Projections boost state coffers by nearly \$200 million

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE Capital Bureau

SALEM — The state is projected to collect about \$92 million more in revenue than expected in the next two-year budget cycle, according to state economists.

A projected \$102 million increase in the state's beginning balances compared to December estimates also means that the possible dent into the state's projected budget shortfall could be up to \$195 million.

That's merely a drop in the bucket, though, when it comes to lessening the state's budget crunch.

Leaders of the legislative budgetwriting committee estimated in late January a \$1.8 billion gap between how much it costs to maintain current services and how much the state would realize. With Wednesday's forecast, that could go down to about \$1.6 billion.

While the budget gap for state government services is significant, overall, Oregon's economy is doing well, said state economists Mark McMullen and Josh Lehner.

Overall job growth rates for the state is projected to outpace the nation, for example; however, some rural areas of the state have not regained all of the jobs lost during the recession and may fall behind national and state growth rates in years to come. The new budget biennium

begins July 1, about 10 days before the legislative session ends and lawmakers must balance the state's budget.

Revenue committees have been assessing different tax options as the session rounds out its third week, with especial regard to business

According to Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, D-Portland, labor and business groups — the two

factions at odds during the election battle over a ballot measure to raise state revenues about \$6 billion per biennium by creating a corporate sales tax — are continuing talks to find common ground.

However, legislative leaders are not participating in those discus-

Democrats said Wednesday that both cuts and changes to the state's revenue structure were needed.

"Despite today's good news, we're still \$1.7 billion away from just funding our schools and and basic services at their current levels," said House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, D-Portland. "In order to minimize cuts to K-12 classrooms, in-home care for seniors, and health care services for struggling families, we need a serious conversation about finding efficiencies and reforming our revenue system."

Republicans saw it differently, saying that the forecast called for belt-tightening.

"This forecast is good news," said House Minority Leader Mike McLane, R-Powell Butte. "... Now let's pass a balanced budget by matching our spending with our revenues.'

Oregon attorney general ready to protect abortion rights

By ANDREW SELSKY

Associated Press

SALEM — On the heels of Washington state's successful pushback of President Donald Trump's immigration order, Oregon is readying for a court

battle if the federal government tries to curtail abortion rights, the state's attorney general said.

attorneys The general of both Oregon and Washington said in interviews with The Associated Press that they are increasingly information sharing and consulting with

each other and with other Democratic counterparts, as the White House and Congress try to roll back Obama policies and steer a conservative course for the

Rosenblum

At stake are health care, the environment, immigrant rights, marijuana legalization and many other issues.

"What I am very proud of is that state attorneys general are stepping up to the plate," Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said, citing efforts by her counterparts, including in Virginia, Massachusetts, New York and Hawaii.

Her colleague to the north, Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson, already stopped Trump's temporary travel ban against refugees by filing a lawsuit.

Rosenblum predicted there

will be many more opportunities.

In particular, she worries that the federal government will try to force states to restrict abortion rights by cutting funding for Planned Parenthood. The Hyde Amendment already prevents federal dollars from funding

abortions, she said, but Planned Parenthood also offers treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and preventive health care. She said she already has staffers researching a possible

"The penalizing of an organization that provides abortions but that does a huge amount

of other very, very important health care, to treat our citizens, absolutely, we're going to push back against that to the greatest extent possible," Rosenblum

Attorneys general, particularly from more liberal states, are coordinating more via informal phone calls and emails, and in meetings such as those of the Democratic Attorneys General Association which Rosenblum co-chairs.

Washington state's lawsuit resulted in a federal judge halting Trump's travel ban, Trump promised to issue a revised order, saying it's needed to keep America safe. Ferguson said in a telephone interview late Tuesday that his team is ready to take further action.

'When it comes out, we will scrutinize it to see if it is constitutional and lawful," Ferguson said.

"If it is not, you can be sure we'll be following up."

The events before and after Trump's signing of the executive order highlight the new level of communication among liberal states' attorneys general. The Democratic Attorneys General Association had just finished holding a meeting in Florida when the order was signed, on Jan. 27, a Friday.

Ferguson was flying back to Seattle but already had a team of five attorneys and support staff ready to pounce immediately and into the weekend.

"The pace for those 72 hours, to say it was intense would be significant understatement," Ferguson said. "We felt every hour mattered."

On Jan. 30, they asked a federal court for a temporary restraining order to prevent enforcement of Trump's order, claiming it was unconstitutional. Rosenblum said she helped organize a statement from 18 attorneys general supporting Ferguson's lawsuit.

Eric Schneiderman, attorney general for New York, which was one of those 18 states and which also filed a lawsuit, said attorneys general are having an "awakening" regarding the Trump administration.

Rosenblum said Ferguson deserves praise for being "first out of the gate" and that she feels no rivalry about being first to stand up against White House orders that are seen as illegal or unconstitutional.

"There's going to be plenty to go around," Rosenblum said.

BRIEFLY

Oregon farm regulators may cut down federal inspections

SALEM (AP) — Oregon farm regulators may reduce the number of inspections they conduct for federal officials so they can catch up on a backlog of state inspections.

The Capital Press reports that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration pays the Oregon Department of Agriculture \$700,000 per year to make sure food manufacturers are following sanitation standards and other regulations. A state audit found that the program had a backlog of 2,800 facilities that were overdue for an inspection by at least three months

Stephanie Page, director of food safety and animal health for the ODA, says the agency is considering cutting down its yearly federal inspections from 500 to 400. The change would free up about 700 hours a year and reduce the agency's federal funding by one-fifth.

Activists bring Portland council meeting to halt

PORTLAND (AP) — Protesters demanding the resignation of Mayor Ted Wheeler shut down a Portland City Council meeting.

Activist Mimi German organized the protest that led to a lengthy recess Wednesday. She says her group would shut down City Hall until its concerns about homelessness and police tactics are addressed.

The activists are upset about the recent police shooting of a black

teenager and alleged police brutality at street protests.

Wheeler missed the meeting because of jury duty. Commissioner Chloe Eudaly introduced the first item on the agenda and was quickly interrupted. She recessed the meeting but later came out to speak

with German. Security eventually cleared the council chamber, warning people they would be arrested if they did not leave.

Portland police said three men in their 20s were arrested after a group remained unlawfully in the entry way of City Hall.

Park planned to honor doctor killed in sled crash

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) - A Klamath Falls hospital has announced plans for a public park to honor a doctor who died last month from injuries suffered in a sledding

Sky Lakes Medical Center plans to develop the park on a gravel lot across from the clinic where Dr. Stephanie Van Dyke served as medical director.

The 39-year-old was critically injured Jan. 7 when she was hit by a pickup while sledding in a neighborhood. She died five days later.

Sky Lakes president Paul Stewart says the park will be a place for exercise, relaxation and an investment in green space, all of which Van Dyke encouraged through her work.

The Herald and News reports that Sky Lakes owns part of the land for the proposed park and will lease the rest from Klamath Falls.

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

— 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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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2017, EO Media Group

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AccuWeather.com Forecast **SATURDAY** Cold with clouds Mostly cloudy and Cold with clouds Mostly cloudy with Cloudy and cold a little snow and sun cold and sun

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST 39° 23° 21° 25° 21° 43° **21°** 26° **ALMANAC**

through 3 p.m. yesterday **TEMPERATURE** HIGH LOW Yesterday **Normals** 68° (2002) 5° (1894) **PRECIPITATION** 24 hours ending 3 p.m.

PENDLETON

1.88" Month to date Normal month to date 0.90' 3.53" Year to date Last year to date Normal year to date **HERMISTON**

n. yesterday											
TEMPERATURE											
HIGH	LOW										
47°	34°										
50°	30°										
71° (1988)	13° (1993)										
TION											
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.02											
	TURE HIGH 47° 50° 71° (1988)										

Month to date

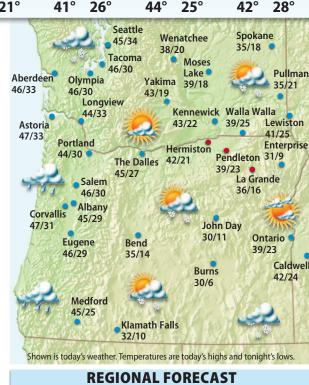
Normal month to date Year to date

1.57"

3.26

Last year to date 1.44' Normal year to date 2.03' **SUN AND MOON** Sunrise today 6:44 a.m. Sunset tonight Moonrise today

5:34 p.m. 4:54 a.m. 2:45 p.m. Full First Last Mar 12 Feb 26 Mar 20 Mar 5 afternoon across the south.



39°

24°

38°

27°

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy and chilly today; a brief shower or two, except dry in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Cold today with intervals of clouds and sun; a snow Western Washington: Clouds and sun today. A shower in spots; arriving in the

Eastern Washington: Clouds and sun in the north, near the Idaho border and in the mountains today; sun in south and central parts, and the Cascades. Cascades: Mostly cloudy today with a snow shower. Very cold in the south; chilly in Northern California: Partly sunny and

mountains.

chilly today; a snow shower in the interior

REGIONAL CITIES

Savings off cover price

	Т	oda		Fri.				
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		
Astoria	47	33	C	44	32	r		
Baker City	36	14	рс	34	15	р		
Bend	35	14	sf	38	17	c		
Brookings	47	33	C	51	38	r		
Burns	30	6	рс	28	9	C		
Enterprise	31	9	рс	28	13	р		
Eugene	46	29	c	44	30	sł		
Heppner	36	16	sf	37	17	C		
Hermiston	42	21	S	43	21	C		
John Day	30	11	sf	29	17	C		
Klamath Falls	32	10	sf	38	21	р		
La Grande	36	16	C	33	22	C		
Meacham	28	12	рс	30	18	р		
Medford	45	25	рс	51	30	C		
Newport	45	35		44	35	r		
North Bend	48	34	sh	49	37	r		
Ontario	39	23	рс	37	19	р		
Pasco	44	22	S	43	21	C		
Pendleton	39	23		39	21	C		
Portland	44	30	C	43	27	sł		
Redmond	37	15	sf	39	19	C		
Salem	46	30	C	44	30	sh		
Spokane	35	18	pc	34	18	sf		
Ukiah	31	11	sf	31	14	C		
Vancouver	46	30	C	44	29	sł		
Walla Walla	39	25	pc	39	24	C		
Yakima	43	19	S	41	24	C		
wo								
WOI	21 I		ПТ	IFS				

MOKLD CITIES Today

		uua	y		111.					
	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W			
Beijing	48	25	S		54	29	S			
Hong Kong	67	56	C		62	54	C			
lerusalem	57	42	S		61	43	S			
_ondon	51	37	sh		48	39	sh			
Mexico City	78	43	S		78	45	S			
Moscow	34	31	sn		38	20	sn			
Paris	53	40	sh		49	33	C			
Rome	59	49	рс		61	49	sh			
Seoul	35	19	S		39	25	S			
Sydney	85	71	S		80	68	рс			
Гокуо	64	39	r		50	39	рс			
•										
WINDS										

Boardman NNE 3-6 WNW 6-12 **UV INDEX TODAY**

2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0

Today

Friday

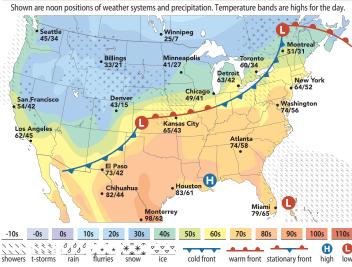
sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

(in mph)

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. **0-2**, Low 3-5, Moderate 8-10, Very High; 11+. Extreme The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num-

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



National Summary: Showers will linger over the southern Atlantic coast, the Northwest coast and extend from the Ohio Valley to northern New England today. Snow will ramp up over the northern Rockies and central Plains.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 98° in McAllen, Texas Low 8° in Stanley, Idaho

NATIONAL CITIES														
	Т	oda	у	Fri.				Т	oda	у		Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	56	28	рс	50	25	S	Louisville	74	60	С	77	45	t	
Atlanta	74	58	рс	79	54	рс	Memphis	78	60	рс	76	41	t	
Atlantic City	65		S	69	51	рс	Miami	79		c	84	66	рс	
Baltimore	73		рс	74	53	рс	Milwaukee	46	٠,	C	50	33	t	
Billings	33	21	sn	32	18	C	Minneapolis	41	27	-	32		sn	
Birmingham	76		рс	80	48	рс	Nashville	76	59	C	79	46	рс	
Boise	37	24	рс	37	23	рс	New Orleans	78		рс	79	56	рс	
Boston	65	46	рс	57	45	C	New York City	64	52	рс	66	56	рс	
Charleston, SC	78	57		81	56	S	Oklahoma City	83	39		59	27	рс	
Charleston, WV	72		C	80	58	рс	Omaha	52	32	-	38	18	sn	
Chicago	49		r	62	31	t	Philadelphia	72	54		75	55	рс	
Cleveland	67		C	73		t	Phoenix	64	42	-	63	42	-	
Dallas	88	54	-	73	38		Portland, ME	50	37	-	49	36		
Denver	43		sn	28		sf	Providence	65		рс	60	46	C	
Detroit	63	42	рс	66		t	Raleigh	78		рс	80	57	рс	
El Paso	73		S	63	37	-	Rapid City	29	19	sn	29	7	C	
Fairbanks	23		sn	34		sn	Reno	35		sf	37	22	рс	
Fargo	35		C	29		C	Sacramento	55	32		55	36	рс	
Honolulu	78		pc	77		C	St. Louis	73		C	74	32	рс	
Houston	83	61	S	82	49	pc	Salt Lake City	37		sn	36	19	рс	
Indianapolis	69		r	71	37	-	San Diego	60	47	-	62	48	S	
Jacksonville	78	57		80	56	pc	San Francisco	54		рс	55	42	pc	
Kansas City	65		C	51	22	-	Seattle	45		рс	44	30	sh	
Las Vegas	56	38	-	55	39	-	Tucson	65		S	64	35	S	
Little Rock	79		pc	73		S	Washington, DC	74		рс	75	57	рс	
Los Angeles	62		S	62	46	-	Wichita	76	34		49	23	pc	
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain,														