

Advocacy group wants lawmakers to reform income tax credit rules

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A tax reform group is pushing state lawmakers to reform transferable income tax credits that Oregon awards to energy conservation, transportation, biomass and agricultural workforce housing projects.

Jody Wiser is chairwoman of Tax Fairness Oregon, a group which advocates for a progressive tax code and full enforcement of state tax laws. Wiser is also a registered lobbyist for the group.

Wiser met Thursday with state Rep. Phil Barnhart, D-Springfield, and chairman of the House Interim Committee on Revenue, to discuss potential changes to the tax credits.

The state has awarded many of these tax credits to nonprofits, religious groups and governments that don't owe any taxes, but because the credits are transferable the groups can sell them to raise cash. In many cases the credits are sold at deep discounts,

'The whole idea of selling a five-year tax credit might be the stupidest thing we're doing.'

Jody Wiser, Tax Fairness Oregon

resulting in less money for the projects they were meant to help fund.

"The whole idea of selling a five-year tax credit might be the stupidest thing we're doing," Wiser said.

It would be simpler for the state to issue grants to the projects officials want to support, instead of tax credits, Wiser said.

"Frankly, as much as the people who do energy and the people who do low-income housing would like to see their

budgets protected, because tax credits protect them, I don't think their budgets are more sacrosanct than school budgets, and school budgets aren't protected," Wiser said.

Wiser suggested that if the state wants to continue issuing transferable tax credits as a public policy tool, agencies should sell only one-year tax credits and use public auctions to make the sales.

That would raise money that could be issued in grants to the projects the state wants to encourage.

Supporters of tax credit auctions point out the Oregon film office has used them successfully to sell tax credits for about 99 cents on the dollar.

Wiser said there are "a lot of people in the housing community and it sounds negative to do something they don't want. So it may be changing it to an auction is the farthest you can go."

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

Lobbyist champions pot edibles industry

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Pot brownies? There's a lobbyist for that.

As the legalized marijuana industry expands in Oregon, growers, processors, manufacturers and retailers are joining forces to lobby for the interests of their niche market.

Oregon Responsible Edibles Council is the latest manifestation of that effort.

The new lobbying group and trade association, formed by David McNicoll, owner of Dave's Space Cakes in Eugene, will meet for the first time later this month in Eugene.

"We would like to be a voice for edibles in the state of Oregon," McNicoll said.

The group plans to accomplish that mission through a public education campaign and lobbying efforts during the February legislative session.

industry. One example was when New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd wrote about eating a whole marijuana-infused chocolate bar that contained multiple servings, McNicoll noted.

Public education is his answer to negative perceptions about edibles. He envisions the group organizing advertising campaigns and distributing posters and retail cards with information on how to avoid an overdose.

Another priority for the council is to lobby lawmakers in February to change the definition of a "limited marijuana retail product" to include low-dose edibles. Edibles sales are limited to patients with a medical marijuana card. Expanding the definition would allow marijuana dispensaries to sell edibles to recreational users.

McNicoll came up with the idea for the lobby group while participating in the Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association. Council meetings will be in conjunction with the



David McNicoll

association's meetings until further notice.

About 10 individuals and businesses have joined the edibles council to date, he said.

Worries about burdensome testing

The group already has an influential voice through its founder. McNicoll recently was selected to serve on the Oregon Health Authority's Medical Marijuana Rules Advisory Committee and plans to argue against burdensome testing requirements for edibles.

"If regulations are too price-prohibitive, it will stifle the success of the industry," McNicoll said.

He will be up against members of the public safety organizations such as the Oregon League of Cities, which will be advocating for more testing and stricter packaging of edibles, said the league's Scott Winkels.

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ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Tonight
Mainly clear
41°

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

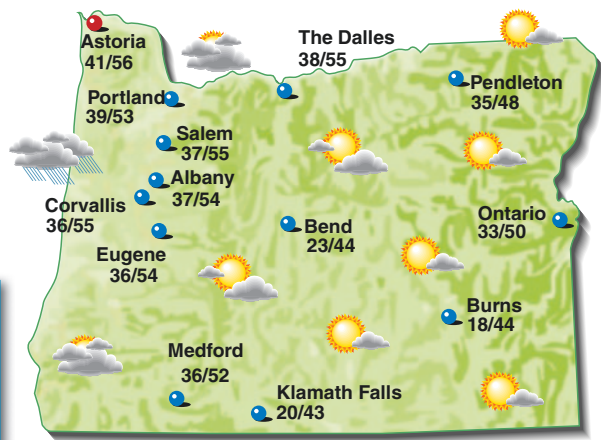
Tuesday
Mostly cloudy, a shower in the afternoon
56° 47°

Wednesday
Variably cloudy with spotty showers
55° 45°

Thursday
A stray afternoon shower
56° 48°

Friday
Breezy with rain
58° 48°

Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2015

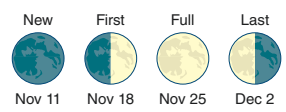
Almanac

Astoria through Sunday.

Temperatures	Precipitation
High 57°	Yesterday 0.99"
Low 47°	Month to date 2.83"
Normal high 55°	Normal month to date 2.56"
Normal low 41°	Year to date 41.27"
	Normal year to date 48.78"

Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	4:50 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday	7:08 a.m.
Moonrise today	4:57 a.m.
Moonset today	4:11 p.m.



AccuWeather.com

Regional Cities

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	42	26	sn	42	19	s
Bend	43	23	c	44	26	pc
Brookings	52	40	sh	54	42	pc
Eugene	54	36	sh	54	40	c
Ilwaco	53	45	c	56	50	c
Klamath Falls	41	20	sn	43	20	pc
Medford	51	36	sh	52	32	pc
Newport	51	39	sh	53	45	c
North Bend	55	40	sh	56	46	c

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Olympia	51	36	pc	51	43	c
Pendleton	47	35	c	48	39	s
Portland	53	39	sh	53	46	c
Roseburg	52	40	sh	54	40	pc
Salem	54	37	sh	55	44	c
Seaside	55	44	sh	56	50	c
Spokane	45	31	r	43	33	c
Vancouver	52	39	sh	52	47	c
Yakima	55	27	pc	55	34	pc

Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: Tuesday morning, ISS will be visible at 96 degrees above the north-northwest horizon at 5:22 a.m., moving from southwest to northeast for 4 minutes.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

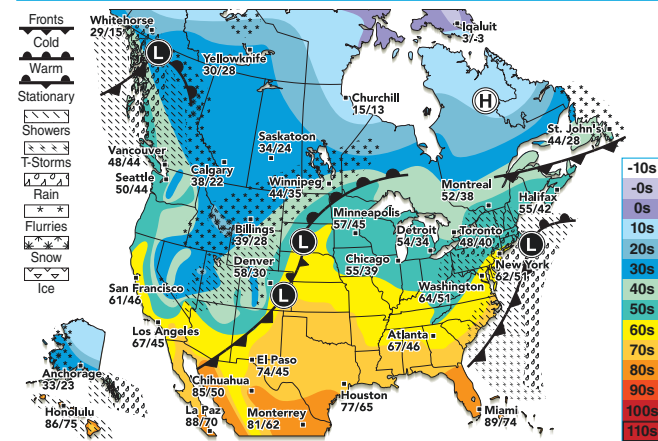
Tomorrow's Tides

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High	Time	Low
	12:23 a.m.	7.5 ft.	6:04 a.m.	2.0 ft.
	12:04 p.m.	8.9 ft.	6:49 p.m.	-0.1 ft.

National Cities

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	52	50	r	67	46	pc
Boston	60	44	s	58	47	r
Chicago	54	32	s	55	39	pc
Denver	59	36	s	58	30	pc
Des Moines	58	38	s	59	50	c
Detroit	56	41	s	54	34	r
El Paso	73	47	s	74	45	s
Fairbanks	27	8	sn	15	8	pc
Honolulu	87	75	pc	86	75	pc
Indianapolis	56	37	sh	58	36	pc
Kansas City	60	40	s	64	53	pc
Las Vegas	69	48	s	60	40	pc
Los Angeles	69	51	c	67	45	pc
Memphis	66	46	pc	70	54	pc
Miami	87	74	pc	89	74	c
Nashville	57	46	r	63	42	pc
New Orleans	72	59	pc	75	62	pc
New York	60	51	pc	62	51	r
Oklahoma City	65	49	s	71	56	pc
Philadelphia	60	52	pc	65	52	r
St. Louis	58	38	s	63	49	s
Salt Lake City	58	37	sh	44	34	sn
San Francisco	60	48	t	61	46	c
Seattle	51	40	pc	50	44	c
Washington, DC	58	54	pc	64	51	r

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.

Deaths

Nov. 7, 2015

ROBERTS, Mark Alan, 64, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

LOWE, Joanne, 70, of Kelso, Washington, died in Longview, Washington. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Public meetings

MONDAY

Knappa School Board, 6 p.m., executive session (closed to public), Knappa High School library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department, 7 p.m., 188 Sunset Ave.

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., Seaside City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Clatsop Community College Board, 5:45

p.m., board work session, 6 p.m., executive session (closed to public), 6:30 p.m., regular meeting, Columbia Hall Room 219, 1651 Lexington Ave.

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Business.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., 225 S. Main Ave.

Cannon Beach City Council, work session, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Lotteries

OREGON

Sunday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 1-9-1-8
4 p.m.: 5-6-2-6
7 p.m.: 5-0-7-6
10 p.m.: 8-4-9-8

Saturday's Megabucks:
5-21-31-36-40-48

Estimated jackpot: \$6.3 million.

Saturday's Powerball:
7-16-25-50-53, Powerball: 15
Estimated jackpot: \$40 million.

Saturday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 9-6-5-7
4 p.m.: 0-6-8-9
7 p.m.: 0-9-3-6
10 p.m.: 3-0-5-5

Friday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 9-5-8-7

4 p.m.: 2-6-5-9

7 p.m.: 8-1-3-9

10 p.m.: 7-8-3-2

WASHINGTON

Sunday's Daily Game:

7-5-1

Sunday's Keno: 05-17-

19-20-22-24-28-30-34-35-48-

51-52-55-62-63-67-69-70-79

Sunday's Match 4: 02-

05-08-17
Saturday's Daily Game:
2-9-7

Saturday's Hit 5: 04-12-

13-17-21

Estimated jackpot:

\$140,000.

Saturday's Keno: 03-05-

07-09-16-24-25-27-30-31-

35-52-53-55-64-65-67-68-

76-80

Saturday's Lotto: 03-08-

14-18-42-44

Estimated jackpot: \$1.4

million.

Saturday's Match 4: 04-

07-10-21

Friday's Daily Game:
7-9-0

Friday's Keno: 06-07-10-

16-21-39-41-43-47-53-59-62-

65-67-69-72-73-75-77-80

Friday's Match 4: 01-05-

06-21

Friday's Mega Millions:

10-31-35-50-72, Mega Ball: 8

Estimated jackpot: \$159

million.

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