

# Report notes influx of retirees to 'Timber Belt'

## Hermiston rode out recession better than much of rural Oregon

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

SALEM — The "Timber Belt" running from Northern California up through Oregon and into Washington sustained an economic collapse and population loss similar to the "Rust Belt" and "Corn Belt" of the Midwest, but its recovery has been entirely different, according to the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

In a new report on demographic and economic trends unfolding in rural Oregon, state analysts detail pockets of resurgence, surprisingly hopeful statistics and unanswered questions of what comes next.

"All along the Timber Belt, people keep moving in" at a pace just as strong as the migration to urban centers

such as Portland, state economists Mark McMullen and Joshua Lehner wrote.

"In general, these incoming migrants are different than the households moving out," the analysts wrote. "Much of the time they are older and relocate to rural Oregon as they retire or reduce their work hours."

The new residents of rural Oregon bring a "lifetime of experience" and wealth, "often in the form of California home equity," McMullen and Lehner wrote.

"Figuring out how best to exploit the Timber Belt's strong influx of retirees should be a top priority given such individuals are voting with their feet, in essence, saying they want to live in the area and be a part of the community," the analysts

said. "Overall this is certainly a good thing."

Rural Oregon loses population during the "root setting" years of ages 25 to 34, when young adults are establishing careers, starting families and buying homes, the report said. Unlike most of rural America, however, Oregon is offsetting those losses with older migrants.

But for the young adults who stay in rural Oregon, McMullen and Lehner said statistics show children raised in rural Oregon, especially Eastern Oregon, have a good chance of succeeding in life.

Harvard University's Equality of Opportunity Project found that a rural Oregon child born at the bottom income level had a strong probability of reaching the top level as an adult, the authors said. Among more than 700 communities nationwide, the Oregon towns of Burns, Condon, Enterprise, John Day and

Lakeview were among the top third in fostering such success, according to McMullen and Lehner.

Bruce Weber, director of the Rural Studies Program at Oregon State University, said the state analysis is "insightful."

If the "boom and bust" nature of rural economies "creates an environment in which children grow up with different expectations and different levels of investment in education, these could also reduce upward mobility," Weber said in an email.

Meanwhile, economic recovery in Oregon has pockets of success and stagnation.

While Portland and its suburbs are popping again, most of rural Oregon has not recovered the jobs lost in the recession, the authors said. An exception is the Columbia River Gorge, which the analysts said has benefited from three major trends.

First, agriculture remains strong, mainly fruit, and higher commodity prices helped local farmers. Second, wind farm construction provided investment and jobs from 2007 to 2011, which included the depth of the recession. Last, the unmanned aerial vehicle industry — drones — has grown dramatically over the past decade. Insitu, a major drone manufacturer, is headquartered in Bingen, Washington, across the Columbia from Hood River.

"A large portion of such jobs are on the Washington side of the Columbia River, however the economic and population base in the gorge is on the Oregon side, where much of the consumer spending occurs," McMullen and Lehner wrote.

Although not cited by name in the state report, Hermiston, in Umatilla County, rode out the recession to become the biggest and fastest growing city in

Eastern Oregon.

In Hermiston's case, a strong agricultural sector is a stabilizing base for the economy, City Manager Byron Smith said.

"However you want to phrase it, people still need to have food," he said. "A lot of our economy is based on that, either the actual production or the processing of agricultural products."

Hermiston farmers grow potatoes, onions, melons and multiple types of other irrigated vegetables. The area has several food processing plants, and attracted a DuPont Pioneer corn seed research station.

Finally, the city diversified its economy through growth in the transportation and logistics sector. Wal-Mart has a distribution center in Hermiston, and FedEx and UPS also have facilities in the area.

"That's another piece of the economy that does well for us," Smith said.

## Bull rider dies at Paulina Amateur Rodeo

PRINEVILLE (AP) — A Prineville man died after he was thrown from a bull and stepped on at the Paulina Amateur Rodeo.

The Crook County Sheriff's Office reports 58-year-old contestant Richard Wayne Perry was competing in front of family and friends Saturday afternoon when the incident occurred.

Rager Emergency Services and sheriff's deputies responded to the scene and attempted life-saving measures for 45 minutes.

The rodeo was shut down for more than an hour.

KTVZ-TV reported that Perry's daughter Bailey posted on the news organization's Facebook page.

She said the day was hard for many and a shock for her, but that her dad died doing what he loved, which not many people get to do.

## Eugene mayor wants council to discuss homeless 'travelers'

EUGENE (AP) — Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy says she wants the city to have a conversation about young vagabonds occupying public spaces downtown.

The mayor sent an email to the city manager and councilors saying she doesn't want so-called "travelers" taking over public spaces. She said she's not judging people by their looks or lifestyle but wants public spaces to be for everyone to use.

"I don't want travelers actually controlling, living on our corners, our plazas, our public spaces," she wrote. "I welcome them to use them as I would expect everyone else to do. And I want benches and inviting places for all the public to freely use."

Piercy tells *The Register-Guard* that the travelers have chosen a lifestyle of moving from place to place. She says they're different than a traditional homeless population.

Piercy said she wrote the message to prompt discussion among council and city staff about the topic, which could lead to a conversation with the public.

It's unclear what Eugene could do to prevent people from sitting in public places.

Local ordinances prohibit people from blocking sidewalks, but courts have ruled as unconstitutional local laws that ban loitering, panhandling and other behaviors common among homeless people and travelers.

Downtown for decades has been a

**"I don't want travelers actually controlling, living on our corners, our plazas, our public spaces."**

— Kitty Piercy, Eugene mayor

magnet for transients, generating complaints from store owners and others. Civic leaders hoped redevelopment of the city center would bring more activity and residents to the area, shrinking the portion of city-center occupants who were transients.

To discourage loitering on sidewalks and plazas, the city has removed public benches and walls that transients formerly sat or slept on, she said.

Downtown is "very different than it was before," she said. "But we still have the issue of travelers in our communities, people who go up and down the I-5 corridor" and stop in Eugene and other cities.

"While I agree with the mayor that the issues of loitering downtown and homelessness are important ones, there are others of much higher priority that merit the kind of council attention and community focus she is suggesting," Councilor Mike Clark said. "Helping to create more high paying jobs would top my list."

## Deer devour hemp crops at southern Oregon farm

MURPHY (AP) — Deer got the munchies at an industrial hemp crop in southern Oregon.

The deer got by barbed-wire fencing a couple weeks ago and went through the hemp plants like high-powered mowers, the *Grants Pass Daily Courier* reported.

"Generally, I don't think they like cannabis. They liked ours, though," said Cliff Thomason, a real estate agent who is the steward of the first industrial hemp crop in Oregon, which was planted near Murphy by Thomason and his partners with Orhemppo.

The company planted roughly 1,000 plants in the section the deer got into, and Thomason said there are only about 40 left.

Industrial hemp has a low level of THC, the psychoac-

tive property of marijuana. Kit Doyle, another partner in Orhemppo, said it's high in protein and that's likely why the deer went on a binge.

The land is owned by Josephine County Commissioner Cheryl Walker and her husband, Martin Hill. Fellow county Commissioner Simon Hare also is a partner.

Only some of the crop is protected by the very tall fencing needed to thwart deer. Doyle said a reason some crops were left vulnerable was because of the uncertainty surrounding the program. A bill in the Oregon Legislature would have put Orhemppo out of business had it passed the Senate.

"We wanted to hurry and get in the ground and we didn't want to spend a lot of money," Doyle said.

## 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.

## EAST OREGONIAN

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### AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny and beautiful	Mostly sunny and nice	Partly sunny and nice	Plenty of sunshine	Brilliant sunshine
81° 55°	85° 53°	84° 53°	87° 56°	90° 61°

### PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

81° 55°	85° 53°	84° 53°	87° 56°	90° 61°
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### HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

86° 52°	87° 52°	87° 51°	90° 54°	93° 58°
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### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	71°	45°
Normals	81°	52°
Records	100° (1932)	32° (1910)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.01"
Month to date	0.65"
Normal month to date	0.11"
Year to date	5.66"
Last year to date	8.32"
Normal year to date	8.49"

#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	74°	44°
Normals	82°	51°
Records	101° (1955)	32° (1929)

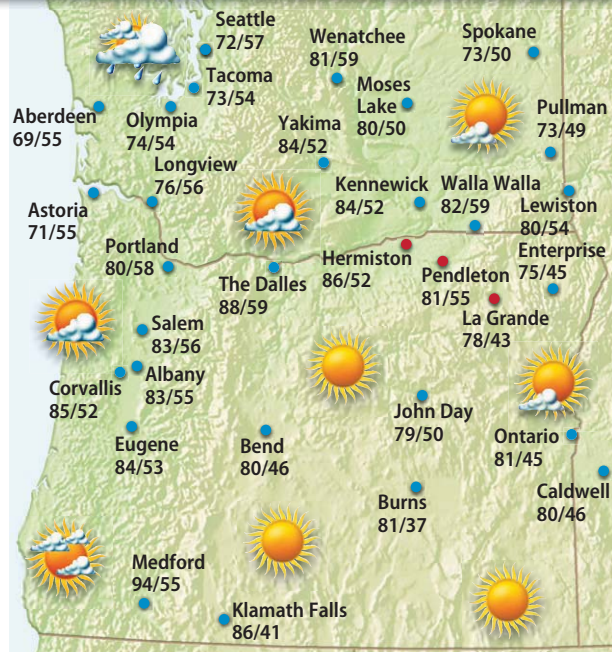
#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.17"
Normal month to date	0.08"
Year to date	3.43"
Last year to date	4.98"
Normal year to date	6.20"

#### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:24 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:21 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:02 a.m.
Moonset today	4:50 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
Sep 12				
Sep 21				
Sep 27				
Oct 4				



Coastal Oregon: Partly sunny and nice today.  
Eastern Washington: Sunshine and patchy clouds today. Partly cloudy tonight.  
Eastern and Central Oregon: Sunny and pleasant today. Mainly clear tonight. Sunny tomorrow; hot in the south.  
Cascades: Nice today; plenty of sunshine, but some clouds across the north. Clear tonight.  
Western Washington: Times of clouds and sun today. Partly cloudy tonight. Sun and some clouds tomorrow.  
Northern California: Mostly sunny today. Clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow; hot in central parts.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	71	55	pc	71	55	pc
Baker City	78	36	s	83	36	s
Bend	80	46	s	84	47	s
Brookings	74	56	s	75	57	s
Burns	81	37	s	88	40	s
Enterprise	75	45	s	80	46	s
Eugene	84	53	pc	86	50	s
Heppner	81	53	s	85	52	s
Hermiston	86	52	s	87	52	s
John Day	79	50	s	85	49	s
Klamath Falls	86	41	s	88	43	s
La Grande	78	43	s	83	46	s
Meacham	75	38	s	77	35	s
Medford	94	55	s	96	56	s
Newport	66	52	pc	66	50	s
North Bend	71	55	pc	70	54	s
Ontario	81	45	s	87	49	s
Pasco	84	52	s	87	51	s
Pendleton	81	55	s	85	53	s
Portland	80	58	pc	81	56	s
Redmond	83	41	s	87	44	s
Salem	83	56	pc	83	54	s
Spokane	73	50	s	76	52	s
Ukiah	78	43	s	82	44	s
Vancouver	79	57	pc	80	55	s
Walla Walla	82	59	s	84	59	s
Yakima	84	52	pc	87	51	s

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	83	63	c	80	63	pc
Hong Kong	89	79	r	90	79	r
Jerusalem	93	72	s	92	71	s
London	64	52	pc	67	55	pc
Mexico City	75	55	t	76	52	t
Moscow	56	45	s	57	45	pc
Paris	68	50	pc	73	51	s
Rome	77	60	s	77	58	pc
Seoul	83	59	s	83	62	pc
Sydney	67	51	s	66	54	s
Tokyo	74	72	r	77	73	r

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	SW 3-6	SW 3-6
Pendleton	W 4-8	W 4-8

### UV INDEX TODAY

1	3	5	5	3	1
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

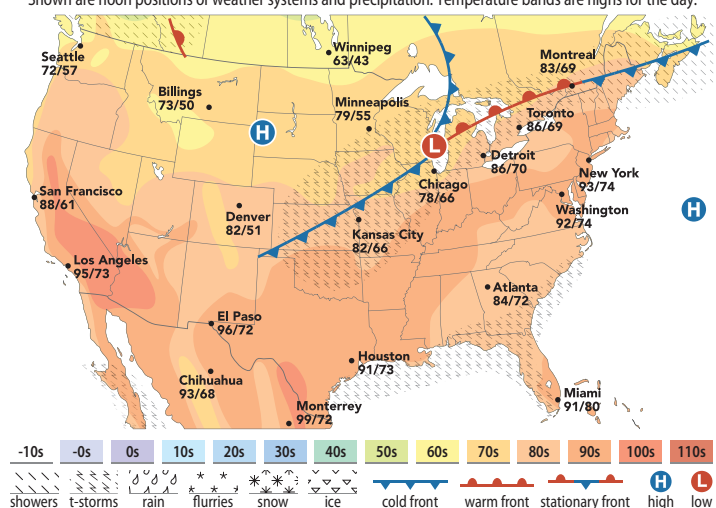
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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: Hot and humid air will remain entrenched across the Northeast today. Thunderstorms, some of which can bring flooding and damaging winds, will extend from Michigan southwest into Kansas.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 106° in Thermal, Calif. Low 19° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.			Today			Wed.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	88	64	pc	86	63	t	Louisville	93	75	pc	87	70	t
Atlanta	84	72	t	83	70	s	Memphis	95	75	pc	89	71	t
Atlanta City	86	74	s	84	74	s	Miami	91	80	t	91	79	pc
Baltimore	91	70	s	90	70	s	Millwaukee	76	63	t	72	56	pc
Billings	73	50	pc	80	51	s	Minneapolis	79	55	pc	76	58	s
Birmingham	84	71	t	85	71	s	Nashville	91	72	pc	88	70	t
Boise	81	54	s	87	57	s	New Orleans	90	76	t	89	76	s
Boston	95	72	s	89	70	s	New York City	93	74	s	88	75	s
Charleston, SC	86	75	t	88	75	pc	Oklahoma City	94	69	t	87	65	c
Charlotte, WV	91	66	pc	87	67	pc	Omaha	84	58	t	79	58	pc
Chicago	78	68	t	74	58	pc	Philadelphia	94	73	s	90	75	s
Cleveland	89	69	t	82	63	t	Phoenix	106	84	pc	100	82	t
Dallas	96	76	pc	89	75	t	Portland, ME	89	65	s	85	66	t
Denver	82	51	s	87	52	pc	Providence	92	70				