

Track

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reer at Biola University, a Division II school in near in La Mirada, California, has used a perceived lack of height in the high jump as motivation and to provide perspective. "I've heard so many times growing up how I could never accomplish anything as a jumper or sprinter, I'm too small," Myers said. "But as an

athlete that always pushes you more to wanna do better. Every time I'm out there and I look at the bar and I'm jumping clear over my head, when I look at it this is still impressive to me and that's all I can really ask for." Dallas senior Jacob Deming placed second in the boys 300 hurdles with a time of 38.53. In the pole vault, Dallas senior Jacob Collins was fourth at 13-6.25. *ghorowitz@StatesmanJournal.com, or Twitter.com/ghorowitz*



MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Silvertown's Shon Ackermann celebrates after a successful jump in the 5A high jump on Saturday at Hayward Field.

Oregon Senate approves legislation for equal pay

TRACY LOEW STATESMAN JOURNAL

The Oregon Senate unanimously passed a bill May 17 that would make sure women are paid the same rate as men for the same work. "This is a victory for women, people of color and others who earn less even though they do the same work as their co-workers," said Sen. Kathleen Taylor, D-Portland, who championed the bill. "This bill requires that compensation decisions be fair and based only on legitimate job-related factors." House Bill 2005, also called the Oregon Equal Pay Act of 2017, now goes back to the House for concurrence with Senate amendments. Despite existing feder-

al protections, women in Oregon are paid 82 cents for every dollar men are paid, amounting to an annual wage gap of around \$8,393, according to the National Partnership for Women and Families. The gap is even bigger for women of color. African American women are paid 70 cents; Latinas 51 cents; and Asian women 75 cents compared to every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men, the group reported. The bill requires that differences in compensation among employees must be based on job-related reasons such as merit, seniority, quantity or quality of production, workplace locations, travel, education, training or experience. It also bans the prac-

tice of screening job applicants based on their salary histories, strengthens penalties for wage discrimination violations, and adds remedies for workers facing pay disparities. Senate Republicans and Democrats congratulated each other for working together to craft amendments to the bill, which was subject to hours of contentious debate in the House. "It is 2017, not 1817. It is about time we crafted a sound, workable solution," Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, said in a statement. "Passing the Oregon Equal Pay Act is another recent example of the tremendous work that can be done in the Legislature when both parties work together to improve the

lives of all Oregonians." Among the changes: » Veterans were added to the list of protected classes, which in addition to sex also includes race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, disability, and age. » Liability for back wages was limited for employers who have conducted an equal-pay analysis within the past three years. » The effective date was changed to Jan. 1, 2024, with the exception of the ban on seeking compensation history, which would take effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns. *tloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/Tracy_Loew*

CRIME LOG

SILVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT **May 12**
Received calls from May 8 to 14. Motor vehicle accident, 7:42 p.m., 400 W Main St.

Oregon's 'kicker' law could be triggered amid shortfall

KRISTENA HANSEN ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALEM - The Oregon economy has been bustling this year, so much so that the state's unique "kicker" law may give \$408 million back to Oregonians next year when they do their taxes, plus another \$75 million for schools in the next budget cycle. The kicker won't be certain until the state's next revenue forecast this summer, but economists said May 16 it's still likely. That's because the kicker law, adopted by voters in the 1980s and embedded into the state Constitution two decades later, takes effect when the state essentially has a surplus of revenue — more specifically, when

state revenues are at least 2 percent higher than expected. In this instance, total revenues for the 2017-19 budget were 2.4 percent higher than earlier projections. Yet, the rosy revenue forecast won't do much to help the upcoming budget shortfall. Should the kicker be triggered, the local economy's record performance would send just \$187 million in extra funds to the upcoming budget — less than half the amount that would 'kick' back to Oregonians through a tax credit — slightly trimming the deficit down to \$1.4 billion. Gov. Kate Brown said in a statement the report was both good news and bad news. "We now have less than two months before

the end of this legislative session. The stakes couldn't be higher," Brown said. "I will continue to hunt for every penny and rein in the costs of state government. But, without definitive action by the Legislature 350,000 Oregonians could lose health care, hundreds of teachers could lose their jobs, and college could become even more unaffordable." State economists, Brown and her fellow Democratic lawmakers say the economy's good health today only masks the broad structural problems that plague the state's tax system during unavoidable downturns in the economy. Democrats want to raise up to \$3 billion in extra funds for the next cycle through

a corporate tax overhaul proposal that's similar to Measure 97, the labor union-backed big business tax hike that voters struck down in November. Republicans like House Minority Leader Mike McLane say the report is more proof that the state has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. "These circumstances might be inconvenient for Democratic leaders, who continue to push a narrative that suggests current revenue levels are inadequate," McLane said. "But for most Oregonians it is just more evidence of the fact that our government needs to tighten its belt and get serious about slowing the unsustainable rate of spending in Salem."

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Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

86,000 Oregon Medicaid recipients could be ineligible for coverage

TRACY LOEW STATESMAN JOURNAL

More than 80,000 people in Oregon may be receiving Medicaid benefits they don't qualify for, Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson said Wednesday. At an average monthly cost of \$430 per person, coverage for those people — 86,000 recipients, or about 8 percent of the total — costs about \$37 million per month, Richardson said. Republicans seized on the news as evidence that more savings could be found within current spending levels. "Frankly, our state government's incompetence with taxpayer money never ceases to amaze me," House Republican Leader Mike McLane, R-

Powell Butte, said in a statement. Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli, of John Day, called for a bipartisan inquiry. But Rep. Dan Rayfield, D-Corvallis, called Richardson's release a "politically motivated attempt to grab headlines." "We've had numerous public hearings in this building on this exact same fact," Rayfield, co-chairman of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services, said on the House floor Wednesday. "This is something that the health care committee has been aware of. This is something that the human services subcommittee has been aware of," he said. "It appears the only person that has not been aware of this is our Secretary of State." The problem has existed for at least three years, meaning the Oregon Health Authority has spent what may total hundreds of millions of state and federal dollars providing Oregon Health Plan benefits for ineligible recipients, Richardson said. "OHA failed to disclose its ongoing violation of federal eligibility rules until after our audits team was recently tipped off to the situation by an OHA whistleblower," he said. "Even after we learned of the problem and requested detailed information, OHA has delayed providing full disclosure." About 14,100 of those who may be ineligible have been sent renewal notifications, but have not returned applications, a preliminary analysis by OHA showed. The analysis did not clearly identify why the remaining 71,600 people have not been redetermined to be eligible.



ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

More than 80,000 people in Oregon may be receiving Medicaid benefits they don't qualify for.

Oregon Legislators currently are considering new taxes to continue funding the state's Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, and are struggling to fill a \$1.4 billion budget gap. In a statement, the Oregon Health Authority said the problem stems from the process to transition from the failed Cover Oregon computer system to a new one, which has taken more than three years. "Due to poor data quality in Cover Oregon and OHA's older legacy data systems, OHA had to contact each OHP member to complete a paper application," the agency wrote. "The paper application was then manually entered into the ONE system. This process took over two years to complete. What now remains are the final redetermination cases that are more complex in nature due to reasons that include multiple eligibility criteria and household circumstance. OHA anticipated that significant clean-up would be required once we reached the end of the transition into the ONE system. OHA has reported on this process on multiple occasions to the Governor, the Oregon

Legislature and CMS throughout the last three years." Richardson issued his finding in an "audit alert," a new tool he said will highlight concerns too urgent to wait until an audit is complete. In it, he made two recommendations: » OHA should work with federal authorities to ensure federal Medicaid funding is not jeopardized while OHA resolves the eligibility determination issues. » The Legislature should require OHA to report on its efforts to resolve these issues and on fiscal impacts no later than Sept. 30, 2017. The Secretary of State's Office also will be completing two audits this year examining the Medicaid program, he said. The first audit, to be released in the spring, will discuss controls in place for two critical Medicaid information systems. A later audit will examine improper Medicaid payments, including follow-up work on the issue of ineligible enrollees. *tloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/Tracy_Loew*

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