

Lawmakers advance special election to budget committee

Republicans object to move

By **CLAIRE WITCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The state House rules committee on Saturday advanced a bill that would create a January special election if any legislation approved this session gets referred to voters.

About one week before the Legislature reaches its deadline, a battle has developed over the special election proposal. The controversy has highlighted uncertainty over how the state plans to fund the Oregon Health Plan, its version of Medicaid.

A January election next year is expected to set the state back about \$3 million. The issue likely faces further debate at its next stop, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, which hammers out the state's two-year budget.

Oregonians can petition to refer successful, non-emer-

gency legislation to the ballot. The referral typically gets voted on in the next general election, but the Legislature has the authority to hold special elections.

Democrats fear recently-passed legislation that creates taxes and assessments on health care providers, insurers and coordinated care organizations to pay for Medicaid will get referred, and say that a January election date allows legislators to reconvene in the February short session to find an alternative for Medicaid funding should the legislation fail at the ballot.

Petition coming

State Rep. Julie Parrish, R-Tualatin/West Linn, has publicly acknowledged her intentions to file a petition to get the so-called provider tax referred to voters.

The state is poised to raise more than \$600 million in the next two years through the provider tax and draw down nearly \$1.9 billion in federal funding to help pay for the

Oregon Health Plan.

Parrish contends that rescheduling the election less than a month after the Christmas holiday circumscribes the public's ability to weigh in.

Oregonians vote by mail, but Parrish argues that sending out voters' pamphlets during the holiday season, when the mail business is typically busy and results in delays, could disenfranchise overseas and military voters.

House Democrats are concerned a referral could result in a funding shortfall in Medicaid, which approximately 1 million Oregonians receive.

Once petitioners get enough signatures for a referendum, the legislation in question goes on hold.

The provider tax bill includes a tax on insurance premiums, for example, which is poised to go into effect in January. It wouldn't take effect if petitioners are successful in getting it on the ballot.

If the ballot measure referral vote were held in November, even if voters approved

it, implementation would be delayed by 11 months.

Personally invested

Democrats have also charged that Parrish is personally invested in seeing the provider tax fail at the ballot, an issue that came up Saturday afternoon at a contentious meeting of the House Committee on Rules, where the amendment to the elections legislation was adopted and advanced.

A political action committee has already formed to campaign for the referral, according to state Rep. Dan Rayfield, D-Corvallis.

Oregonians Against More Health Care Taxes has received \$10,000 in donations from a single donor, according to campaign finance records. On Wednesday, Rayfield charged that a "longtime business and political partner" of Parrish's, Lindsey Berschauer, had established the committee.

Parrish says that while she and Berschauer are friends and "work together on issues,"

they do not have a legal business partnership or other entity together. Parrish has worked on previous political campaigns, including the 2016 campaign for Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, a Republican.

Rayfield contended during Saturday's hearing that Parrish stood to profit from a ballot referral.

"When you come here today, the real question I want to ask you is, are you coming here as a consultant, or are you here as a legislator, and do you intend to profit off of this referendum?" Rayfield asked Parrish.

Special interests

Parrish shot back that Democratic members of the committee had received money from unions and special interests with a stake in the provider tax legislation — such as state Rep. Rob Nosse, D-Portland, who works for the Oregon Nurses Association, Parrish said, and has received campaign donations from the

association.

"Collectively," Parrish said, addressing the five Democrats, "You all have taken \$1 million."

The amended bill would also create a bipartisan legislative committee to write ballot titles; members of the majority party would outnumber the number of members from the minority party, and the provision has been decry by Republicans.

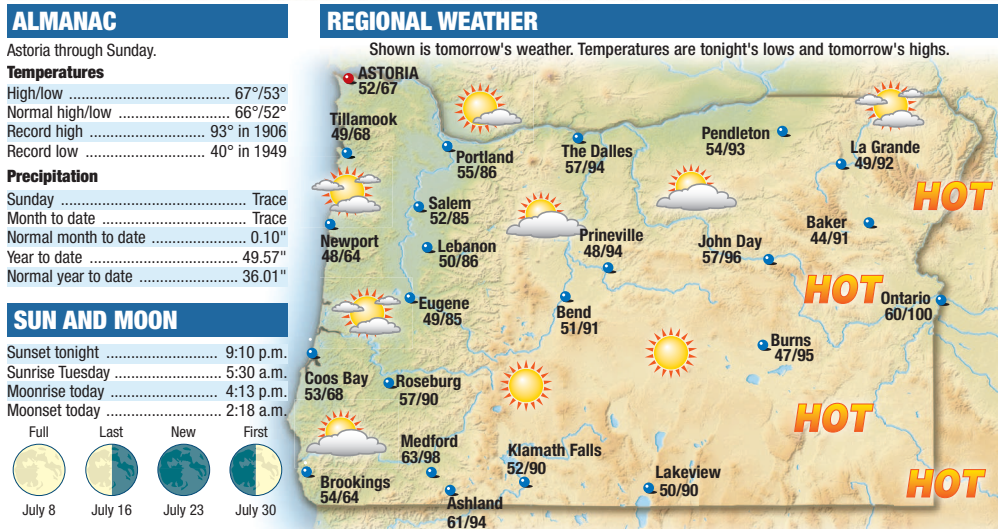
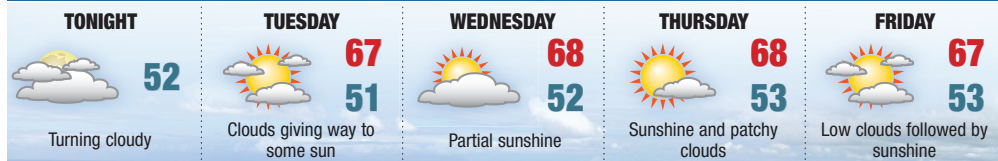
But that provision of the bill has drummed up opposition from those outside the GOP as well.

Daniel Meek, of the Oregon Progressive Party, criticized the proposal in written testimony earlier this week.

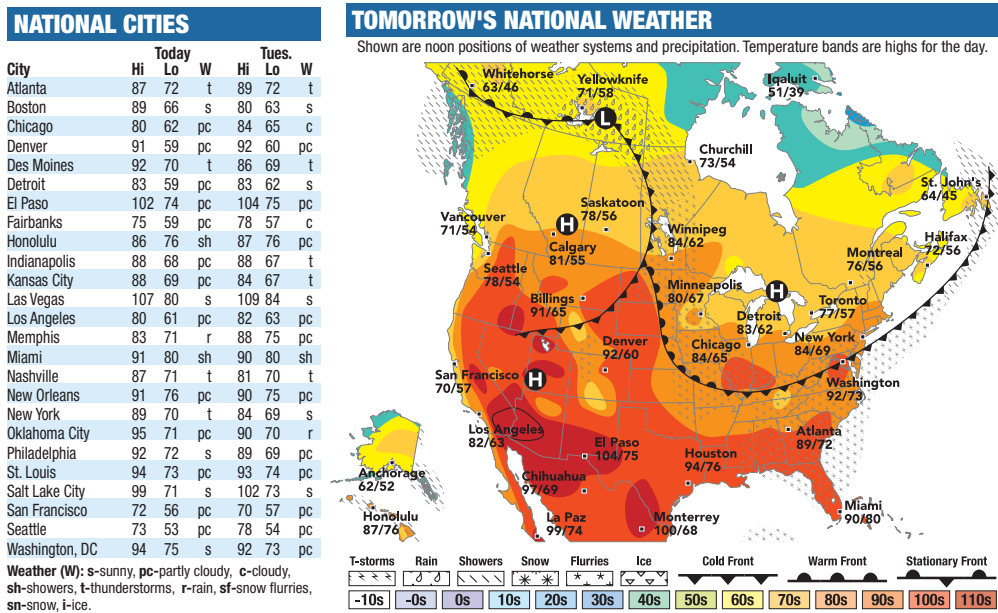
"Having the Legislature itself write the ballot titles and explanatory statements for measures the Legislature itself refers to voters is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house," Meek wrote.

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

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



City	Today	Tues.	City	Today	Tues.
Baker City	86 44 s 91 50 s	81 48 pc	Olympia	74 48 pc	81 48 pc
Bend	86 51 s 91 56 pc	81 61 pc	Penolton	87 54 s	93 61 pc
Brookings	67 54 s 63 54 pc	86 58 s	Portland	78 55 s	86 58 s
Eugene	81 49 s 85 53 pc	90 60 pc	Roseburg	85 57 s	90 60 pc
Ilwaco	62 53 pc 63 53 pc	85 57 s	Salem	80 52 s	85 57 s
Klamath Falls	91 52 s 90 49 s	64 51 pc	Seaside	63 51 pc	64 51 pc
Medford	95 63 s 98 64 pc	89 62 pc	Spokane	86 58 s	89 62 pc
Newberg	78 51 s 85 55 s	86 55 s	Springfield	81 50 s	86 55 s
Newport	63 48 s 64 50 pc	85 55 s	Vancouver	76 53 pc	85 55 s
North Bend	65 52 pc 65 54 pc	94 58 pc	Yakima	92 56 s	94 58 pc



Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

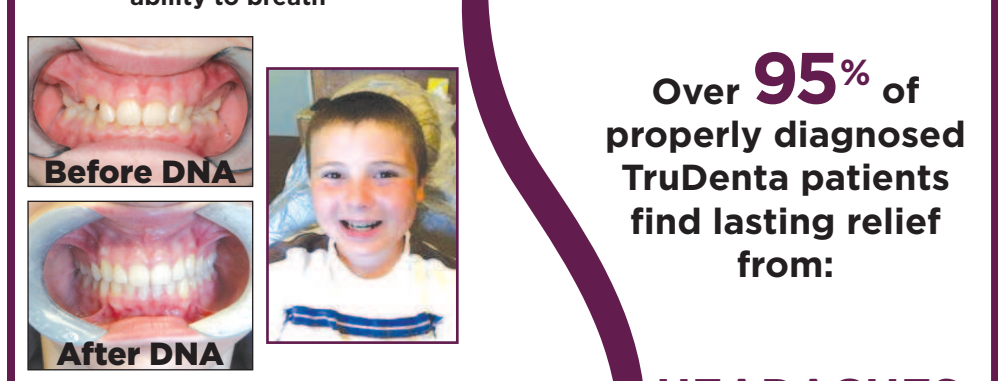
T-storms Rain Showers Snow Flurries Ice Cold Front Warm Front Stationary Front

-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

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New Portland arrivals find 'Go back to California' graffiti

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregonians have spent decades blaming Californians for increased traffic and other problems.

But rarely does the frustration go beyond words.

On Sunday, however, Preston Page and Jessica Faraday

awoke to find messages such as "Go back to California" spray-painted across the front of their house and car.

Page told The Oregonian they moved to Portland from Southern California in February and most people have been fantastic.

He believes the vandalism stemmed from an incident Sat-

urday, when he dropped Faraday off in front of their house. The street outside the home is narrow, and a vehicle coming along behind their Prius couldn't get past.

The impatient driver exchanged words with Page. After noticing the out-of-state license plate, he barked at them to go back to California.

Search to resume for Beeswax shipwreck along Oregon Coast

Associated Press

ASTORIA — The Maritime Archaeological Society plans to resume searching for the centuries-old Beeswax shipwreck.

The Oregonian reported the wreck is named for the lumps of beeswax that have been found scattered along the Ore-

gon Coast for the past two centuries. It is believed to be from a Spanish ship that wrecked in the late 1600s.

A training period will begin in early July. A team of about a dozen people initially will scan the coast between Cape Falcon and Manzanita.

Using an Astoria-based

charter boat, the team will use sonar to find the wreck and a magnetometer, designed to locate steel and iron used in the ship.

To help fund the search, the Preserving Oregon Grant program is providing \$6,600 from the state Parks and Recreation Department.

ON THE RECORD

DUII

At 1:28 a.m. Monday, Tucker Johnson, 19, of Astoria, was arrested by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office near 37th Street and Duane Street in Astoria and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.

DEATH

Saturday, July 1

WHEATLEY, Roy Terrance, 88, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Port of Astoria Commission, 2 p.m., special session, Port offices, 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

WEDNESDAY

Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Sunday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 1-9-4-2

4 p.m.: 0-9-9-8

7 p.m.: 6-1-5-5

10 p.m.: 2-3-5-1

Saturday's Mega-

bucks: 01-09-13-17-

34-46

Estimated jackpot:

\$2.6 million

Saturday's Powerball:

19-42-45-48-53, Power-

ball: 16, Power Play: 3

Estimated jackpot:

\$106 million

Saturday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 9-0-2-8

4 p.m.: 6-3-7-0

7 p.m.: 1-7-4-0

10 p.m.: 1-5-2-1

Friday's Pick 4:

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

4 p.m.: 9-0-0-2

7 p.m.: 2-0-2-3

10 p.m.: 7-3-6-4

Friday's Mega Mil-

lions: 10-38-51-55-64,

Mega Ball: 6, Mega-pli-

er: 5

Estimated jackpot:

\$158 million

WASHINGTON

Sunday's Daily Game:

3-7-5

Sunday's Keno: 05-10-

15-30-34-36-39-50-53-

56-60-61-63-69-71-72-

76-77-78-79

Sunday's Match 4: 01-

04-07-21

Saturday's Daily Game:

1-4-0

Saturday's Hit 5: 01-17-

20-21-32

Estimated jackpot:

\$170,000

Saturday's Keno: 04-07-

20-22-23-24-29-32-36-

43-44-45-46-47-52-62-

65-67-74-78

Saturday's Lotto: 01-08-

09-21-22-30

Estimated jackpot: \$9.4

million

Saturday's Match 4: 02-

08-12-17

Friday's Daily Game: 2-1-7

Friday's Keno: 10-11-13-

14-18-20-26-34-35-48-

50-51-52-58-62-65-67-

77-78-80

Friday's Match 4: 01-15-

21-22

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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

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EZpay (per month).....\$16.60

13 weeks in advance.....\$51.98

26 weeks in advance.....\$102.63

52 weeks in advance.....\$199.90

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

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