

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High: 64 Low: 43 Precip: 0%	High: 65 Low: 44 Precip: 30%	High: 71 Low: 47 Precip: 10%

IN BRIEF

Governor aims to improve non-highway systems

SALEM — Gov. Ted Kulongoski nudged lawmakers to pass his \$100

million bond program to upgrade non-highway transportation systems, including ports, airports and rail lines.

At a Portland news conference Tuesday, Kulongoski said his "Connect Oregon" plan is needed to strengthen the state's ties to national and international markets.

"Rail, air and marine are not competitors with our highway system; they are interconnected with our roads, bridges and highways," Kulongoski said.

The plan is seen as a follow up to a \$2.5 billion highway and bridge upgrade program approved by the 2003 Legislature.

— The Associated Press

\$3.5 million grant awarded for UO special education

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

The University announced Thursday that the College of Education has received a \$3.5 million federal grant to help states measure the success of disabled students once they've left high school.

The University's new National Post School Outcomes Center, the only one of its kind in the nation, is fully funded by the grant and will serve as a technical assistance program for states striving to meet new federal requirements on monitoring the post-secondary success of students involved with special education programs.

"It gives us an opportunity to find out what's happening to youth when they get out of high school," NPSO Project Coordinator Jane Falls said. "We're helping schools to be able to know how they're helping to prepare young people for life."

Falls, an educational consultant for the College of Education's Western Regional Resource Center, is one of a number of experts from the college's Special Education program involved with NPSO.

"A number of states are doing this kind of work and designing their own system," Falls said. "What we're trying to do is understand the ways that states are doing it and advise those who've not yet started."

The center will ultimately work with all 50 states and 10 federal jurisdictions as the government's leading assistance vehicle for the new requirements.

NPSO is currently having "ongoing conversations" with Kansas, Maine and Oregon, said NPSO Director Michael Bullis, professor of special education. He estimated that the center will start working more directly with states by summer.

Bullis added that the project will last five years, after which the

University may need to compete again for funding.

"There's a probability that we will continue to be funded if this area remains a priority with the federal government," Bullis said.

College of Education Dean Martin Kaufman said the idea behind the project is the improvement of special education programs.

"(The center) allows us to work with state departments and, through them, local school districts to allow them to improve the outcomes that individuals with disabilities are able to access," Kaufman said.

Sources said the federal grant is a further affirmation of the College of Education's success. US News & World Report ranked the college's Special Education program as third-best program of its kind in the nation.

"The college of education has long been a leader in working with people with disabilities and trying to work out ways for them to participate in the broadest way possible in society," Senior Vice President and Provost John Moseley said. "They are already one of the leading if not the leading research group of this kind in the country."

Kaufman said the project will help strengthen the College of Education.

"What we keep doing is building a performance track record of success, and success begets success if we continue to invest in a research agenda," Kaufman said. "There is competition for superior students and faculty of excellence. Having these centers contributes to our competitiveness and, ultimately, our success."

"It's a very important grant in that it builds on expertise that they have developed over many years," Moseley said. "I'm very excited and, frankly, not surprised that they got it."

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Impostor: Officials look into prevention measures

Continued from page 1A

still under investigation. For this reason, Psychology Department Head Marjorie Taylor has been asked by police not to comment.

Taylor did say that she has alerted psychology graduate students, faculty and staff. She is also following up to determine if such an incident can be prevented in the future.

Hall said impersonation becomes criminal when an impostor pretends to be a public servant or

uses the character as a means to gain something.

Vaifale told police he is only a high school graduate and is currently an unemployed care worker, Hall said.

The EPD wants to know if Vaifale has done anything inappropriate while trying to pass as a member of the University community. If anyone has any information, they should contact Hall at 346-2904 before 4 p.m.

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Pulse

Opera Ensemble puts local twist on a comedic classic

BY JOSH LINTEREUR
PULSE REPORTER

Swapping 13th century Italy for post-gold rush Oregon, the UO Opera Ensemble will perform an updated version of Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" starting Friday at Beall Concert Hall.

The performance caps a double bill of two short comedic operas. The show opens with Rossini's "La Cimbale di Matrimonio" sung in Italian with English supertitles, followed by the adaptation of Puccini's classic in English. Adding a local twist to Puccini's opera was ensemble director Charles Turley's idea.

"I was inspired by visiting Florence," said Turley, who is also an assistant professor of voice in the school of music. But the Florence that inspired Turley wasn't the revered Italian city where Puccini's opera takes place; it was

Florence, Ore. While visiting the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, Turley got the idea to re-imagine the play during the logging industry's Gay '90s heyday.

The adaptation of "Gianni Schicchi," tells the story of a wealthy lumber baron who dies and wills his fortune to the Presbyterian Church. His family hires a local con man, Johnnie Skeekie (Gianni Schicchi in the original) to help rewrite the will. Skeekie redrafts it so the family inherits most of the fortune, though he leaves a tidy sum for himself and his daughter.

Though many details have been changed to reflect the adaptation's 600-year leap forward, the story remains intact, as does the opera's memorable music, like "O Mio Babbino Caro," which Turley said is one of several well-known arias in the opera.

Rossini's "La Cimbale di Matrimonio (The Marriage Contract)" is set in colonial England and tells the story of a merchant who falls on hard times financially. He borrows money from a wealthy Canadian business associate and arranges for the businessman to marry his daughter in exchange for his debt. He is unaware that his daughter has already promised herself to another man, forcing the young lovers to deal with the creditor when he unexpectedly arrives in England.

Turley will conduct both performances. The production opens Friday and runs through Sunday. Performances begin at 7 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall at 961 E. 18th Ave. Tickets, available at the door, cost \$10 for general admission or \$5 for students and senior citizens.

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INTERNATIONAL NIGHT Sunday, April 24

Dinner @ 4:45, 5:30, 6:15

-Includes 19 different cuisines from around the world!

Show @ 7:00pm

-Performances from:

- Korea
- China
- Brazil
- Guinea
- Central African Republic
- India
- Japan
- Bulgaria
- Zimbabwe



Tickets available at UO ticket office

General \$12 UO Students \$8