

# Oregon population hits 4 million

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — New estimates from Portland State University say Oregon gained its 4-millionth resident this year.

"Reaching 4 million this year indicates our economy is more than OK," Risa Proehl, a Portland State population expert who worked on the estimates, said. "It means that our state is attractive to people."

The last such major milestone was in the early 1990s, when Oregon was growing at rates it hasn't seen since. The

state hit 3 million people in 1993, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

The university's Population Research Center estimates that 4,013,845 people lived in Oregon as of July 1.

According to Proehl, a robust and healthy economy is driving the population growth. About 80 percent of the 2015 increase was from migration, she said, and the remaining increase was caused by more people being born than dying.

Just four years ago, during the Great Recession, the pop-

ulation increase was just half a percent — the smallest in 25 years. But the overall growth rate for 2015 was 1.3 percent.

Oregon's natural growth — the rate of people being born versus that of people dying — has been decreasing for some time, according to state demographer Kanhaiya Vaidya. Recently, births have outpaced deaths each year in Oregon, but Vaidya said there will be a day when the state will depend entirely on migration for population growth.

Babies aren't being born at

sufficient rates to make up for the fact that their parents will one day die. To sustain itself, the population needs an average of 2.1 babies born per woman. Oregon has had a fertility rate lower than that since at least 2000, according to Proehl.

The baby-boom generation isn't getting younger, she added.

Vaidya says the balance will tip in 2040, with more Oregonians dying each year than are born.

PSU and stat estimates say the state's population is expected to hit 5 million in the 2030s.

# Dougherty: His work ethic earned him respect

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however, will be working on a new school relocation bond to be placed on the November 2016 ballot.

Three of the district's existing four schools are located in the tsunami inundation zone; they have "long surpassed their useful lives and have a high likelihood of catastrophic collapse in an earthquake," Dougherty said. For 25 years, Dougherty and other administrators have worked toward the goal of relocating those schools. A measure to obtain \$128.8 million to do so was on the ballot in a November 2013 election, but failed.

"It is still my desire to see our students in a safe location," Dougherty wrote. "I believe that by retiring at the end of this school year, it would enable me to focus more of my time toward pursuing this effort."

## A long career

Dougherty began his career with the Seaside School District as a teacher at Seaside Heights Elementary School in 1982. He also worked as a teacher at Broadway Middle School and the principal of Cannon Beach Elementary School before being hired to replace former superintendent Harold Riggan in 1998.

Phillips, who was on the board when it hired Dougherty, said he "absolutely" has achieved everything the board hoped for and expected when it made the decision. Phillips described Dougherty as "the epitome of the opposite" of Riggan, a tall, former athlete who commanded respect and attention with his physical presence.

"Dougherty has commanded respect because of the work ethic and the knowledge he has," Phillips said, adding he provides the board with background information and research to help members make every decision regarding the district.

Dougherty's retirement is coming "quicker than a lot of us anticipated," Phillips said, but "obviously we support Doug."

"He's been a personal hero to a lot of us," Phillips said.

Dougherty stated in his letter he is grateful to parents and community members for their support and amazing generosity.

"I also want to thank the current and past administrators, teachers and staff for tirelessly creating collaborative learning environments as they develop our community's greatest asset — its children," he wrote.

# Knappa: Smyth said a growth rate of 10 percent a year should not be challenging

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Knappa has also started using professional learning communities, groups of teachers in similar subject areas who meet to coordinate their curricula.

"I would also like to get a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) math class next year," Thompson said, adding there are many hands-on learners at Knappa.

Thompson said the math department at Knappa still needs more data collection on students' progression, an additional half-time math teacher to join the district's three full-time math staff, a math class assistant to help struggling students, longer periods for students performing below benchmarks

**'Part of the recipe is setting an expectation for being smart is cool. Highlighting achievement is important. Celebrating achievement is important.'**

Terrence Smyth

superintendent of Knappa schools

and 24-hour access to learning technology.

## Potential

With certain changes, Smyth said a growth rate of 10 percent a year should not be challenging for Knappa.

Smyth said his recipe for

success at Springwater included not only proficiency-based grading, but also staff development in that system and changes in best instructional practices.

Why many students didn't take the Smarter Balanced Math assessment last year was

probably a combination of fear about not doing well, he said, a bias against testing and the fact many students meet their graduation requirements through other approved assessments. Many students use the state's Essential Skills work samples, prompts they can complete under the observation of a teacher, to meet graduation requirements.

"Part of the recipe is setting an expectation for being smart is cool," he said. "Highlighting achievement is important. Celebrating achievement is important. Expecting kids, and helping them expect that they are capable and can work really hard in classes and then show how smart they are, that's certainly a part of it."

# Port: Suit claims Weston abused his authority as director

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After their suits were filed, Port Commission Chairman John Raichl initiated a third-party review of allegations against Weston. The report, performed by human resources consultants from the Local Government Personnel Institute, sustained allegations that

Weston, while he was interim director, was untruthful to the commission, engaged in deceptive contract modifications and had unethically taken a tenant's abandoned property for his personal use.

## Browne settles

At Tuesday's regular meeting, the Port Commis-

sion authorized Knight and the Port's counsel to finalize a settlement with Browne, although Knight did not disclose the specifics.

Herman's case continues. Her lawyer, Anne Foster, recently filed an amended complaint adding Raichl as a co-defendant.

Herman's amended complaint alleges she was not

told about the release of the third-party report into Weston, first reading about it in The Daily Astorian, which obtained a copy in May after a prolonged public records request. Meanwhile, she said, Weston was given several private meetings to tell his side of the story regarding the report.

"At the beginning of Au-

gust (2014), Weston asked Commissioner Raichl to help with all decisions relating to the firing of Ms. Browne and plaintiff," Herman's amended complaint alleges. "Based on information and belief, since that time, Commissioner Raichl approved each and every decision relating to plaintiff's employment at the Port."

Herman's amended complaint also seeks an additional post-employment retaliation claim, alleging Commissioner Bill Hunsinger shouted from his truck, "you're a piece of s---," to her in September, as she and her co-workers waited during the lunch hour near an intersection in downtown Astoria.



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