

Oregon gas prices remain elevated as national creep higher

Average price of gas in Union County is \$4.64

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Gas prices in around the state of Oregon have stayed stable this week, but national prices are starting to trend back upward after several weeks of slightly lower costs.

Oregon's average price per gallon this week is \$4.66, the same as last week.

Union County motorists are paying an average of \$4.64 at the pump. Willowa County is paying an average of \$4.72 and Baker County's average gallon of gas is \$4.63.

National prices have climbed 3 cents this week and are sitting at an average of \$4.13 per gallon.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has driven oil prices up as the U.S. and other nations imposed sanctions on Russia, one of the world's largest oil producers. But according to AAA, concerns about an eco-

economic downturn in China due to renewed COVID-19 lockdowns are pushing demand down and keeping crude oil prices to around \$100 per barrel.

Costs remain below the record highs set both nationally and locally last month. Oregon hit \$4.74 per gallon, and the national price crested to \$4.33, both on March 11. Portland reached its record high of \$4.79 on March 27.

AAA spokesperson Marie Dodds said in a news release that prices would stay high as long as crude oil remains

elevated and that consumers shouldn't expect any dramatic declines this spring.

While prices in most Oregon counties stayed somewhat stable, they soared in the southwestern-most corner of the state. Curry County's average gas price is now \$5.01 per gallon. Josephine County is averaging \$4.90, and Multnomah County, around \$4.81.

And Oregon's prices are now the fifth-highest in the nation, behind only California, Nevada, Hawaii and Washington.



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer, File

A display board shows gas prices at the Safeway on Adams Avenue in La Grande on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. National prices have climbed 3 cents this week and are sitting at an average of \$4.13 per gallon.

Oregon GOP wraps up summit as Democrats plan their own

Democrats to be in Sunriver over the weekend

By GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — There's political movement in the mountains this week. Republicans are heading out from the shadow of Mount Hood, while Democrats make the trek east of the Cascades.

As Republicans concluded the Dorchester Conference in Welches in Clackamas County last weekend, Democrats are heading to the Oregon Summit in Sunriver Resort Friday, April 29.

The meetings are meant to rally the partisan troops as the primary election moves towards the finish line on May 17 — now just three weeks away.

GOP picks from full field of candidates

Informal straw polls taken of GOP attendees at the Dorchester Conference showed they favor former

Happy Valley Mayor Lori Chavez-DeRemer in the 5th Congressional District that runs from Portland to Bend. Rep. Ron Noble, R-McMinnville, came out on top of a large slate of Republicans in the new 6th Congressional District. Both candidates put out the results on social media over the weekend.

Less was released about the straw poll to choose among the 19 Republicans running for governor. Former Alsea school superintendent Marc Thielman came out on top after multiple rounds, with Portland consultant Bridget Barton placing second.

The straw poll winners were not included in two high-profile debates last week and later this week. The first, held April 21, was co-sponsored by the Bend Bulletin and limited the stage to four candidates who had raised significant funds and also placed well in larger public opinion polls: former House Minority Leader Christine Drazan, R-Canby; 2016 GOP governor nominee Bud Pierce of Salem; former Oregon

GOP chair Bob Tiernan of Lake Oswego; and Sandy Mayor Stan Pulliam. The same four are set for a debate April 28, co-sponsored by Pamplin Media and KOIN-TV.

Meanwhile, conservative radio personality Lars Larson used the weekend to weigh in with his own endorsement of Barton for governor. He also told listeners they should support Chavez-DeRemer in the 5th district race, and Amy Ryan Courser in the 6th district.

Democrats maneuver into spotlight

Now it's the Democrats' turn for strategizing and intrigue at Sunriver Resort south of Bend. The agenda of the Democratic party's Oregon Summit also includes a reception for Gov. Kate Brown, who will leave office in January. Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, Secretary of State Shemia Fagan and Treasurer Tobias Read will speak.

Straw polls are also expected following the governor's candidate forum on May 1.

The Democratic field is just slightly smaller — 15 candidates. Treasurer Read and former House Majority Leader Tina Kotek, D-Portland, are the top fund-

raisers so far in bids to move into Mahonia Hall, the governor's mansion in Salem.

But insurgent candidates such as 2018 Independent

Party governor nominee Patrick Starnes of Brownsville — running in 2020 as a Democrat — are calling for equal footing in any party-sponsored debates.

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