

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny and warmer	Cooler with a couple of showers	Clouds and showers around	Mostly cloudy	Partly sunny

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
61° 40°	54° 33°	50° 31°	55° 30°	55° 32°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
63° 43°	58° 34°	56° 34°	62° 34°	62° 30°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	52°	40°
Normals	57°	37°
Records	78° (1960)	12° (1913)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.02"
Month to date 1.46"
Normal month to date 1.13"
Year to date 3.83"
Last year to date 2.50"
Normal year to date 3.68"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

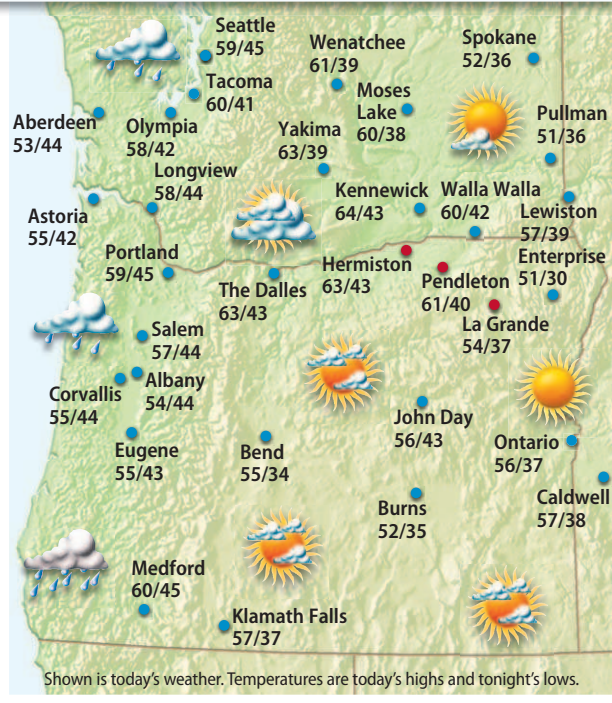
TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	55°	43°
Normals	60°	36°
Records	77° (1960)	15° (1996)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 1.21"
Normal month to date 0.74"
Year to date 2.70"
Last year to date 1.45"
Normal year to date 3.01"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:46 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:16 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:35 p.m.
Moonset today	8:28 a.m.

Last New First Full
Mar 31 Apr 7 Apr 13 Apr 21



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today; a shower; however, rain and drizzle in the south.

Eastern Washington: Sun and some clouds today.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Warmer today with clouds and sun; however, sunnier in the upper Treasure Valley.

Western Washington: Increasing cloudiness in central parts today; a shower in spots elsewhere.

Cascades: A shower or two today; a morning shower, then rain and drizzle in the south.

Northern California: Times of clouds and sun at the coast today; mostly sunny elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	55	42	c	52	40	sh
Baker City	51	31	s	49	25	sh
Bend	55	34	pc	45	23	sn
Brookings	55	45	r	52	40	c
Burns	52	35	pc	49	27	c
Enterprise	51	30	s	45	27	c
Eugene	55	43	c	53	37	sh
Heppner	58	38	pc	51	30	c
Hermiston	63	43	pc	58	34	c
John Day	56	43	pc	50	32	c
Klamath Falls	57	37	pc	48	26	c
La Grande	54	37	s	49	30	c
Meacham	51	36	s	45	29	c
Medford	60	45	c	55	37	c
Newport	54	44	sh	51	41	sh
North Bend	57	46	c	54	41	sh
Ontario	56	37	s	56	33	c
Pasco	63	40	pc	60	33	pc
Pendleton	61	40	pc	54	33	sh
Portland	59	45	c	53	41	sh
Redmond	57	34	pc	47	25	r
Salem	57	44	c	54	38	sh
Spokane	52	36	pc	49	30	sh
Ukiah	53	35	pc	46	28	sh
Vancouver	56	44	c	51	39	sh
Walla Walla	60	42	s	55	36	sh
Yakima	63	39	pc	59	32	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	67	36	s	71	33	s
Hong Kong	68	59	pc	69	59	s
Jerusalem	64	50	t	59	43	pc
London	57	44	r	52	44	pc
Mexico City	78	52	pc	77	56	s
Moscow	36	20	pc	36	20	c
Paris	58	45	pc	54	46	t
Rome	63	43	pc	62	51	pc
Seoul	53	33	s	55	34	s
Sydney	77	67	pc	78	66	sh
Tokyo	52	46	pc	53	46	pc

WINDS

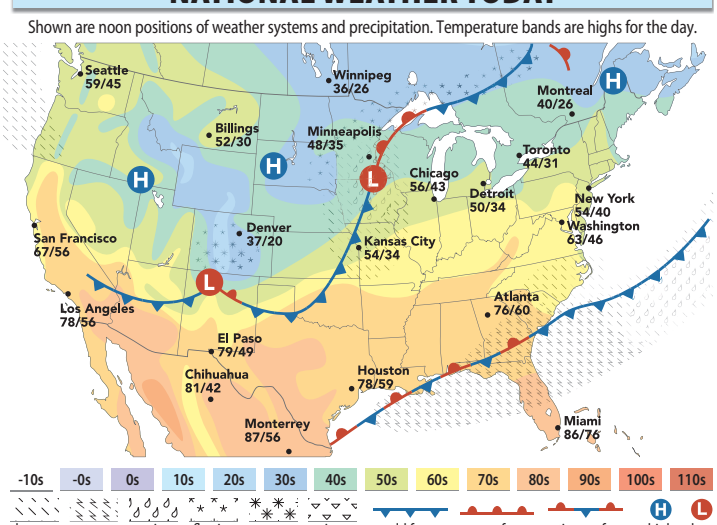
(in mph) Today Sunday
Boardman VAR 3-6 WSW 10-20
Pendleton S 4-8 WSW 10-20

UV INDEX TODAY

0 2 4 4 2 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



National Summary: Showers and storms will affect part of the Deep South as rain and wet snow dampens part of the Upper Midwest today. Snow will fall on the central and southern Rockies as showers approach western Oregon.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
 High 90° in Thermal, Calif. Low -4° in Antigo, Wis.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.				Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	66	31	pc	66	40	s	Louisville	68	47	s	71	45	c
Atlanta	76	60	s	71	57	t	Memphis	72	53	s	71	44	t
Atlanta City	54	42	s	54	44	pc	Miami	86	76	t	85	76	t
Baltimore	61	41	s	62	49	pc	Milwaukee	48	40	pc	50	35	c
Birmingham	77	57	s	74	51	c	Minneapolis	48	35	r	48	33	pc
Boise	54	41	s	54	33	c	Nashville	74	48	s	77	44	t
Boston	46	35	pc	47	38	pc	New Orleans	76	67	c	76	61	r
Charleston, SC	76	62	t	74	62	r	New York City	54	40	s	54	44	pc
Charleston, WV	70	46	s	77	47	pc	Oklahoma City	71	39	pc	61	35	sh
Chicago	56	43	pc	53	36	sh	Omaha	47	29	r	55	35	pc
Cleveland	51	38	s	68	41	c	Philadelphia	61	43	s	61	47	pc
Dallas	77	52	s	65	41	c	Phoenix	86	59	s	86	61	s
Denver	37	20	sn	50	29	s	Portland, ME	46	31	s	46	35	pc
Detroit	50	34	s	64	40	r	Providence	52	33	pc	52	39	pc
El Paso	79	49	s	75	49	s	Raleigh	61	51	sh	67	58	c
Fairbanks	38	25	c	40	19	c	Rapid City	42	19	pc	57	25	s
Fargo	41	24	pc	53	30	s	Reno	63	40	s	67	37	pc
Honolulu	81	69	sh	81	69	sh	Sacramento	74	51	s	71	46	pc
Houston	78	59	pc	78	51	t	St. Louis	66	44	pc	62	37	pc
Indianapolis	60	43	s	65	41	c	Salt Lake City	48	34	pc	61	42	c
Jacksonville	77	63	t	78	64	t	San Diego	72	58	pc	68	60	pc
Kansas City	54	34	r	55	32	r	San Francisco	67	56	s	64	50	pc
Las Vegas	71	51	s	78	59	s	Seattle	59	45	pc	52	40	sh
Little Rock	72	49	s	67	40	t	St. Louis	84	52	s	85	55	s
Los Angeles	78	56	pc	74	56	pc	Washington, DC	63	46	s	65	51	pc
							Wichita	58	35	pc	61	33	r

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

EAST OREGONIAN

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OHA contract 'error' pushes program \$29M over budget

By HILLARY BORRUD
 Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Health Authority negotiated a faulty methodology to calculate payments to foster homes caring for adults with mental illnesses, inflating costs \$29 million over budget and jeopardizing the program.

Managers at OHA discovered the problem almost immediately after the inflated payments began in January 2014, but it took two years for the state to rein in costs because the rate methodology was written into a contract with the union representing foster home operators. Reduced rates took effect in January, amid outcry from providers who said the reduction in pay would force some of them to close.

Rather than paying rates based on the actual level of care needed, OHA paid rates on each client equal to the rates paid for patients in secure residential treatment facilities, which house people who require a higher level of services including some of the more serious cases of people found guilty except for insanity by the courts.

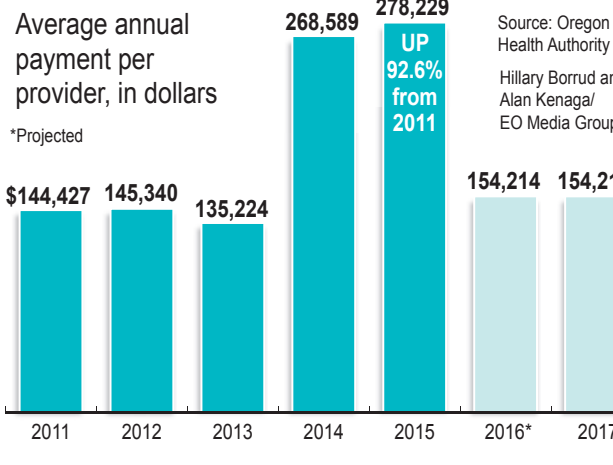
As a result, the state paid the average home twice as much as before for the same level of services.

It's unclear how the rate structure was negotiated, and why its impact caught the state by surprise.

Lynne Saxton, director of the Oregon Health Authority, attributed the payment increase to a "calculation error." She told lawmakers

Adult foster home provider rates

Oregon's foster home program for adults with mental illnesses went over budget by \$29 million, due to payment increases that Oregon Health Authority director Lynne Saxton described as a "calculation error." A new rate methodology written into a union contract doubled the average payments to homes in 2014. The state scaled back payments this year.



last month that "without the right-sizing of rates, the program can be in jeopardy as it's unsustainable financially."

Emails released by the Oregon Health Authority appear to support Saxton's description of the 2014 rate hike as an error. A week after the new methodology took effect in January 2014, mid-level managers at the agency were already alarmed that adult foster home costs were beginning to skyrocket.

"We need to address this!" Trevor Douglass, a Medicaid manager, wrote in a Jan. 10, 2014 email to another Medicaid manager, Don Ross. "You will see a trend of substantial increases," Douglass wrote, referring to an attached document with

a sample of data on foster homes that were on track to receive larger payments. "That can't avoid a budget impact. My hair is smoldering, not on fire."

Ross responded within minutes. "These are outrageous," Ross wrote, referring to the foster homes' rate increase requests. "How did we end up on a provider-driven methodology, with no ceiling, for January 2014?" Ross said the Oregon Health Authority should hit the brakes until the agency better understood what was happening. "The exposure built into this is kind of unprecedented during my time here," Ross wrote.

The state ultimately paid the higher rates while negotiating a new payment

structure with the Service Employees International Union, which represents operators. A union representative did not respond to a request for comment.

The foster homes, which can each house up to five residents, had gone from receiving an average of \$135,000 from the state in 2013 before the rate change, to nearly \$269,000 in 2014.

The state estimated that with 2016 revisions, adult foster homes will receive on average \$154,000 this year.

The payment reductions prompted foster home operators to criticize SEIU for agreeing to the new rate methodology. Foster home operators told lawmakers last month that the state should find the money to pay them the higher rates that were in place for the last two years.

April Gunter, an adult foster care provider in Washington County, was one of several industry members who warned lawmakers that homes would shut down unless the state returns to the higher rates.

"You know that these people will be out on the streets," Gunter said, referring to adult foster home residents. "The bottom line is we have to find a resolution for it, resolution meaning you guys have to find the money somewhere to fund us ..."

Foster home operators told lawmakers that it takes a lot of work to care for their residents, and in at least one case the additional money in 2014 and 2015 allowed a provider to expand services

by purchasing a new van to drive residents to community events.

Although the new payment structure remains in place, the state is now bargaining with SEIU over an existing "exceptional needs rate," which could allow some foster homes to receive more money from the state if the rate increases or it becomes easier for residents to qualify.

The rate, which was already in the current and previous contracts, applies

in temporary situations when residents require a higher level of care, such as when a resident who lives at a foster home due to severe persistent mental illness breaks his or her leg and temporarily requires additional assistance, Douglass said.

According to Douglass, OHA returned to the bargaining table after SEIU filed a grievance because the union and OHA did not bargain for a new exceptional needs rate during contract negotiations last year.

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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Kitzhaber loses email block bid

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Supreme Court has denied former Gov. John Kitzhaber's latest effort to stop an outside review of emails that were inadvertently archived by the state.

Kitzhaber attorney Janet Hoffman wanted the high court to overturn a lower court ruling that an independent special master peruse the messages and decide which are relevant to the ongoing litigation between the state and Oracle over the failed Cover Oregon health care exchange.

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