

## Cost of PERS to rise \$885M

Associated Press

PORTLAND — The cost of Oregon's public pension system will increase about \$885 million over the next two years, a higher increase than was previously expected.

The new costs are 10 percent higher than previously forecast and 44 percent above the \$2 billion per biennium that public employers are currently paying, The Oregonian reported.

The Public Employees Retirement System on Friday released an updated valuation of the pension fund's assets and liabilities that suggests the system's investment returns have lagged far behind the system's assumed rate of 7.5 percent. The fund currently has an unfunded liability of \$21.8 billion or about 71 cents in assets for every dollar of liabilities.

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## Medical benefits of dental floss are unproven

Evidence is 'unreliable,' of 'very low' quality

By JEFF DONN  
AP National Writer

HOLMDEL, N.J. — It's one of the most universal recommendations in all of public health: Floss daily to prevent gum disease and cavities.

Except there's little proof that flossing works.

Still, the federal government, dental organizations and manufacturers of floss have pushed the practice for decades. Dentists provide samples to their patients; the American Dental Association insists on its website that, "Flossing is an essential part of taking care of your teeth and gums."

The federal government has recommended flossing since 1979, first in a surgeon general's report and later in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans issued every five years. The guidelines must be based on scientific evidence, under the law.

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## 'A FLOATING MUSEUM'



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

People cheer and wave as the historic Tourist No. 2 ferry arrives Monday at the 17th Street Dock in Astoria.

## Future of Tourist No. 2 is uncertain

By ELI STILLMAN  
The Daily Astorian

When the Tourist No. 2 finally reached the 17th Street Dock Monday morning, Robert "Jake" Jacob was there to help tie the historic ferry up.

The colorful owner of the Cannery Pier Hotel has been one of the main voices behind the old wooden boat's unlikely return.

The end of the ferry's journey from Bremerton, Washington, to Astoria was greeted with cheers and a bottle of whiskey for the exhausted two-man crew.

"To make it all the way from Seattle is amazing," said Jacob.

But what happens next is uncertain.

Tourist No. 2 will head to Tongue Point in a few days and return to the 17th Street Dock next week for the Astoria Regatta, where it will participate in the boat parade.

Some are hopeful the ferry will eventually become a tourist attraction like the Astoria Riverfront Trolley. Yet it will likely take a year of work and a haul-out before the 92-year-old relic can attempt U.S. Coast Guard certification.

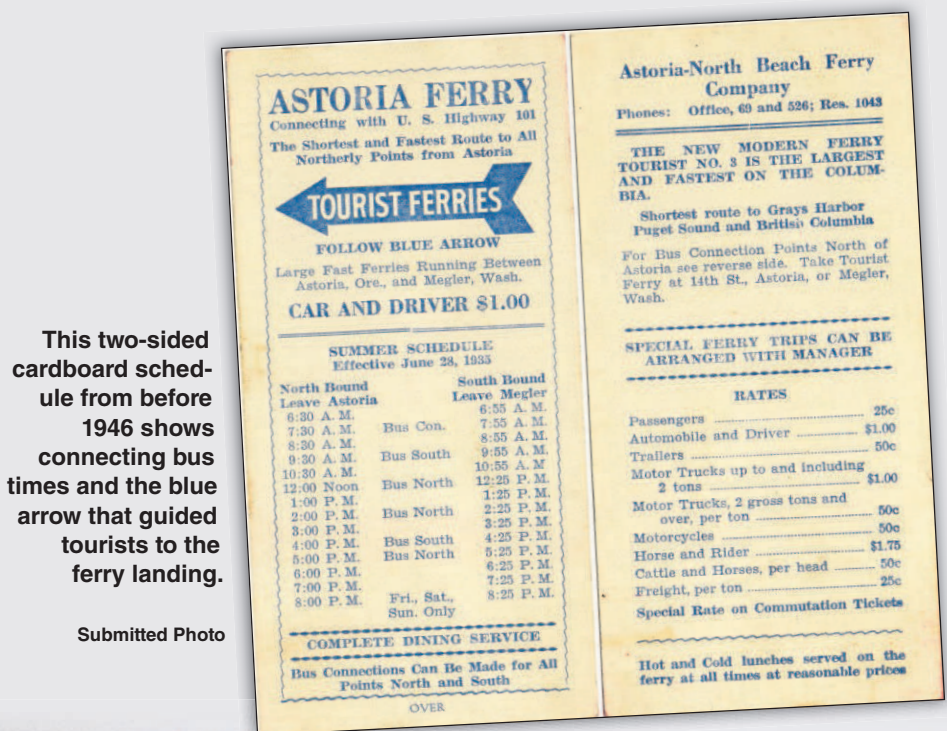
"It's a floating museum," said Donna Quinn, the director of sales and marketing at the Cannery Pier Hotel. "It's such a treat to have this piece of history here."

### Skeptics

Dulcye Taylor, the president of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, has heard from doubters who warn that a "wooden boat is kind of a hole that you throw money into. But this boat has been loved and worked its whole life."

The Tourist No. 2 shuttled passengers and cars between Astoria and Megler,

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This two-sided cardboard schedule from before 1946 shows connecting bus times and the blue arrow that guided tourists to the ferry landing.

Submitted Photo



The historic Tourist No. 2 ferry pulls up to the 17th Street Dock in Astoria on Monday.

Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

## Next Portland mayor aims to bridge urban-rural gap



Eric Mortenson/Capital Press  
State Treasurer Ted Wheeler will take office in January as Portland mayor. Wheeler said he brings an appreciation of Oregon agriculture and rural communities to the position.

### Wheeler says he's an advocate for Oregon ag

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

PORTLAND — Love it or despise it, this quirky city can make or break the fortunes of Oregon's farmers and ranchers.

With 610,000 people living within the city limits, and 1.7 million in the three counties that make up the greater metro area, Portland is the chief consumer, shipper, marketer and brander of the state's agricultural production.

What happens here rip-

ples far beyond the city, which makes Portland politics important from Pendleton to Prineville and from Powell Butte to Paisley.

When current state Treasurer Ted Wheeler decided to run for Portland mayor and won enough votes in the May primary to avoid a runoff in November, rural producers took notice.

He won't take office until January, but some in agriculture believe Wheeler's ascendancy could improve urban-rural relations.

### Rural roots

Wheeler lives in Portland,

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Eric Mortenson/Capital Press

Rural producers sometimes see Portland as a distant place that doesn't understand agriculture, but mayor-elect Ted Wheeler has rural roots.



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