

# Brown adviser traveling to Paris climate talks

## Greenhouse gas offset registry picking up the tab

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown's energy policy adviser, Ruchi Sathir, will travel to Paris next week as part of a delegation from California, Oregon, Washington, Illinois and Tennessee at the international climate talks in Paris.

The trip is being paid for by a California-based environmental organization that operates the largest accredited greenhouse gas offset registry for the California cap-and-trade program.

The focus of the United Nations summit is to work on a new international agreement between nations to address climate change. Individual states are not involved in the talks. Sathir did not respond to a request for comment Tuesday afternoon about what she hopes to achieve during the trip. However, Chris Pair, Brown's press secretary, said it is important for Oregon to have a "seat at the table" during the talks.

"Gov. Brown believes Oregon's unique and special way of life is being threat-

ened by climate change," Pair wrote in an emailed statement. "Oregon is already experiencing the impacts of increased drought, devastating forest fires, fish die-offs from increased water temperature, and less snowpack that leads to less water supply. Future generations will rightly judge the morality and leadership of this generation not by the fact of climate change, but how we responded. Ruchi's participation in the world climate conference in Paris is essential to ensuring that Oregonians have a seat at the table as the world decides how to mitigate climate change and adapt to the challenges climate change brings."

Oregon taxpayers will not pick up the tab for the trip. Rather, the Los Angeles-based nonprofit Climate Action Reserve will pay for Sathir's travel, just as the group did for California Gov. Jerry Brown and other members of the delegation.

Climate Action Reserve advocates "market-based policies and solutions" to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the group is involved in registering carbon offset projects through California's cap-and-trade program. In California, Gov. Jerry Brown has been promoting non-binding agreements between cities,

**"Oregon is already experiencing the impacts of increased drought, devastating forest fires, fish die-offs from increased water temperature, and less snowpack that leads to less water supply."**

— Chris Pair, Gov. Kate Brown's press secretary

states and provinces to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown appointed Sathir in September to replace energy policy adviser Margi Hoffman, who had also served as former Gov. John Kitzhaber's energy adviser. Sathir previously worked as a senior policy adviser at the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

Sathir is the only member of the delegation from Oregon, according to Jennifer Weiss, a spokeswoman for Climate Action Reserve. Weiss wrote in an email that the delegation "is largely California state legislators and government officials but also includes officials from a few other states, environmental nonprofit representatives and sponsors."

The Los Angeles Times has reported that billionaire environmental activist Tom Steyer will be part of the group traveling to Paris, as well as former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Weiss declined to reveal on Tuesday how much the group will pay for Sathir's trip to Paris, but wrote in email that "We will also be providing gift reporting letters to the government officials that we are paying for and those will be reported in their (California Fair Political Practices Commission) filings."

Weiss also wrote that the group annually discloses all of its funding sources to the IRS in tax filings. Oregon's government ethics law allows nonprofits to pay for public officials' expenses "for attendance at a convention, fact-finding mission or trip, conference or other meeting if the public official is scheduled to deliver a speech, make a presentation, participate on a panel or represent state government," according to the statute.

The Paris conference begins Nov. 30 and runs through Dec. 11. Sathir will depart for Paris on Dec. 5, Pair said.

## Second tiny fuel leak found at nuclear plant

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — A leak the size of a pinhole has been discovered in a second fuel rod at Energy Northwest's nuclear power plant near Richland.

The *Tri-City Herald* reports that this week's discovery of the defect at the Columbia Generating Station comes after another leak was detected last week.

The tiny leaks could be caused by a manufacturing glitch or by a foreign object.

The exact cause will not be determined until the plant's next refueling outage in May 2017, when the plant will power down by about 0.3 percent per day.

The discovery of both leaks was prompted by findings that showed slightly higher levels of xenon and krypton gases in the reactor's recirculation system.

Despite the leaks, the plant is still producing electricity at full power, and no radiation leaks have been reported outside the plant.

## State delays change Medicaid coverage of back pain treatment

BEND (AP) — The Oregon Health Authority is delaying the rollout of changes to the state's Medicaid program that would allow patients to seek alternatives to painkillers and surgery to cope with back pain.

The new coverage policy was slated to take effect Jan. 1, but now

## BRIEFLY

will be delayed for an undetermined amount of time, *The (Bend) Bulletin* reports.

Some fear the delay means there will be less support for doctors who are trying to prescribe prescription painkillers. "It's particularly unfortunate because of the push on opioids," said Dr. Alison Little, medical director for PacificSource Community Solutions. "It's a statewide initiative to get opioid use down. It would be a lot easier if we had these other therapies to direct people to."

An Oregon Health Authority spokeswoman said the authority is looking for a way to let the entire package of guidelines on back pain take effect at the same time.

Under the new pack- pain coverage policy, Oregon Health Plan patients would be allotted as many as 30 visits a year for alternative therapies, including physical therapy, acupuncture or other treatments. Those alternative treatments can be more e

In 2014, the Oregon Health Plan spent \$9.5 million on back pain-related surgery and \$4.3 million on opioid prescriptions.

The delay comes as Central Oregon health care providers are preparing to begin limiting the daily dose of opiate drugs they prescribe. Starting in January, all OHP patients will be limited to the equivalent of 120 milligrams of morphine.

Officials say the delay ties into the fact that OHA is adjusting rates for coordinated care organizations.

# Court revives Oregon suit over 'phantom recall' of Motrin

By STEVEN DUBOIS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A lawsuit over Johnson & Johnson's buyback of defective Motrin pills has been given new life by the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Johnson & Johnson discovered in late 2008 that supplies of the painkiller manufactured in Puerto Rico failed to dissolve properly, an issue that could lessen effectiveness.

Instead of notifying customers with a recall, the company hired a contractor to send secret shoppers out to buy the bad product from store shelves. The unique approach eventually came to light, prompting a congressional inquiry in 2010.

Former Oregon state Attorney General John Kroger sued the company and two subsidiaries in January 2011, saying the "phantom recall" exposed consumers to defective supplies of the pain reliever and violated the state's unlawful trade practices act.

The Appeals Court said Wednesday a trial judge dismissed the case incorrectly three years ago.

Lawyers for Johnson & Johnson argued that the firms did not violate the trade practices act because there was no proof the defective product was ever sold in Oregon.

The Appeals Court disagreed. "The actionable conduct was the failure to inform Oregonians of a

known material risk that the Motrin they were purchasing might be defective," Chief Judge Rick Haselton wrote in sending the case back to trial court.

James McDermott, a lawyer representing Johnson & Johnson, told the Associated Press that the trial court correctly dismissed the state's case. "And we believe that the Oregon Supreme Court will reach the same conclusion," McDermott said.

The first phase of the buyback program took place in March and April 2009, and it was designed to survey the amount of defective product on shelves. A larger buyback began in June 2009, according to a summary of the case included in the

opinion.

The drafted instructions to field employees stressed the program's secretive nature.

"You should simply 'act' like a regular customer while making these purchases," the instructions said. "THERE MUST BE NO MENTION OF THIS BEING A RECALL OF THE PRODUCT! If asked, simply state that your employer is checking the distribution chain of this product and needs to have some of it purchased for the project."

In July 2009, a concerned secret shopper alerted the Oregon Board of Pharmacy, which then notified the federal Food and Drug Administration.

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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Plenty of sunshine, but cold	Plenty of sunshine, but cold	Mostly cloudy and cold	Cold with some sun	Sunny and cold

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

29°	11°	28°	14°	29°	14°	32°	14°	33°	17°
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**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

34°	13°	32°	16°	29°	16°	33°	16°	33°	19°
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**ALMANAC**

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	30°	26°
Normals	44°	30°
Records	66° (1894)	2° (1993)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.08"  
Month to date 1.18"  
Normal month to date 1.20"  
Year to date 7.81"  
Last year to date 10.36"  
Normal year to date 11.19"

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	40°	30°
Normals	46°	31°
Records	70° (1960)	-4° (1985)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace  
Month to date 0.81"  
Normal month to date 0.98"  
Year to date 5.39"  
Last year to date 6.25"  
Normal year to date 8.26"

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today	7:09 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:16 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:30 p.m.
Moonset today	7:39 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Dec 2	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

Coastal Oregon: Plenty of sunshine today. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Mostly sunny today. Mainly clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Cascades: Plenty of sunshine, but cold today. Clear tonight; cold. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Northern California: Very cold in the interior mountains today; plenty of sunshine elsewhere.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Cold today; plenty of sunshine, but some clouds in the south and upper Treasure Valley.

Western Washington: Plenty of sunshine today. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	50	34	s	52	34	s
Baker City	31	3	s	30	1	s
Bend	29	5	s	30	5	s
Brookings	55	36	s	55	36	s
Burns	30	-2	s	25	-6	c
Enterprise	28	5	s	29	4	s
Eugene	43	21	s	41	20	s
Heppner	29	10	s	28	10	s
Hermiston	34	13	s	32	16	s
John Day	36	7	s	35	8	pc
Klamath Falls	36	14	s	36	11	c
La Grande	34	9	s	34	8	s
Meacham	34	12	s	35	11	s
Medford	42	23	s	43	22	s
Newport	49	34	s	49	33	s
North Bend	52	33	s	55	33	s
Ontario	40	13	pc	32	9	c
Pasco	35	16	s	33	16	s
Pendleton	29	11	s	28	14	s
Portland	46	29	s	47	29	s
Redmond	30	3	s	32	6	s
Salem	45	25	s	44	25	s
Spokane	33	17	s	33	18	s
Ukiah	30	2	s	30	3	s
Vancouver	46	29	s	46	27	s
Walla Walla	27	19	s	27	20	s
Yakima	39	16	s	39	18	s

**WORLD CITIES**

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	25	8	s	27	15	pc
Hong Kong	73	61	c	72	67	pc
Jerusalem	67	57	pc	69	53	s
London	52	46	pc	55	37	r
Mexico City	73	49	pc	73	51	pc
Moscow	24	15	pc	26	21	pc
Paris	47	36	pc	47	41	c
Rome	52	44	r	56	41	c
Seoul	32	20	c	35	24	pc
Sydney	98	62	s	73	64	pc
Tokyo	57	51	r	58	48	s

**WINDS**

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	NE 3-6	VAR 3-6
Pendleton	VAR 3-6	VAR 2-4

**UV INDEX TODAY**

0 1 1 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:** Rain will drench areas from central Texas to the Great Lakes region today. Snow will fall from northern Michigan to the central Rockies as an area of sleet and freezing rain develops over the central Plains.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 85° in Fort Stockton, Texas Low -3° in Havre, Mont.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	61	39	c	45	30	sh
Atlanta	63	51	pc	66	49	pc
Atlanta City	62	51	c	63	50	pc
Baltimore	62	41	pc	67	45	pc
Billings	22	6	c	29	8	s
Birmingham	69	55	pc	69	55	c
Boise	32	13	pc	28	11	c
Boston	55	48	c	62	49	pc
Charleston, SC	72	55	pc	73	49	pc
Charleston, WV	66	45	pc	69	50	pc
Chicago	58	40	sh	62	30	r
Cleveland	60	50	pc	59	37	r
Dallas	73	63	t	63	39	r
Denver	26	9	sn	22	8	sn
Detroit	57	51	c	56	33	r
El Paso	70	52	t	60	40	sh
Fairbanks	32	20	sn	32	18	c
Fargo	26	8	c	28	13	s
Honolulu	83	74	pc	84	74	pc
Houston	77	68	t	78	63	c
Indianapolis	60	53	c	59	37	r
Jacksonville	75	61	sh	75	58	pc
Kansas City	61	29	r	35	26	i
Las Vegas	55	37	s	54	35	pc
Little Rock	68	60	c	68	55	r
Los Angeles	63	44	pc	62	40	pc
Louisville	66	54	pc	64	50	t
Memphis	70	59	c	69	58	t
Miami	80	71	sh	80	69	sh
Millwaukee	56	34	c	39	27	r
Minneapolis	33	19	sn	29	14	s
Nashville	69	55	pc	68	54	c
New Orleans	76	66	c	78	64	c
New York City	59	51	c	64	51	pc
Oklahoma City	68	33	r	37	29	r
Omaha	36	22	i	33	18	pc
Philadelphia	65	45	c	68	49	pc
Phoenix	67	44	c	66	42	s
Portland, ME	53	41	c	59	43	pc
Providence	58	46	c	62	47	pc
Raleigh	65					