



Cover Oregon Executive Director Aaron Patnode, left, is joined by Oregon Insurance Commissioner Laura Cali at a news conference Thursday in Portland. Feb. 15 is the deadline for Oregonians to get private health insurance.

# Deadline looms for health insurance

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregonians have just two more weeks to enroll in private health insurance this year, state officials reminded the public at a press conference on Thursday.

The deadline is Feb. 15 for buying new coverage or switching carriers or plans, and for qualifying for health insurance tax credits via the federal marketplace portal, HealthCare.gov. More than 92,000 have already enrolled.

Because the state aban-

doned the Cover Oregon portal and switched to HealthCare.gov, all Oregonians who bought 2014 coverage through Cover Oregon have to re-enroll via the federal site.

Previously uninsured Oregonians who qualify for federal tax subsidies must also use the federal portal to enroll.

The deadline applies both to people who buy coverage on HealthCare.gov and those who purchase it directly from carriers. If someone isn't

sure whether they qualify for a subsidy, they should use HealthCare.gov. The federal portal can also determine if a person's low income makes him or her eligible for Medicaid.

People who enroll by Feb. 15 will have coverage starting on March 1. They must pay their first month's premium to be covered.

Cover Oregon Executive Director Aaron Patnode said more than 92,000 Oregonians have already enrolled for 2015 coverage. The fig-

ure covers the period through Jan. 23, and includes people who have not paid their premiums yet.

Of those enrolled for 2015 coverage, 81 percent qualified to receive financial assistance in the form of tax credits, officials said.

"We're very encouraged by the numbers," Patnode said. "It's safe to say people are now more confident that they can go online and enroll in one sitting, and that's driving enrollment success this year."

# Where the rhino once roamed

By KELLY HOUSE  
The Oregonian

WILLAMINA — In rural Polk County, conservationists plan to shelter Oregon's streaked horned lark and northern red-legged frog on land where rhinoceros and giraffes once roamed.

The Nature Conservancy recently completed purchase of a 470-acre plot near Willamina west of Salem that for nearly two decades served as a sanctuary for rare and endangered exotic animals.

The sanctuary is all but closed, but African antelope still roam the pastures alongside a mother elk and other native animals that have begun to repopulate the land.

So-called Noble Oaks Preserve isn't a particularly large grab for the conservancy, but Dan Bell, the group's Willamette Basin Conservation Director, says its location near two other tracts of protected land in the increasingly developed Willamette Valley makes it an important one.

"In the valley, something of that size is very significant," Bell said.

He calls it a "habitat anchor" for the area's wildlife, granting them an uninterrupted corridor between two adjacent conservation lands, and in close proximity to the Yamhill Oaks Preserve and Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge.

The land also has a curious history.

Dick Noble was raised on a farm.



The 470-acre former endangered and exotic animal sanctuary near Willamina was home to 250 animals at its height, including rhinoceros, giraffes, bongos and multiple types of antelopes.

While owning livestock ceased to make sense when the now 78-year-old former lawyer went vegetarian back in the 1980s, he still enjoyed raising animals. So, Dick and his wife, Nancy, began dabbling in rarer species.

"Initially, it was miniature donkeys, special sheep and llamas," Dick Noble said. "Then we decided we wanted to do something that was useful from a conservation standpoint."

The pair joined the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and their property became a breeding farm for the agency's species survival program. They began taking in endangered antelope, plus rhinoceros, giraffes, red pandas and other species you'd be shocked to find wandering the Oregon countryside.

"We started on a small scale, not thinking it would expand to the extent it did," said Nancy Noble, 68.

The operation outgrew the Noble's 50-acre property in Scholls, so they bought a defunct cattle spread near Willamina. To protect the animals from poachers and other dangers, the sanctuary's location was kept secret.

At one point, the Nobles had 250 animals, including more than 20 species of antelope.

"The idea was to maintain captive groups of animals that are threatened or endangered so at some point they might be reintroduced into their native habitat," Dick Noble said.

Twenty-five years later, the Nobles are ready to downsize. They began finding

new homes for the animals a few years back, and are now down to about a dozen remaining geriatric animals. Most of them are functionally extinct in the wild.

The lifetime believers in conservation wanted their land to remain protected when they died, so they contacted The Nature Conservancy.

The agency closed on a \$1.5 million purchase in October, using money from the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, a fund created to fulfill the Bonneville Power Administration's obligation to pay for wildlife conservation and restoration in the Willamette basin.

Preserving the land protects it from development in an area where large tracts are regularly converted into vineyards or parceled off for other uses.

"I would have hated to see the place divided up into five-acre plots or something like that," Nancy Noble said.

Noble Oaks is among the last spots where the white oak savanna and upland prairie that once dominated the Willamette Valley continue to thrive. Hundreds of plant and animal species are associated with this dwindling habitat.

Work to restore the land has already begun, but it will be years before the public gets much access to Noble Oaks.

Under the deal, animals still remaining at Noble Oaks will be allowed to stay there until the end of their lives.

## BRIEFLY

### Tax question stymied Google, Apple plans

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon lawmakers are moving quickly to deal with a property-tax question blamed for blocking major projects planned by Google and Apple.

The projects include a fiber network in the Portland area and an expansion of a data center in central Oregon.

Sorting out the problem is a top priority in the legislative session that begins next week, said Sen. Mark Hass of Beaverton, a Senate committee chair. "It'll be the first issue we take up in the Senate revenue committee on the first day we meet," Hass said.

Officials told *The Oregonian* that a state Supreme Court ruling last year raised the possibility of higher taxes on the central Oregon computer-server farms of Apple, Facebook and Amazon, and may have led Google to pass over Portland in its most recent plans for rolling out a fiber network.

"The Supreme Court decision threw this all into a briar patch. So, that's a problem," said Hass, a

Democrat. The issue is who calculates the worth of utility companies for tax purposes, the state or county assessors.

About 600 companies in Oregon are centrally assessed, by the state Department of Revenue. Those include airlines, railroads and pipeline owners. The state agency's assessments are higher because it takes into account intangibles such as a company's brand.

### Woman accused of making porn in OSU library

CORVALLIS (AP) — A 19-year-old woman has been accused of recording an adult film in the main campus library at Oregon State University.

OSU spokesman Steve Clark says the university learned about the video Tuesday, but it apparently was recorded during the fall semester and posted on the Web.

Clark says Oregon State Police investigated and charged Kendra Jane Sunderland with public indecency.

*The Oregonian* reports that she was enrolled in the fall but is no longer a student.

## 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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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Periods of clouds and sunshine	Plenty of sunshine	Cloudy, a shower in the p.m.	Mostly cloudy	Intervals of clouds and sunshine
<b>PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST</b>				
45° 30°	43° 33°	43° 39°	52° 39°	50° 37°
<b>HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST</b>				
47° 32°	44° 33°	42° 36°	49° 37°	49° 37°

### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	36°	33°
Normals	43°	29°
Records	63° (1995)	-17° (1950)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.72"  
Normal month to date 1.31"  
Year to date 0.72"  
Last year to date 0.68"  
Normal year to date 1.31"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	40°	37°
Normals	44°	29°
Records	61° (2004)	-23° (1957)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.44"  
Normal month to date 1.20"  
Year to date 0.44"  
Last year to date 0.60"  
Normal year to date 1.20"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:20 a.m.  
Sunset tonight 4:58 p.m.  
Moonrise today 1:36 p.m.  
Moonset today 3:54 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Feb 3	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	57	37	s	57	43	pc
Baker City	43	17	pc	44	21	s
Bend	47	26	s	55	31	pc
Brookings	62	45	s	63	45	pc
Burns	48	20	s	48	25	s
Enterprise	46	25	pc	46	28	s
Eugene	53	33	s	51	39	pc
Heppner	45	30	pc	48	32	s
Hermiston	47	32	pc	44	33	s
John Day	46	26	s	48	29	s
Klamath Falls	54	23	s	53	23	s
La Grande	45	22	pc	48	28	s
Meacham	41	24	pc	45	27	s
Medford	59	32	s	56	34	pc
Newport	58	41	s	59	46	pc
North Bend	59	41	s	63	45	pc
Ontario	46	26	s	42	28	s
Pasco	46	34	c	45	36	s
Pendleton	45	30	pc	43	33	s
Portland	54	33	s	52	40	pc
Redmond	48	24	s	56	30	pc
Salem	55	35	s	53	41	pc
Spokane	40	31	pc	37	31	s
Ukiah	47	28	pc	49	33	s
Vancouver	54	31	s	52	37	pc
Walla Walla	43	34	pc	41	34	s
Yakima	46	31	c	42	33	c

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	37	15	s	38	17	s
Hong Kong	69	55	s	67	58	s
Jerusalem	53	33	s	57	35	s
London	44	34	pc	43	33	pc
Mexico City	70	40	pc	73	41	pc
Moscow	30	27	sf	37	33	sf
Paris	42	34	c	43	33	c
Rome	56	46	r	54	38	r
Seoul	32	15	s	32	17	s
Sydney	79	63	pc	81	66	s
Tokyo	43	39	sn	48	37	pc

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
<b>Boardman</b>	VAR 2-4	NNE 3-6
<b>Pendleton</b>	NNW 2-4	N 3-6

### UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 2 1 0 0

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.

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### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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

**National Summary:** An area of snow, snow showers and cold winds will affect the Northeast today. As cold air holds in the Midwest, cooler air will sweep into the South. Rain and mountain snow will expand over the Southwest.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
**High** 81° in Zapata, Texas **Low** -27° in Berlin, N.H.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	42	34	sn	47	28	r
Atlanta	50	28	pc	55	39	s
Atlantic City	38	18	pc	28	23	s
Baltimore	34	14	pc	28	20	s
Billings	50	27	s	42	20	sn
Birmingham	51	26	pc	56	39	pc
Boise	43	28	s	41	29	s
Boston	37	15	sn	21	10	pc
Charleston, SC	57	29	pc	53	33	s
Charleston, WV	30	15	pc	35	26	s
Chicago	26	19	pc	37	21	pc
Cleveland	20	10	c	29	20	s
Dallas	59	44	pc	53	45	r
Denver	50	31	c	39	24	c
Detroit	20	13	pc	31	12	pc
El Paso	48	40	r	58	40	r
Fairbanks	-25	-33	s	-10	-17	s
Fargo	31	12	sn	13	-5	pc
Honolulu	80	63	pc	80	66	sh
Houston	61	45	pc	62	54	sh
Indianapolis	30	20	s	39	27	s
Jacksonville	63	36	pc	59	41	s
Kansas City	46	31	pc	38	30	sn
Las Vegas	56	50	r	64	45	r
Little Rock	53	32	pc	52	39	c
Los Angeles	71	55	c	72	54	pc
Louisville	37	24	s	44	34	s
Memphis	48	31	pc	52	42	c
Miami	76	60	pc	73	64	c
Millwaukee	25	18	pc	36	20	pc
Minneapolis	27	23	s	28	10	pc
Nashville	43	25	s	48	36	s
New Orleans	60	43	pc	62	52	c
New York City	37	12	sn	24	16	s
Oklahoma City	56	40	pc	48	40	r
Omaha	45	32	pc	38	22	sn
Philadelphia	38	11	c	26	16	s
Phoenix	61	55	r	62	50	sh
Portland, ME	39	21	sn	22	2	sn