

Did Obama meet goals from last State of the Union?

By NEDRA PICKLER Associated Press



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File

President Obama is turning to his biggest television audience of the year to pitch tax increases on the wealthiest Americans and put the new Republican Congress in the position of defending top income earners over the middle class.

and eligible for work permits. MINIMUM WAGE

One of Obama's most ambitious ideas was to raise America's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour, upping the ante from the \$9-an-hour proposal he made in the 2013 State of the Union.

raised the debate. RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Obama was able to create a new retirement savings account — dubbed "myRA" for "my IRA" — geared toward low- and middle-income Americans who don't have the upfront investment that many commercial IRAs require.

has set up a new security as the basis for the investment and for the past month has been running a pilot program with a small group of employers, with plans to expand the program by the end of 2015.

TAXES

While most of Obama's proposals last year were positions he had long advocated, one of the few new proposals he offered was extension of the earned-income tax credit, which helps boost the wages of low-income families through tax refunds.

ENERGY

Obama said the goal of his energy policy is to create jobs and a cleaner planet and announced that he wanted to set higher fuel economy standards for trucks.

NORTHWEST BRIEFLY

Six arrested, officer injured in Seattle police protests

SEATTLE (AP) — At least six people have been arrested and a Seattle police officer suffered a leg injury as protesters chanting "black lives matter" disrupted traffic in Seattle, blocking part of a state highway and interstate off ramps.

Seattle police spokesman Patrick Michaud told KOMO the officer may have suffered a broken leg and it was related to the protests, but didn't give further details.

Transportation officials advised people to take alternate routes Monday afternoon as dozens of people blocked the northbound lanes of State Route 99 near Seattle Center.

Police moved to clear protesters from the roadways, and by about 4:30 p.m. both State Route 99 and the interstate off ramps were opened to traffic.

Organizers said they were engaging in "civil disobedience" to protest police violence.

USDA sending \$23M to Washington for conservation programs

SALEM (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is sending \$23 million to Washington state for five conservation programs, including work to preserve farmland, help fish runs and prevent soil erosion.

The Capital Press reports the federal dollars will be matched by conservation districts, tribes, nonprofit organizations and other groups involved in the projects.

The projects include:

- A group of efforts in the Palouse Conservation District.
Work led by Trout Unlimited on the Upper Columbia.
Efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat in the Puget Sound.
Water and fish habitat improvements led by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Nation as well as the tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Middle school class ponders: What would zombies do?

By JOSEPHINE WOOLINGTON The Register-Guard

EUGENE — Some seventh- and eighth-grade science students at Spencer Butte Middle School have a bit of advice for federal officials responsible for coming up with long-term solutions for nuclear waste disposal: Stop spending money on nuclear power.

"I feel like before you start making all this nuclear energy, you need to have a secure place to get rid of it," 13-year-old Georgia Carleton said.

"There's a lot of risk involved," she added. The comments impressed teacher Shanna Davis.

"When you're president, will you remember me?" Davis asked Georgia.

Other students, though concerned about the government lacking plans to store radioactive leftovers, believe nuclear energy is more environmentally friendly than fossil fuels, such as coal, which release harmful carbon dioxide emissions.

Students in Davis' class are almost evenly divided over the topic, with slightly more in favor of nuclear energy than against.

The class, called "Zombie Apocalypse," has intrigued students since she first taught it last school year — and not just because they think they'll get to learn about zombies.

Students study natural disasters, epidemics, survival skills and what to do during emergency situations. By the end of

the year-long class, they'll be trained in CPR.

The class also covers why American culture obsesses over apocalyptic TV shows and movies, dating back to World War II.

Many students say they appreciate learning about topics that they otherwise wouldn't be taught. They say the class helps them understand what's being talked about in the news.

"It doesn't get boring," 14-year-old Kaia Lane said.

"It's practical science," 12-year-old Abby Fowler added.

One student admitted that, before the class, the only thing he knew about nuclear energy was the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant in "The Simpsons."

Davis' class has become one of the most popular elective

classes — courses that students are not required to take — at the south Eugene school. The school added an additional section of the class this school year so more students can sign up, and Madison Middle School in northwest Eugene also started using the curriculum this year.

Shanna Davis, 32, created the curriculum two years ago. The goal is to teach students critical thinking skills and how to be prepared for a natural disaster or emergency.

"Even as a seventh- and eighth-grader, I want them to know that they're powerful and can influence a situation," Davis said.

She also wanted to show students that science, history, politics and geography are related to each other in life.

Large bird attacks Oregon jogger

SALEM (AP) — An Oregon jogger thought someone knocked him in the head or he got hit by lightning or may have suffered a stroke when he felt a big blow to the head last week as he was jogging in Bush's Pasture Park.

When the 58-year-old man, Ron Jaecks of Salem, was struck a second time he saw a large winged animal he thought was a massive bat.

Willamette University biology Professor David Craig told the Statesman Journal the attacker was likely an owl.

Great horned owls are nesting in January and are known to attack anything they think threatens their nest.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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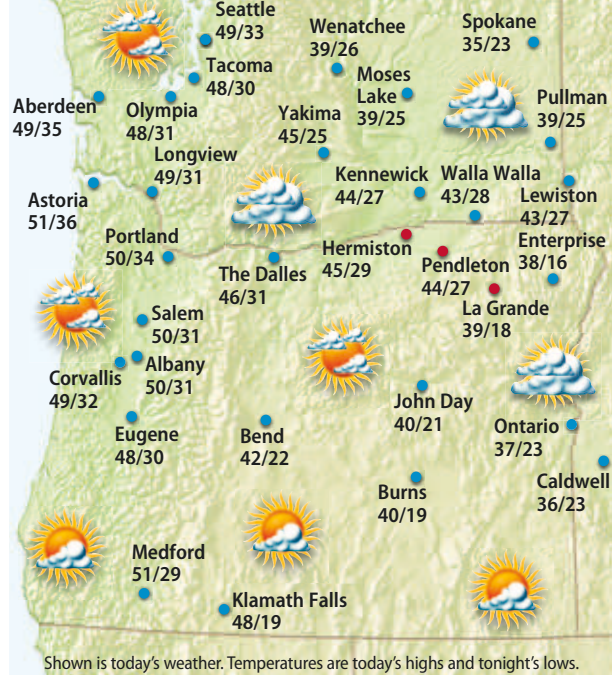
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SUN AND MOON

Table with columns: Sunrise today, Sunset tonight, Moonrise tonight, Moonset today, and phases of the moon (New, First, Full, Last) for Jan 20, Jan 26, Feb 3, Feb 11.



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Partly sunny today, but more clouds across the north. Clear tonight.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Areas of freezing fog in the morning; partly sunny today.
Western Washington: Clouds giving way to some sun today; areas of morning fog. Areas of fog late tonight.
Eastern Washington: Areas of fog during the morning; otherwise, mostly cloudy today.
Cascades: Clouds giving way to some sun today; areas of freezing fog in the morning.
Northern California: Partly sunny today. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with columns: Today (Hi, Lo, W), Wed. (Hi, Lo, W) for cities like Astoria, Baker City, Bend, Brookings, Burns, Enterprise, Eugene, Heppner, Hermiston, John Day, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Meacham, Medford, Newport, North Bend, Ontario, Pasco, Pendleton, Portland, Redmond, Salem, Spokane, Ukiah, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Yakima.

WORLD CITIES

Table with columns: Today (Hi, Lo, W), Wed. (Hi, Lo, W) for cities like Beijing, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo.

WINDS

Table with columns: Today (in mph), Wednesday (Boardman, Pendleton) for Boardman, Pendleton.

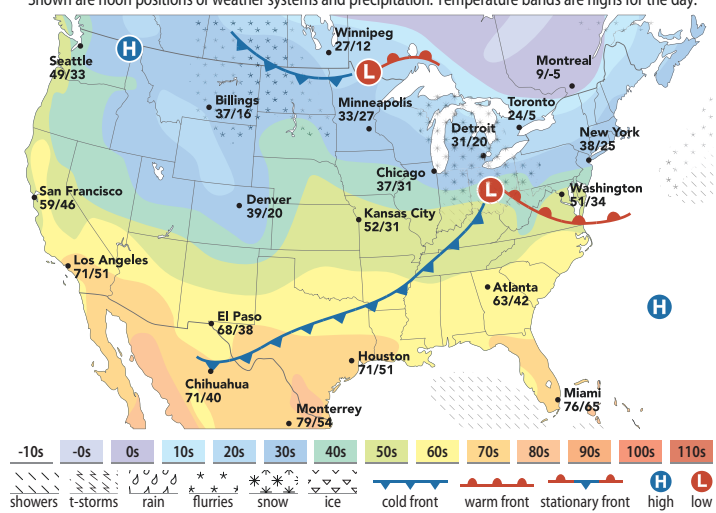
UV INDEX TODAY



8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: While brisk winds continue to chill New England, one band of nuisance snow will swing through the lower Great Lakes today as a second tracks over the northern Plains. The South and West will remain dry.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 81° in Del Rio, Texas Low -8° in Gunnison, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

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