Oregon testing Medicaid enrollment system

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

Oregon is testing a modified version of Kentucky's online Medicaid enrollment system and officials hope it will be ready for the public to use early next year.

That means Oregon might finally be able to automate its process to screen applicants for Medicaid eligibility and enroll them in the program, two of the functions that were supposed to be included in the Cover Oregon health insurance exchange portal. That system failed to launch in 2013, so the Oregon Health Authority has instead used an online PDF application to meet the federal requirement that states provide an online Medicaid application.

There are currently more than 1 million low-income Oregonians enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan, which is the state's Medicaid program. The state still employs hundreds of limited-duration staff to manually determine Medicaid applicants' eligibility and enroll them in the program.

State will adapt Kentucky program

Although Kentucky provided its programming code to Oregon for free, state agencies in Oregon have budgeted approximately $62 million to adapt the program and implement it here, according to Stephanie Tripp, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Health Authority. The budget includes the cost of a contract with Deloitte Consulting, which is working with state employees to make adjustments to the Kentucky system. The state and consultant are testing Oregon's version of the system and will also develop a training plan for state staff who will use the technology.

"We expect the system to become available to Oregonians who are applying for (the Oregon Health Plan) for the first time in early 2016," Tripp wrote in an email. "However, for Oregonians who are current OHP members, they will be asked to renew their coverage through our current renewal process."

Oregon is using the federal health insurance exchange, Healthcare.gov, for people seeking private insurance, and will continue to do so free of charge through 2016.

Costly exchange

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, which took over management of Oregon's health insurance marketplace in July, was unable to provide an updated total cost for the Cover Oregon project. However, The Associated Press reported early this year that Oregon spent $300 million in federal money and at least $26 million in state funds to develop and market the Cover Oregon exchange. Most of the federal money went to tech company Oracle which built the exchange. Oregon also spent millions of dollars assessing whether it could salvage the Cover Oregon exchange, and had spent $9.1 million by the end of 2014 for hundreds of workers to process paper health insurance applications, The Associated Press reported.

Since then, lawmakers approved a $30.5 million two-year budget for the Department of Consumer and Business Services to manage the exchange and a $2.3 million two-year budget to market and promote the insurance websites.

The state has continued to pay Oracle to use a portion of the Cover Oregon system to allow online Medicaid applications. That cost was unavailable, and it's also unclear whether the state can stop paying Oracle after Oregon completes the transition to Kentucky's system.

The state has spent at least $4.6 million on legal services, mostly to defend the state against lawsuits filed by Oracle and to pursue its own lawsuit against the company, according documents provided by the Oregon Department of Justice and Oregon House Republicans. Oregon has also incurred some of its legal bills responding to inquiries from Congress and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Local residents celebrate Jewish High Holy Days

Yom Kippur observances to be held in Astoria

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

The Beit Salmon Jewish congregation provides members of the Lower Columbia community the opportunity to participate in Yom Kippur closer to home this year, with services in Astoria.

Rabbi Abram Goodstein will lead the services at Peace Lutheran Church at 12th and Exchange streets. Kol Nidrei on Erev Yom Kippur starting at 7 tonight. Morning services Wednesday start at 10 a.m.

There will be an afternoon break, with text study at 4 p.m., followed by closing services at 5. The congregation will "break the fast" with a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring food to share for the celebration.

Yom Kippur is the second of the Jewish high holidays that take place during the month of Tishrei. It follows Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, which began Sept. 13, 10 days before Yom Kippur.

"This is kind of the last chance to be Jewish for the year," Beit Salmon Board President Ann Goldeen said. "These holidays are very rich. They're rewarding. There's something meaty in them."

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is about repenting and reflecting over the past year, restoring relationships that were harmed and examining one's life through introspection, according to Goldeen.

The opening prayer, Kol Nidrei, is "an annulment of every promise you've made" in the past year, Goldeen said. Congregants fast throughout Yom Kippur, which Goldeen believes is an important part of observing the solemn holiday.

"It really helps you go to a different plane," she said.

Congregants can attend for a portion of the services or stay all day. The services conclude with the "big blast" of a shofar, or ram's horn. The communal meal to break the fast is generally held at sundown, or when at least three stars are visible in the sky, Goldeen said.

At the close of the holiday, it is commonly believed congregants are "sealed for the next year," she said.

In the past, many families had to drive to Portland for services, and some locals still belong to congregations in other cities. During the past year, Beit Salmon started the process of becoming an official congregation by selecting a title, establishing a board and bylaws and working toward becoming a 501(c)(3). The congregation fluctuates but averages about 30 families of various sizes, Goldeen said.

> **'This is kind of the last chance to be Jewish for the year.'**
>
> **Ann Goldeen**
> Beit Salmon Board President

Beit Salmon was lively during the summer. With Rabbi Goldstein in residency on the North Coast, the group did an activity nearly every day, Goldeen said. There was a Hebrew school program for youth ages 5 to 9, a youth group, Torah study and a Judaism 101 class, among other activities. Goldstein, who attends Hebrew Union College's Jack H. Skirball Campus in Los Angeles and has an interest in helping rural Jewish communities be sustainable, also traveled along the North Coast to meet individually with families, Goldeen said.

Since he left, the group has tried sustaining monthly Shabbat services, but Goldeen said she would like to see other programs, such as the youth group and Hebrew school, continue, as well. Another part of making the group sustainable was to make Yom Kippur services more accessible to the Lower Columbia Jewish community.

Last year, Goldeen opened her home for services, but the Beit Salmon board wanted a larger space. The group raised the necessary funds to bring Goldstein back to lead the services. Goldeen hopes the high holidays and Goldstein's presence will help the group refocus to continue developing and becoming more sustainable in the new year.

Beit Salmon's partnership with Peace Lutheran Church has worked out well, as the church allows the group to store its materials and use its facilities. However, the group is interested in getting an established facility in the future, Goldeen said.

ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Tonight — Partly cloudy — 47°

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs

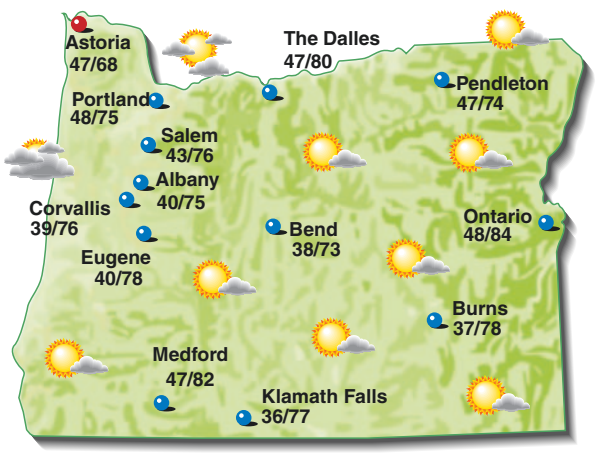
Wednesday — Clouds limiting sun — 68° / 53°

Thursday — An afternoon shower — 69° / 53°

Friday — Mainly cloudy with a little rain — 66° / 50°

Saturday — Periods of clouds and sunshine — 65° / 50°

Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2015

Almanac

Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures

High	66°
Low	47°
Normal high	67°
Normal low	49°

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.98"
Normal month to date	1.34"
Year to date	31.09"
Normal year to date	39.44"

Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	7:14 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday	7:03 a.m.
Moonrise today	3:43 p.m.
Moonset today	12:36 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Sep 27	Oct 4	Oct 12	Oct 20

AccuWeather.com

Regional Cities

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	78	39	s	77	36	s
Bend	73	38	s	73	44	s
Brookings	66	49	s	66	52	pc
Eugene	73	40	s	78	46	pc
Ilwaco	63	51	pc	64	57	c
Klamath Falls	80	36	s	77	37	s
Medford	81	47	s	82	51	s
Newport	62	45	pc	66	51	pc
North Bend	64	47	s	68	52	pc
Olympia	68	42	pc	70	47	pc
Pendleton	75	47	s	74	46	s
Portland	71	48	pc	75	53	pc
Roseburg	75	45	s	81	50	s
Salem	72	43	pc	76	50	pc
Seaside	64	47	pc	66	54	c
Spokane	73	45	pc	70	45	pc
Vancouver	69	44	pc	72	51	pc
Yakima	79	39	pc	78	44	pc

Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: Above the northeast horizon, the Andromeda Galaxy is a distance of 2.5 million light-years away.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

Tomorrow's Tides

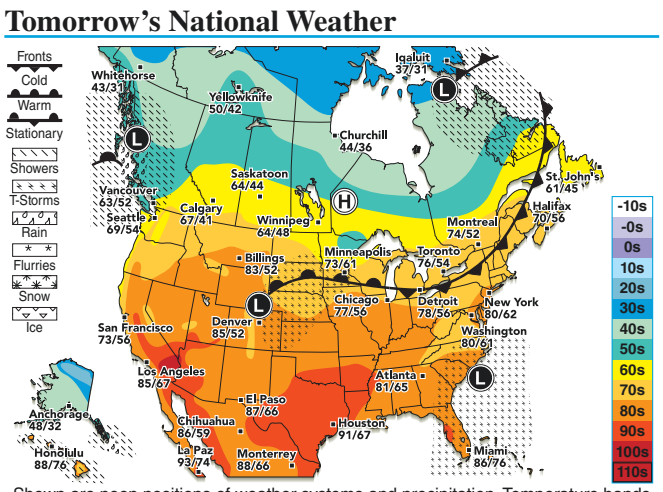
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
10:28 a.m.	6.5 ft.	3:52 a.m.	0.5 ft.
9:51 p.m.	7.6 ft.	4:03 p.m.	2.5 ft.

National Cities

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	79	64	t	81	65	pc
Boston	67	54	c	73	59	s
Chicago	77	57	s	77	56	s
Denver	83	54	pc	85	52	pc
Des Moines	85	65	pc	82	63	t
Detroit	75	52	s	78	56	s
El Paso	85	66	t	87	66	t
Fairbanks	41	23	c	41	23	c
Honolulu	89	77	pc	88	76	sh
Indianapolis	80	54	s	81	58	s
Kansas City	85	66	pc	83	64	pc
Las Vegas	96	73	pc	97	76	s
Los Angeles	83	68	pc	85	67	pc
Memphis	87	62	s	88	67	s
Miami	87	76	pc	86	76	pc
Nashville	84	58	s	86	62	s
New Orleans	87	73	s	84	74	pc
New York	74	60	c	80	62	s
Oklahoma City	90	67	pc	88	64	pc
Philadelphia	76	59	c	80	60	s
St. Louis	84	62	s	85	62	s
Salt Lake City	87	60	pc	86	59	s
San Francisco	69	55	pc	73	56	s
Seattle	66	48	pc	69	54	pc
Washington, DC	75	61	c	80	61	s

Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.
Weather (W): s-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice.

Public meetings

TUESDAY

Clatsop Care Health District Board, noon, Clatsop Care Center, 646 16th St.

Astoria Library Board, 5:30 p.m., Astoria Public Library Flag Room, 450 10th St.

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway, Seaside.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop County Housing Authority Board, 5 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St.

Astoria Parks and Recreation Board, 5:30 p.m., 1555 W. Marine Drive.

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St.

Lotteries

OREGON

Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 4-1-3-0
4 p.m.: 0-3-9-7
7 p.m.: 5-8-3-0
10 p.m.: 3-7-6-3

Monday's Megabucks: 1-2-4-12-30-34
Estimated jackpot: $3.4 million.

WASHINGTON

Monday's Daily Game: 5-9-4

Monday's Hit 5: 07-08-11-25-28
Estimated jackpot: $310,000.

Monday's Keno: 02-05-08-11-13-14-19-21-29-32-33-37-47-49-56-59-60-68-75-78

Monday's Lotto: 10-14-19-27-30-40
Estimated jackpot: $4.4 million.

Monday's Match 4: 05-11-17-19

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

The Daily Astorian
Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published daily, except Saturday and Sunday, by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

www.dailyastorian.com

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIBER TO THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Effective July 1, 2015

HOME DELIVERY		MAIL	
EZpay (per month)	$11.25	EZpay (per month)	$16.60
13 weeks in advance	$36.79	13 weeks in advance	$51.98
26 weeks in advance	$70.82	26 weeks in advance	$102.63
52 weeks in advance	$135.05	52 weeks in advance	$199.90

Circulation phone number: 503-325-3211
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP
All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Daily Astorian become the property of The Daily Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©
Entire contents © Copyright, 2015 by The Daily Astorian.

Printed on recycled paper