

# Sides in damaging coastal seaport dispute still talking

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Negotiators for dockworkers and their employers spent Thursday renewing their efforts to reach a new contract that would restore labor peace — and the free flow of international trade — to West Coast seaports.

It was the third day that the U.S. labor secretary oversaw talks in San Francisco which began nine months ago but broke down in recent weeks.

As negotiators haggle, billions of dollars of cargo sits on ships anchored outside the 29 ports. They cannot dock because of historically bad cargo bottlenecks at ports that handle about \$1 trillion of trade annually, much of it with Asia.

Though the economic impact has been hardest on specific industries — U.S. produce and meat exporters, for example, and smaller importers of consumer goods — no less than Walmart Stores Inc. warned Thursday that congestion at the ports could affect selection in the retail giant's stores.

Thursday also saw continued pressure from elected officials to reach a deal.

"Every day that goes by without a resolution only adds to the economic pain for the West Coast and the entire country. This cannot continue," California's two Democratic U.S. senators, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, wrote to the leaders of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association of employers. The association represents companies that own,



A man in foreground talks on the phone Tuesday in the San Pedro section of Los Angeles as cargo ships are anchored near the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

load and unload massive ocean-going ships.

Neither side is making public comments, but they do appear more engaged than before. On Wednesday, talks extended into the evening.

The sticking point is not health care or wages, but whether to change the arbitration system dockworkers and companies use to resolve workplace conflicts.

In recent weeks, employers have intermittently shut down most port activity. They first cut night shifts

for crane crews that load and unload containers and more recently extended that lockout to weekends and holidays, saying they would not give premium pay to workers they believe are intentionally slowing down.

The union denies a slowdown. It blames problems moving cargo on factors including a shortage of trucks and drivers.

On Thursday, its members closed the Port of Oakland by holding their monthly meeting during the day, rather than at night.

# State Senate votes to dissolve Cover Oregon

JONATHAN J. COOPER  
Associated Press

SALEM — The state Senate voted Thursday to dissolve Cover Oregon and merge the failed insurance exchange into an existing state agency.

Two Republicans joined all 18 Democrats in approving the measure Thursday. It heads next to the House.

The expensive failure of Cover Oregon's website was an embarrassment for former Gov. John Kitzhaber. It prompted dueling lawsuits filed by the state of Oregon and the software giant Oracle, which was the main technology contractor.

The change is largely bureaucratic. Oregon would continue operating an insurance exchange under President Barack Obama's health care law using a federal website. The management would be transferred away from the semi-autonomous corporation that now handles it to the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The latter agency is subject to more legislative control.

"I think of Cover Oregon sometimes as a zombie," said Sen. Alan Bates, D-Medford. "Every time we bury it, another arm comes striking up out of the ground, and I don't think this bill is going to finish that completely, but it's a step in the right direction."

In a court filing, Oracle's lawyers raised concerns with the bill, saying the state is "engaged in an effort to change the law midstream."

Lawyers for the state have told a federal judge that the bill would strengthen their argument against Oracle's claim of copyright infringement because the state is generally immune from litigation under the U.S. Constitution, but an autonomous Cover Oregon is not.

Republican Sens. Brian Boquist of Dallas and Jackie Winters of Salem joined all the Democrats in supporting the measure.

"I don't like any of the courses of action, but this is the best one," Boquist said.

# Newsletter covering state government debuts today

EO Media Group

Oregon Capital Insider, an electronic newsletter covering Oregon government, begins distribution Friday.

Oregon Capital Insider provides specialized news for individuals and businesses that require a deeper understanding of the trends, issues and personalities in state government. The newsletter will provide timely intelligence and in-depth reporting delivered to subscribers Friday mornings, and at other times breaking news demands.

Based in Salem, the newsletter is a collaboration between two family-owned media companies: EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

A team of veteran journalists produce Oregon Capital Insider.

Peter Wong is an award-winning reporter who has covered Oregon state government and politics for newspapers since 1989.

Wong joined Pamplin Media Group and the Portland Tribune in April 2014 after having been a reporter for the Salem Statesman Journal for more than 14 years. Before that, he worked at the Medford Mail Tribune as that newspaper's capital bureau chief.

A graduate of the University of Southern California's school of journalism, Wong has won awards for his work from the Oregon, California and Pacific Northwest newspaper associations, as well as from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Hillary Borrud joined EO Media Group in 2014 after seven years at the Bend Bulletin where she reported on city, county and state issues. Previously, she was a reporter for the Daily Press in Victorville, Calif.

Borrud is a member of Investigative Reporters and Editors, where she received a Rural Computer-Assisted Reporting Fellowship in 2013. Borrud received a master's de-

gree from the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University.

Mateusz Perkowski is the legislative reporter for EO Media Group's Capital Press in Salem. He has covered agriculture and natural resource issues for that weekly agriculture newspaper since 2006.

After graduating from Portland State University in 2004, Perkowski worked as a freelance writer for several publications before joining Capital Press full-time.

Oregon Capital Insider brings together two companies with a wide geographic footprint in Oregon.

Pamplin Media Group owns 25 twice-weekly, weekly and monthly newspapers covering Portland and its suburbs, as well as communities in the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon.

EO Media Group includes nine daily, weekly, bi-weekly and monthly publications serving communities in Eastern Oregon and the Oregon Coast. It also owns the Capital Press, which covers agricultural issues in the Northwest, and the Chinook Observer from the southern Washington coast.

The companies created Oregon Capital Insider to counter a decline in independent news coverage of state government.

"While statehouse news coverage is diminishing in Oregon and across the nation, our media groups have chosen to invest in increased scrutiny of state government," said Steve Forrester, president of the EO Media Group.

Mark Garber, president of the newspaper division for Pamplin Media Group, said both companies are owned by long-time Oregonians.

"That's why they are willing to invest in better coverage of state government even while other news organizations are cutting back," he said. "Both companies also have a strong tradition of balanced and responsible journalism."

To subscribe, go to oregoncapitalinsider.com.

## 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** Mostly cloudy with a shower  
**SATURDAY** Partly sunny  
**SUNDAY** Plenty of sunshine  
**MONDAY** Chilly with plenty of sunshine  
**TUESDAY** Plenty of sunshine

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
52° 34° 45° 22° 37° 20° 43° 23° 49° 29°

**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
55° 32° 47° 21° 41° 20° 46° 23° 51° 28°

**ALMANAC**

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
**TEMPERATURE**  
HIGH 54° LOW 35°  
Yesterday 54° 35°  
Normals 48° 30°  
Records 68° (1930) 8° (2006)  
**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.76"  
Normal month to date 0.78"  
Year to date 1.48"  
Last year to date 2.17"  
Normal year to date 2.16"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
**TEMPERATURE**  
HIGH 56° LOW 28°  
Yesterday 56° 28°  
Normals 49° 29°  
Records 66° (1995) 9° (1936)  
**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.61"  
Normal month to date 0.65"  
Year to date 1.05"  
Last year to date 1.58"  
Normal year to date 1.93"

**SUN AND MOON**  
Sunrise today 6:50 a.m.  
Sunset tonight 5:29 p.m.  
Moonrise tonight 7:39 a.m.  
Moonset today 8:10 p.m.

First Full Last New  
Feb 25 Mar 5 Mar 13 Mar 20

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

Coastal Oregon: Intervals of clouds and sun today; pleasant in the south.  
Eastern and Central Oregon: Some sun today; a shower across the north and in the upper Treasure Valley.  
Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today with a shower in the area. Clear to partly cloudy tonight.  
Eastern Washington: Rather cloudy today. Snow showers in the mountains; a shower across the south and near the Idaho border.  
Cascades: Periods of clouds and sun today. Mainly clear tonight.  
Northern California: Partly sunny today; cooler in the interior mountains. Partly cloudy tonight.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	53	37	c	55	34	s
Baker City	51	28	c	47	20	sn
Bend	49	23	pc	41	19	pc
Brookings	61	43	pc	59	42	s
Burns	48	24	pc	45	22	pc
Enterprise	44	28	c	41	18	sn
Eugene	56	36	pc	53	31	s
Heppner	50	30	pc	43	20	pc
Hermiston	55	32	c	47	21	pc
John Day	47	30	pc	43	21	pc
Klamath Falls	52	22	pc	49	25	pc
La Grande	49	32	c	46	22	pc
Meacham	44	27	c	40	14	pc
Medford	58	32	pc	54	26	s
Newport	54	41	c	54	39	s
North Bend	56	40	pc	55	38	s
Ontario	57	33	c	55	32	sn
Pasco	56	31	c	51	24	pc
Pendleton	52	34	c	45	22	pc
Portland	54	37	c	54	33	s
Redmond	52	21	pc	45	22	s
Salem	55	37	c	55	33	s
Spokane	46	30	c	42	21	c
Ukiah	45	29	c	40	19	pc
Vancouver	53	35	c	54	30	s
Walla Walla	51	37	c	47	26	pc
Yakima	58	30	pc	51	24	pc

**WORLD CITIES**

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	41	32	r	46	24	pc
Hong Kong	72	66	c	73	67	r
Jerusalem	41	37	r	46	31	sh
London	45	35	r	45	31	pc
Mexico City	76	47	pc	78	46	s
Moscow	39	29	pc	37	32	pc
Paris	46	35	c	44	31	pc
Rome	55	41	s	54	47	pc
Seoul	47	35	s	47	38	r
Sydney	81	71	c	81	72	pc
Tokyo	50	37	s	48	44	s

**WINDS**

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	W 4-8	N 7-14
Pendleton	W 8-16	NW 7-14

**UV INDEX TODAY**  
0 1 2 2 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:** Snow will break out over the Upper Midwest and northern Rockies today with rain over the lower Mississippi Valley and some ice in between. The East will be dry and cold. Much of the West will be dry and warm.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 85° in Palm Springs, Calif. Low -42° in Cotton, Minn.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	70	36	pc	65	36	pc
Atlanta	41	31	c	56	51	i
Atlanta City	16	13	s	38	37	sn
Baltimore	16	4	s	32	30	sn
Billings	44	20	c	23	4	sn
Birmingham	42	35	i	63	53	sh
Boise	53	31	c	51	30	sn
Boston	17	4	s	30	29	sn
Charleston, SC	40	26	s	61	51	pc
Charleston, WV	20	15	pc	41	37	i
Chicago	19	18	sn	32	11	sn
Cleveland	12	8	pc	33	26	sn
Dallas	70	58	c	64	40	r
Denver	51	23	pc	31	7	sn
Detroit	12	11	pc	33	23	sn
El Paso	77	53	pc	75	51	s
Fairbanks	27	12	pc	38	21	c
Fargo	25	1	c	-20	pc	sh
Honolulu	78	66	sh	79	68	sh
Houston	73	64	c	76	62	sh
Indianapolis	20	17	c	34	21	sn
Jacksonville	48	32	s	70	51	pc
Kansas City	42	30	pc	39	12	sf
Las Vegas	76	49	pc	71	49	pc
Little Rock	42	37	i	55	33	r
Los Angeles	69	55	pc	67	55	pc
Louisville	26	24	sn	46	28	r
Memphis	39	36	i	55	33	r
Miami	65	58	s	75	67	c
Millwaukee	19	18	sn	32	10	sn
Minneapolis	25	14	sn	20	-8	pc
Nashville	32	30	pc	47	32	r
New Orleans	64	57	c	75	60	sh
New York City	19	13	s	33	31	sn
Oklahoma City	58	37	pc	57	25	c
Omaha	41	26	c	33	5	pc
Philadelphia	18	9	s	32	30	sn
Phoenix	82	55	pc	81	55	s
Portland, ME	19	-2	pc	26	25	pc
Providence	16	3	s	32	31	sn
Raleigh	26	17	s	42	37	c
Rapid City	44	19	sf	24	-1	c
Reno	61	32	pc	57	31	pc
Sacramento	71	44	pc	69	43	pc
St. Louis	29	27	pc	37	20	sn
Salt Lake City	50	34	pc	47	29	sn
San Diego	65	57	pc	66	58	pc
San Francisco	66	51	pc	66	51	pc
Seattle	52	39	c	53	35	s
Tucson	80	50	pc	78	53	s
Washington, DC	20	12	s	36	35	sn
Wichita	51	31	pc	49	18	sh

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