

**BRIEFLY**

**Washington: Railroads must show they can handle oil spills**

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Washington's Department of Ecology has adopted a new rule requiring that railroads shipping oil through the state demonstrate that they can immediately respond to any spills.

The department said Thursday the rule takes effect Oct. 1, and it brings railroads into line with rules for companies moving oil by pipeline and by vessel.

Railroads will have to provide Ecology with contingency plans detailing steps the railroad will take if oil spills or a substantial risk of a spill occurs during transport. Officials say they'll review each plan and require that they be tested through appropriate drills.

The state says California and Minnesota have implemented similar laws for railroads.

This fall, Washington is also beginning to require that facilities receiving shipments of crude oil by rail notify Ecology, which will share notice of those plans with local first responders.

**Oregon location eliminated in search for geothermal lab site**

BEND (AP) — A site near Oregon's Newberry Volcano is no longer in the running for a federal enhanced geothermal research laboratory.

The *Bulletin* reports that the Wednesday decision by the U.S. Department of Energy left sites in Utah and Nevada competing for the lab.

The department put \$29 million into research by a Sandia National Laboratories team in Fallon, Nevada, and the University of Utah's team in Milford, Utah. The investment is meant to help the organizations prepare for an underground geothermal research lab.

Developers and

researchers in Central Oregon say they are surprised and disappointed that the Newberry Geothermal Energy site didn't make it to the next round.

The location near the volcano was leased by Seattle-based AltaRock Energy Inc.

**Large homeless camp in Portland cleared out**

PORTLAND (AP) — The city on Thursday evicted about 200 or 300 homeless people who have been camping along a popular 21-mile bike and pedestrian trail after complaints from neighbors and concerns about environmental damage.

Portland has struggled in recent months with camping across the city. It faces a shortage of affordable housing as well as a lack of emergency shelter beds.

The sweep of the Springwater Corridor, which stretches from southeast Portland to Boring, previously was set for Aug. 1, but homeless advocates asked for more time to find the campers alternative places to live.

The city and outreach workers began meeting with homeless people six weeks ago, but many still said they weren't sure where they were going.

Craig Alexenko, 54, said he wasn't sure where he could go. He sat on a pile of garbage that homeless people had left behind as city workers and volunteers moved through a large field and roped off sections of the encampment with yellow police tape.

"I need to get into housing. I've been on the streets too long," he said.

The sweep will take days on the 14-mile section of the trail that's been targeted, said Chad Stover, the city's livability project manager.

The scene was calm and quiet with little police presence. City workers and volunteers carried armloads of belongings for campers and helped them load them into shopping carts, bags and roller suitcases.

**Measure 97 worries health care providers**

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

A corporate sales tax measure on November's ballot would ensnare some for-profit medical providers, who say it could drive up the cost of care and limit the options for elderly and low-income patients.

At the same time, providers say, similar practices with different corporate structures would escape the tax and be placed at a competitive advantage.

"The unevenness of this tax is ridiculous," said Dr. Craig Fausel, CEO of the Oregon Clinic. "We totally support that the state needs more reliable funding. We would be willing to pay a lower level tax that included everybody."

Measure 97 would affect only "C" corporations, such as the Oregon Clinic, imposing a 2.5 percent tax on their Oregon sales exceeding \$25 million.

It is expected to raise \$3 billion a year.

Supporters say it largely targets massive, out-of-state corporations.

Yet the proposal also means multi-million dollar tax hikes for certain home-grown, physician-owned clinics in Oregon.

Fausel, whose large specialty practice serves the Portland metro area,

estimates he'd be hit with a \$4.2 million tax increase, "just... because we are unfortunate enough to be a 'C' corp."

Meanwhile, other for-profit medical practices in the state, with comparable services and size, face no increase.

The disparity is based solely on the clinics' corporate structure and how they pay their taxes, choices that many clinics made years before Measure 97 came on the horizon.

Women's Health Associates is a limited liability company that elected to pay its taxes as a C corporation. Under Measure 97, the Portland-area practice faces a corporate tax increase of more than \$1 million, said CEO Brian Kelly.

In contrast, Hematology and Oncology of Salem, a limited liability company that pays taxes as a partnership, is not subject to the tax, even though the practice generates nearly \$40 million in sales each year.

Paying taxes as a partnership allows profits flowing to the partners to be taxed at their personal income tax rate, said partner Dr. Bud Pierce.

Pierce, who is the GOP nominee for governor, has come out against the tax, even though his cancer

clinic, which would not be affected by Measure 97, might gain a competitive advantage.

Under Measure 97, about 30 out of 1,366 tax return filers who are categorized as health care or social services would see their corporate taxes climb from about \$8 million per year to \$104 million per year, said Paul Warner, director of the Legislative Revenue Office. Some of those filers are corporations that file a consolidated tax return for multiple subsidiaries, Warner noted.

Consumers would pay about half of the cost of the tax increase in the form of higher prices, according to Warner's estimates.

In total, the tax is projected to cost an Oregon household between \$372 and \$1,282 per year in the form of higher prices and fewer employment opportunities, according to a May study by the Legislative Revenue Office.

Our Oregon, the advocacy group backing the measure, wants revenue from the tax to be earmarked for health care, in addition to education and senior services.

Katherine Driessen, a spokeswoman for Our Oregon, said large corporations, such as Oregon Clinic, can afford to pay

more taxes. "Without Measure 97, affordable healthcare remains out of reach for hundreds of thousands of Oregonians," Driessen said. "With Measure 97, we will be able to provide quality, affordable care for Oregonians."

But some in the medical community say it could have just the opposite effect.

The Oregon Medical Association voted in mid-July to oppose Measure 97 based on "serious concerns about how Measure 97, if passed, would affect Oregon's healthcare providers, and by extension, their patients."

"The regressive nature of Measure 97 would mean that our patients, especially those with lower incomes, could face additional barriers to accessing quality care at a reasonable price," the association said in a statement. "The cost of healthcare is already a great burden on families. We believe Measure 97 would compound the problem."

Brad Wakefield, CEO of Corvallis Clinic, said one of the problems with the tax measure is that it taxes sales rather than profits. Corvallis Clinic, which operates in Corvallis and Albany, also faces a significant tax hike under the measure.

**Governor candidates follow different strategies**

SALEM (AP) — Campaign stops made by Oregon's candidates for governor show contrasting strategies for the upcoming election.

A list of official stops from Democratic Gov. Kate Brown's campaign primarily includes Oregon cities where the electorate is concentrated, as well as major cities in California and on the East Coast, *The Statesman Journal* reported.

Brown's interactions with citizens aren't limited to official campaign stops, according to a statement from Brown's spokeswoman. Brown's position as governor means she visits Oregonians across the state,

the statement said.

Republican Bud Pierce, a cancer doctor in Salem, has made five times as many official stops as Brown. His campaign has visited small, rural communities and included a stop in Stevens, Washington, and a visit to a Republican Governors Association conference in Aspen, Colorado.

The campaigns seem to be following classic strategies so far, said Jim Moore, a Pacific University professor and director of the Tom McCall Center for Policy Research.

"Brown's acting like an incumbent. She basically has nailed down 50 percent of the electorate if she

sticks to the big towns," he said. He explained that it's more important for Pierce to campaign in small towns to reach as many voters as possible.

Reached by phone Wednesday, Pierce said most of his future campaign efforts will focus on "battleground counties" like Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah. "That's where the race is going to be won or lost," he said.

Brown's campaign

said the California and East Coast stops included fundraisers. Christopher Larimer, a political science professor and candidate behavior specialist at the University of Northern Idaho, said candidates for statewide office are increasingly attending out-of-state fundraisers.

"The cost of state politics is going up so much that I think this is going to be the case more and more," he 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.

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— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —  
211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211  
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211  
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed major holidays  
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**AccuWeather.com Forecast**

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Breezy with clouds and sun	Partly sunny and cool	Sunny and beautiful	Partly sunny and nice	Pleasant with some sun

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
72° 46° 70° 46° 71° 51° 73° 48° 70° 49°

**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
77° 47° 75° 49° 77° 52° 77° 52° 75° 50°

**ALMANAC**

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	73°	60°
Normals	83°	54°
Records	102° (1893)	36° (1905)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m.: 0.00"  
Month to date: 0.00"  
Normal month to date: 0.02"  
Year to date: 7.39"  
Last year to date: 5.01"  
Normal year to date: 8.44"

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	78°	60°
Normals	84°	53°
Records	101° (1967)	39° (1965)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m.: 0.00"  
Month to date: 0.00"  
Normal month to date: 0.01"  
Year to date: 4.99"  
Last year to date: 3.26"  
Normal year to date: 6.16"

**SUN AND MOON**  
Sunrise today: 6:18 a.m.  
Sunset tonight: 7:31 p.m.  
Moonrise today: 7:36 a.m.  
Moonset today: 8:15 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Sep 9	Sep 16	Sep 23	Sep 30

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

**Coastal Oregon:** Times of clouds and sun today; a couple of showers, except dry in the south.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Cooler today with clouds and sun. Mainly clear tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow.

**Western Washington:** Variable cloudiness today with a couple of showers. A passing shower tonight.

**Eastern Washington:** A shower in spots today; partly sunny across the south and toward the Cascades.

**Cascades:** Times of clouds and sun today; a couple of showers, but dry in the south.

**Northern California:** Low clouds followed by sunshine at the coast today; mostly sunny elsewhere.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	67	53	sh	67	51	c
Baker City	69	33	pc	70	37	pc
Bend	67	36	pc	66	36	pc
Brookings	65	50	pc	63	49	pc
Burns	70	34	pc	70	35	pc
Enterprise	66	39	pc	67	42	sh
Eugene	74	47	c	73	45	pc
Heppner	70	43	pc	70	42	pc
Hermiston	77	47	pc	75	49	pc
John Day	69	43	pc	69	44	pc
Klamath Falls	70	34	pc	69	34	s
La Grande	69	39	pc	70	41	pc
Meacham	65	35	pc	65	39	pc
Medford	80	49	pc	78	48	s
Newport	61	49	sh	60	48	pc
North Bend	65	52	sh	65	50	pc
Ontario	76	50	pc	77	53	pc
Pasco	77	47	pc	75	44	pc
Pendleton	72	46	pc	70	46	pc
Portland	69	55	sh	70	51	pc
Redmond	70	35	pc	70	34	pc
Salem	73	50	sh	71	47	pc
Spokane	66	45	c	69	47	pc
Ukiah	65	38	c	65	36	pc
Vancouver	68	52	sh	68	49	pc
Walla Walla	74	51	pc	73	49	pc
Yakima	74	41	pc	74	44	pc

**WORLD CITIES**

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	82	64	pc	87	67	pc
Hong Kong	88	78	r	89	80	sh
Jerusalem	83	66	s	81	65	s
London	69	54	sh	70	59	r
Mexico City	74	57	t	73	56	t
Moscow	70	53	pc	68	51	c
Paris	85	60	pc	82	62	pc
Rome	85	67	s	85	67	pc
Seoul	83	69	pc	83	69	t
Sydney	64	59	r	69	51	r
Tokyo	88	75	s	85	77	c

**WINDS**

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	WSW 10-20	W 4-8
Pendleton	WSW 10-20	WNW 6-12

**UV INDEX TODAY**

1	3	5	4	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:** Rain will cause flooding, damaging winds and tornadoes in parts of the Southeast states today. Storms will dot the Rockies, while showers cool the Northwest. Most other areas can expect sunshine.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 108° in Needles, Calif. Low 23° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	83	63	t	85	63	s
Atlanta	81	68	sh	84	69	pc
Atlanta City	80	70	pc	76	64	r
Baltimore	80	62	s	78	61	r
Billings	90	56	pc	74	55	pc
Birmingham	89	72	s	89	72	pc
Boise	73	51	pc	73	51	pc
Boston	74	62	pc	73	63	s
Charleston, SC	80	68	r	85	68	pc
Charleston, WV	81	58	s	82	59	s
Chicago	73	57	s	77	61	s
Cleveland	75	59	s	80	58	s
Dallas	87	70	pc	89	71	pc
Denver	82	56	t	87	57	pc
Detroit	75	57	s	79	58	s
El Paso	86	69	t	91	70	t
Fairbanks	64	46	pc	67	44	pc
Fargo	81	64	pc	84	65	t
Honolulu	87	77	pc	87	76	c
Houston	91	74	t	90	74	t
Indianapolis	78	58	s	82	60	pc
Jacksonville	80	72	r	87	71	t
Kansas City	78	57	s	80	61	pc
Las Vegas	101	76	s	98	71	s
Little Rock	85	65	s	86	66	s
Los Angeles	80	61	pc	76	60	pc
Louisville	82	63	s	84	64	s
Memphis	85	66	s	88	72	s
Miami	92	78	t	91	78	pc
Millwaukee	72	61	s	75	64	s
Minneapolis	75	58	t	76	62	pc
Nashville	85	63	s			