	cloudy
Astoria	54	47	rain	Hermiston	45	38	cloudy	Portland	54	47	cloudy
Baker City	41	32	rain	John Day	52	40	cloudy	Redmond	58	39	cloudy
Bend	49	34	cloudy	Klamath Falls	56	38	cloudy	Roseburg	60	50	cloudy
Brookings	56	52	rain	La Grande	45	40	rain	Salem	55	47	cloudy
Burns	56	42	cloudy	Lakeview	56	37	pt sunny	Springfield	58	47	cloudy
Coos Bay	60	54	cloudy	Lincoln City	58	51	cloudy	The Dalles	50	41	cloudy
Corvallis	54	47	cloudy	Mcminville	54	46	cloudy	Tillamook	59	50	rain
Eugene	57	50	cloudy	Medford	60	43	cloudy	Vale	46	37	rain

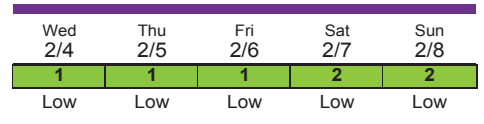
National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	56	38	pt sunny	Houston	64	52	rain	Phoenix	74	52	sunny
Boston	37	30	pt sunny	Los Angeles	72	54	rain	San Francisco	63	51	pt sunny
Chicago	21	-3	cloudy	Miami	77	70	cloudy	Seattle	53	47	cloudy
Dallas	62	32	cloudy	Minneapolis	16	2	pt sunny	St. Louis	37	11	snow
Denver	31	27	snow	New York	41	32	pt sunny	Washington, DC	53	35	sunny

Moon Phases



UV Index



The UV Index is measured on a 0-11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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SEAFOOD:

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reach as many kids as we can," Boysen said.

For this year's all-you-can-eat fundraiser, people will have their fill of crab, beef kabobs, bread, Caesar salad, coleslaw and baked potatoes. Various community members have donated a number of deserts for the event.

The event will also feature a silent and live auction and a raffle. Items donated include a laser-signed Richard Sherman football, a signed pennant from the Portland Trailblazers, a

\$500 gift certificate for a piece of art work made by metal artist Chris Huffman, a Dutch oven dinner and more. For the raffle, people will be able to buy tickets to win a \$100 gas gift card from Heller and Sons or a trip of some kind.

Music will also be provided by the middle school and high school drum line.

Doors to the event open at 5 p.m. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Boysen said Anderson Events is in charge of the no-host bar this year and will offer a special drink called "Sea Foam," which changes colors to correspond with the "Under the Sea" theme.

"It is just a big party,"