

Oregon unions join Nike in new push for tax package

Separate from pension reform

By JEFF MAPES
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon’s public employee unions have joined forces with Nike and a group of long-term care providers to launch a new coalition aimed at pushing a major tax package through next year’s Legislature.

Leaders of the Coalition for the Common Good said they want to work with legislators on new revenue for schools and other public services. And, unlike in previous years, they don’t want to tie the negotiations to agreements on cutting costs of the state’s public pension system.

“We want to bring a sole focus into revenue reform,” said James Carlson, president of the Oregon Health Care Association. “The reality is we can’t afford to waste another five years chasing a deal that may or may not happen” on cutting government costs, he added.

The state’s major public employee unions have repeatedly led efforts — both on the ballot and in the Legislature

— to gain big new revenue sources for schools and other state services.

They now see a big opening this year after Democratic Gov. Kate Brown was re-elected and Democrats gained seats in both legislative chambers. They now have the three-fifths supermajority needed in the state House and Senate to pass tax increases, without any Republican votes.

Melissa Unger, executive director of Local 503 of the Service Employees International Union, said that the new coalition is looking for a “bold solution that gets us where we want to go ... It’s really about investing in our state.”

Nike started working with Brown earlier this year on tax policy. This summer, the Fortune 500 apparel company agreed to join the governor and the unions in opposing two conservative tax measures on the ballot. At the same time, a union-backed group agreed not to proceed with a proposed ballot measure that would require corporations to disclose more information about their taxes and workforce.



AP Photo/Don Ryan
Gov. Kate Brown at a rally in Portland in October.

Nike signed the letter along with the five other founding members of the coalition to work for “(i)nvestments that can adequately fund strong schools and essential public services.”

The letter also called for a “state where businesses can grow and thrive; where Oregon-based businesses are valued for the contribution they make to the local economy and their engagement with the community.”

The other signers were the Oregon Education Association, SEIU Local 503,

Oregon AFSCME Council 75, the Oregon Health Care Association and the Russell Development Co. The latter is a Portland-based firm headed by John Russell, who has frequently worked with Democrats.

The letter didn’t specifically address whether the revenue discussions should exclude talks of cost control. Nike spokesman Greg Rossiter said the company didn’t have any further comment for now beyond the letter.

Unger said she welcomed additional business involve-

ment in the tax discussions. At this point, the state’s major business groups have repeatedly said they want any talk of revenue to also include cost controls.

The Oregon Business Plan — which will be discussed next week at the annual Oregon Leadership Summit put on by business interests — says that “Oregon needs revenue reform as well as better cost management to resolve its fiscal crisis.”

The governor and legislative leaders talked with members of the new coalition Monday. Brown said Tuesday in a statement that “Oregon’s education has gone underfunded for too long” and added that “now is the best opportunity in a generation to right this wrong.”

Brown released her proposed 2019–21 budget on Wednesday and called for major new investments in education.

State Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, called next session “probably the best chance we’ll ever have to do something remarkable” for education. He said he also supported focusing on taxes separately. Mak-

ing an agreement on pension reform and other cost controls has been a recipe for delay, he said.

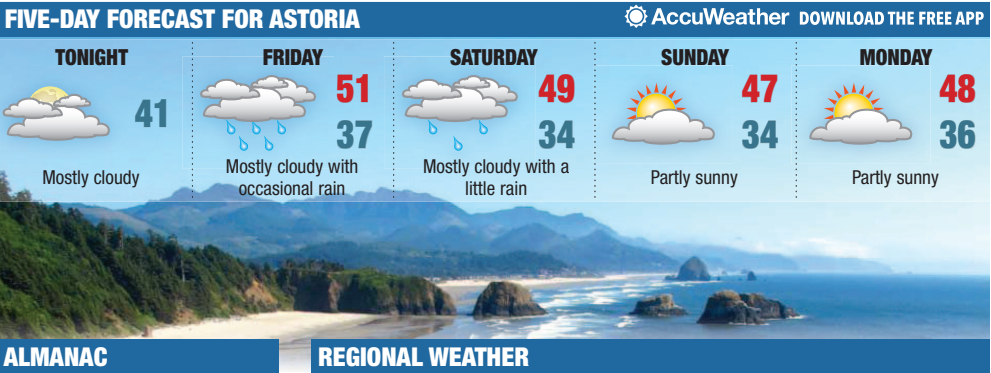
Given their reduced numbers, Republican legislators acknowledge that it will be harder to head off any tax increases they don’t like.

But state Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, said he didn’t think the state would be able to make major new investments without first making major strides in dealing with Oregon’s \$22 billion pension debt.

“We obviously have to look at both” revenue and cost controls he said. “Whether those discussions are happening together or separately is material to the outcome.”

“I do not believe anyone, including in the majority, have the luxury of ignoring the catastrophic failure” in the pension system, Knopp added.

SEIU’s Unger said she is fine with separate negotiations on PERS and other issues. And she said members of the new coalition understand that even if they can get a tax measure through the Legislature, they have to be prepared for the eventuality that it could get referred to voters.



ALMANAC

Astoria through Wednesday.

Temperatures	
High/low	54°/40°
Normal high/low	51°/38°
Record high	68° in 1907
Record low	22° in 1896
Precipitation	
Wednesday	0.54"
Month to date	5.98"
Normal month to date	10.35"
Year to date	52.71"
Normal year to date	56.57"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight	4:32 p.m.
Sunrise Friday	7:36 a.m.
Moonrise today	11:55 p.m.
Moonset today	1:08 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Nov 29	Dec 6	Dec 15	Dec 22

UNDER THE SKY

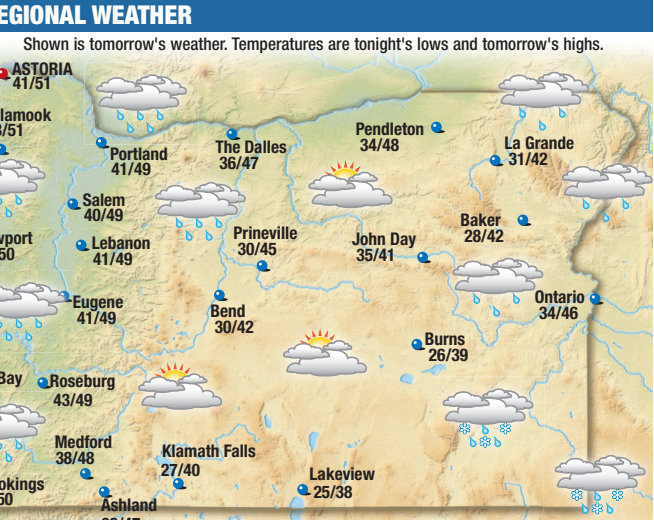
Tonight's Sky: Last Quarter Moon at 4:19 p.m.

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	Low
High	8:2 a.m.	0.5 ft.
Port	8:2 ft.	
Time	12:49 a.m.	0.5 ft.
Low	7:15 p.m.	2.8 ft.
Port	7.4 ft.	
Time	1:33 p.m.	2.8 ft.

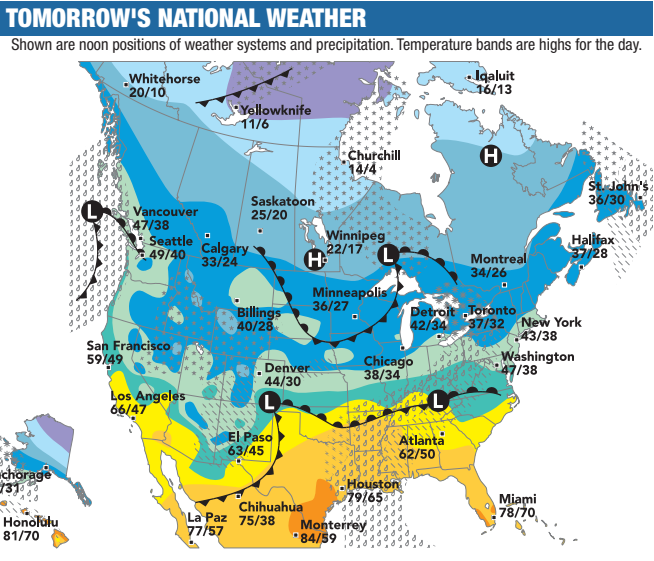
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	58 48 s 62 50 pc	
Boston	45 31 s 43 33 pc	
Chicago	36 31 sn 38 34 c	
Denver	51 29 pc 44 30 sn	
Des Moines	36 25 pc 39 32 pc	
Detroit	34 33 sn 42 34 c	
El Paso	72 48 pc 63 45 sh	
Fairbanks	14 3 c 16 8 pc	
Honolulu	84 71 c 81 70 r	
Indianapolis	39 36 c 48 41 c	
Kansas City	45 27 c 45 40 c	
Las Vegas	59 45 sh 62 42 s	
Los Angeles	64 51 r 66 47 pc	
Memphis	64 60 c 71 63 r	
Miami	71 61 pc 78 70 c	
Nashville	53 51 c 66 57 r	
New Orleans	72 65 c 77 66 r	
New York	45 34 s 43 38 c	
Oklaoma City	63 38 pc 66 43 t	
Philadelphia	46 32 s 45 34 c	
St. Louis	51 38 c 50 47 c	
Salt Lake City	44 33 sh 43 28 sn	
San Francisco	60 50 r 59 49 c	
Seattle	51 43 c 49 40 r	
Washington, DC	45 35 s 47 38 c	



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.
Baker City	45 28 c 42 24 c	
Bend	41 30 c 42 27 c	
Brookings	55 44 r 49 41 r	
Eugene	49 41 c 49 37 r	
Ilwaco	51 43 c 50 40 r	
Klamath Falls	44 27 c 40 25 c	
Medford	50 38 r 48 33 c	
Newberg	51 40 c 48 37 r	
Newport	53 42 c 50 39 r	
North Bend	54 44 c 51 40 r	
Olympia	49 37 c 47 34 r	
Pendleton	46 34 c 48 32 c	
Portland	52 41 c 49 38 r	
Roseburg	48 43 c 49 40 r	
Salem	52 40 c 49 38 r	
Seaside	51 43 c 51 39 r	
Spokane	44 32 c 39 30 c	
Springfield	48 42 c 49 38 r	
Vancouver	51 41 c 49 38 r	
Yakima	47 30 c 46 27 c	



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Morgan Lynn Heesch Roseville, California Aug. 18, 1938 — Nov. 20, 2018

Morgan Lynn Heesch, age 80, passed away peacefully at home in Roseville, California, on Nov. 20, 2018.

Born on Aug. 18, 1938, Lynn was the only child of Morgan and Evelyn Heesch, and grew up in Astoria. While he was a student at Astoria High School (Class of 1956), Lynn worked at the Flying A Service Station, and began his lifelong love of hot rods and cool cars.

As a young adult, he was a member of the Air National Guard, worked in a treacherous job at the Astoria Plywood Mill, pulled cables for Western Electric, and got a degree in engineering from Clatsop Community College.

He married (and later divorced) his high school sweetheart, Eva Ullfers, and with her had two children, Gregory and Debra.

After moving to San Jose, California, in 1962, Lynn had a 34-year career at IBM during what he called the “golden age of data processing.” He also worked in real estate, which was

how he met his second wife, Patricia Jackson. After retiring, they traveled extensively and enjoyed an active social life at their home in Sun City Lincoln Hills, California. Lynn and Pat were together for more than 30 years, and had many happy times together before her passing in 2012.

Lynn is survived by his children, Gregory Heesch and Debra Heesch; a stepdaughter, Judy Bartlein; a stepson, Jim Jackson; four stepgrandsons; and numerous friends.

A celebration of life will be planned for early 2019 — to add your name to the contact list, please submit your info via eepurl.com/dODQBL



Morgan Lynn Heesch

ON THE RECORD

- At 10:31 p.m. Tuesday, Omar Chavelas-Reyes, 27, of Warrenton, was arrested by Astoria police on the 90 block of U.S. Highway 30 and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. His blood alcohol content was 0.22 percent.

CORRECTIONS

Comment clarified — A story on 1A Wednesday about an Astoria Planning Commission discussion of possible development guidelines and rules in the Urban Core — the last piece of the city’s Riverfront Vision Plan — misstated Planning Com-

missioner Daryl Moore’s position. While Moore is opposed to the possibility of allowing residential spaces in overwater development in the Urban Core, he is in favor of allowing mixed use generally south of the Astoria Riverwalk.

Venue name incorrect — The venue for a Saturday performance by singer Rebecca Kilgore is called the North County Recreation District Performing Arts Center. An item on page 17 of Thursday’s Coast Weekend misidentified it as North Coast Recreation District.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY
Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District Board, 6 p.m., annual meeting, Grace Community Baptist Church, 1195 Irving Ave.

LOTTERIES

OREGON		
Wednesday's Pick 4:	18-20-25-41	32-38
1 p.m.: 4-9-2-2	Estimated jackpot: \$4.4 million	Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
4 p.m.: 4-5-9-9	Wednesday's Powerball: 4-19-59-68-69, Powerball: 21	Wednesday's Keno: 02-03-07-09-11-13-25-26-32-34-35-37-42-48-53-56-69-70-71-75
7 p.m.: 3-2-8-6	Estimated jackpot: \$183 million	Wednesday's Lotto: 08-19-21-22-23-34
10 p.m.: 9-1-3-0		Estimated jackpot: \$2 million
Wednesday's Lucky Lines: 3-5-11-15-18-21-26-30		Wednesday's Match 4: 02-03-04-12
Estimated jackpot: \$22,000		
Wednesday's Megabucks: 2-6-		
WASHINGTON		
Wednesday's Daily Game: 2-7-0		
Wednesday's Hit 5: 06-21-23-		

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

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