

\$5.6M for Oregon farm-to-school funding passes key committee

Lawmakers also consider increasing tax credit for crop donations

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau



Brian Clem

SALEM — A bill directing \$5.6 million to Oregon's farm-to-school food program has won unanimous approval from the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Now, House Bill 2038 must compete against other spending bills in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, which is prioritizing requests for funding in the next biennium amid a projected state budget deficit of \$1.6 billion.

The bill would provide nearly \$4.6 million for grants to help school districts buy foods grown and processed in Oregon and more than \$900,000 for food-, garden- and agriculture-based education.

The committee's chairman, Brian Clem, D-Salem, noted that existing farm-to-school funding would be eliminated under the 2017-2019 budget recommended by Gov. Kate Brown and halved under the proposal by the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Lawmakers have been advised to be selective in their requests for funding to the Ways and Means Committee, given budget constraints, he said.

If farm-to-school funding is significantly reduced from the amount requested in HB 2039, Clem recommended that the program revert to a competitive grant system.

Currently, all school districts receive non-competitive grants to buy Oregon food products, but this approach wouldn't provide enough incentive if each received only a small amount of money, he said.

"No one school district will find that worth doing," he said.

The history of Oregon's farm-to-school program goes back a decade, when lawmakers created the position of a farm-to-school coordinator in 2007.

A competitive grant pilot program armed with \$200,000 was created in 2011, with funding expanded to \$1.2 million in 2013. During the 2015 legislative session, another \$3.3 million was added to the program and grants for food purchases were made non-competitive.

Aside from voting to approve HB 2038 during its April 4 meeting, the House Agriculture Committee also considered another bill that would increase tax credits for farmers who donate crops to food banks and similar institutions.

Under House Bill 3041, the tax credit would increase from 15 percent to 25 percent of the value of crops donated.

Jenny Dresler, state public policy director for the Oregon Farm Bureau, said the organization understands Oregon's tight budget situation.

If resources are available, though, lawmakers should support the bill because it would help farmers overcome financial barriers to donating crops, Dresler said.

Tax Fairness Oregon, a group that opposes tax breaks to preserve state revenues, doesn't believe the tax credit increase is justified, said Jody Wiser, its founder.

"Why are we doing it? We don't have any statistical analysis to show the need is there," she said.

Restaurants and grocery stores also donate food, but must content themselves with a deduction to their taxable income, rather than a tax credit, Wiser said.

"It's hard to explain why farmers should be treated so differently than other food contributors," she said.

Wyden to hold town halls in Eastern Oregon

East Oregonian

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will hold town halls in 11 central and eastern Oregon counties from April 17-23, as part of his goal to hold annual town halls in each of the state's 36 counties.

Umatilla County will be the last stop on Wyden's string of town halls, 5 p.m. at McLoughlin High School in Milton-Freewater on April 23.

He will visit Morrow County at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 22 and hold a meeting at Riverside High School in Boardman. That same day he will hold a meeting at 4:30 p.m. at La Grande High School.

With these meetings, Wyden will have held 815 town halls, as per his commitment to hold annual town halls in each Oregon county.

"It's clear from the strong turnouts so far at this year's town halls that participatory democracy is alive and well throughout Oregon," Wyden said. "I am looking forward to hearing directly from residents of central and eastern Oregon about solutions we can work on together to preserve and

protect the Oregon way of finding common ground."

A list of the meeting times and locations in northeastern Oregon:

Tuesday, April 18
• Grant County: 4 p.m., Grant-Union High School "Old Gym," 911 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day

Wednesday, April 19
• Baker County: 9 a.m., Baker High School auditorium, 2500 E Street, Baker City

Friday, April 21
• Sherman County: 1:30 p.m., Sherman County High School gym, 65912 High School Loop, Moro

Saturday, April 22
• Morrow County: 10 a.m., Riverside Junior/Senior High School auditorium, 210 Boardman Ave. N.E., Boardman

• Union County: 4:30 p.m., La Grande High School auditorium, 708 K Ave., La Grande

Sunday, April 23
• Wallowa County: 12 p.m., Joseph Community Center, 102 E. First St., Joseph

• Umatilla County: 5 p.m., Jack Williams auditorium, McLoughlin High School 120 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater

Measure to put Yakima's immigration policy into ordinance dies

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Officials say an ordinance to ensure residents receive city services regardless of immigration status has died.

The *Yakima Herald-Republic* reports City Council voted 4-2 Tuesday to kill the proposed ordinance that would have required the city of Yakima not to ask about a person's immigration status.

Councilwomen Carmen Mendez and Dulce Gutierrez who drafted the ordinance described it as a public safety policy.

Yakima police say they already do not ask about immigration status because they do not want to deter people from reporting a crime.

Councilwoman Maureen Adkison, who supporting killing the ordinance, says the council wasted four months discussing a policy city police were already respecting. Council members Bill Lover, Holly Couzens and Mayor Kathy Coffey voted in favor of Adkison's motion.

Young salmon risk 'gas bubble trauma'

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Young salmon and steelhead migrating from the Columbia River Basin in unusually high flows face a potentially lethal problem in spillways at dams where increased nitrogen in the water can cause tissue-damaging trauma.

However, managers of fisheries say special features at dams meant to reduce nitrogen will help the fish make it to the ocean, and survival should be about average based on previous high-flow years.

Like natural waterfalls, a dam's spillway increases dissolved gas, including nitrogen, in water when it smashes into other water below. The nitrogen can cause bubbles to form inside fish, similar to the condition that human divers experience when they get the bends.

The standard for total dissolved gas considered safe for fish is 110 percent. Dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers have been near or above 120 percent in recent weeks.

"We're seeing elevated symptoms of gas bubble trauma," said Ritchie Graves of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "But I

wouldn't say something horrible is happening at this stage."

Fish flows at four federal dams on the lower Columbia River and four more on the lower Snake River are about double what is typical this time of year. As a result, managers are being forced to spill water rather than run it through energy-generating turbines.

Graves said studies have found that about 1 percent of fish have symptoms when the total dissolved gas reaches 115 to 120 percent. At 135 percent, about 20 to 25 percent of fish have symptoms that include gas bubbles forming in gill filaments, fins and eyes. Graves said fish can't sense the danger.

The problem became apparent with the building of the John Day Dam on the Columbia River. Dissolved gas reached 140 percent, killing thousands of adult fish migrating upstream.

In the 1990s, after runs of salmon and steelhead started receiving federal protection under the Endangered Species Act, dams on the lower Columbia and lower Snake rivers began being retrofitted with deflecting structures at spillways to reduce dissolved gas.

Walden visiting Bend for town hall

BEND (AP) — U.S. Rep. Greg Walden plans to visit Bend next week for a town hall meeting.

Bend is the largest city in Walden's district, and *The Bulletin* newspaper reports the Republican has been criticized for not holding a town hall meeting there since 2013.

The critics say Walden has been avoiding Bend because it does not give him the unquestioned

support he receives elsewhere in his largely rural district.

Walden's visit will be on April 13 at Mountain View High School.

Town hall meetings held by members of Congress have drawn more attention since Donald Trump was elected president. Several Republican lawmakers have been met by hecklers and organized protests.

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

www.eastoregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255
or go online to www.eastoregonian.com
and click on 'Subscribe'

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

Subscriber services:
For home delivery, vacation stops or delivery concerns: 1-800-522-0255

Didn't receive your paper? Call 1-800-522-0255
before noon Tuesday through Friday
or before 10 a.m. Saturday
for same-day redelivery

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings off cover price
EZPay	\$14.50	41 percent
52 weeks	\$173.67	41 percent
26 weeks	\$91.86	38 percent
13 weeks	\$47.77	36 percent

*EZ Pay = one-year rate with a monthly credit or debit card/check charge

Single copy price:

\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

Advertising Director: Marissa Williams
541-278-2669 • adirector@eastoregonian.com

Advertising Services: Laura Jensen
541-966-0806 • ljensen@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia Consultants:
• Terri Briggs
541-278-2678 • tbriggs@eastoregonian.com

• Danni Halladay
541-278-2683 • dhalladay@eastoregonian.com

• Jeanne Jewett
541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com

• Dayle Stinson
541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

• Audra Workman
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising
1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legal@eastoregonian.com

NEWS
• To submit news tips and press releases: • call 541-966-0818 • fax 541-278-8314 • email news@eastoregonian.com

• To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News: email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers in at 541-966-0818.

• To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email rstruthers@eastoregonian.com or visit www.eastoregonian.com/community/announcements

• To submit a Letter to the Editor: mail to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.

• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips: 541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING
Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Cloudy	Becoming windier with a shower	Cooler with a few showers	Partly sunny and cool	A shower in the afternoon

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

65°	51°	61°	38°	51°	35°	52°	36°	54°	35°
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

70°	52°	66°	40°	58°	39°	58°	36°	60°	34°
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 63° 44°

Normals 59° 38°

Records 81° (1952) 24° (1975)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace

Month to date Trace

Normal month to date 0.22"

Year to date 6.27"

Last year to date 4.02"

Normal year to date 4.18"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 63° 46°

Normals 62° 38°

Records 82° (1960) 21° (1975)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace

Month to date Trace

Normal month to date 0.11"

Year to date 4.93"

Last year to date 2.80"

Normal year to date 3.22"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 6:26 a.m.

Sunset tonight 7:30 p.m.

Moonrise today 2:58 p.m.

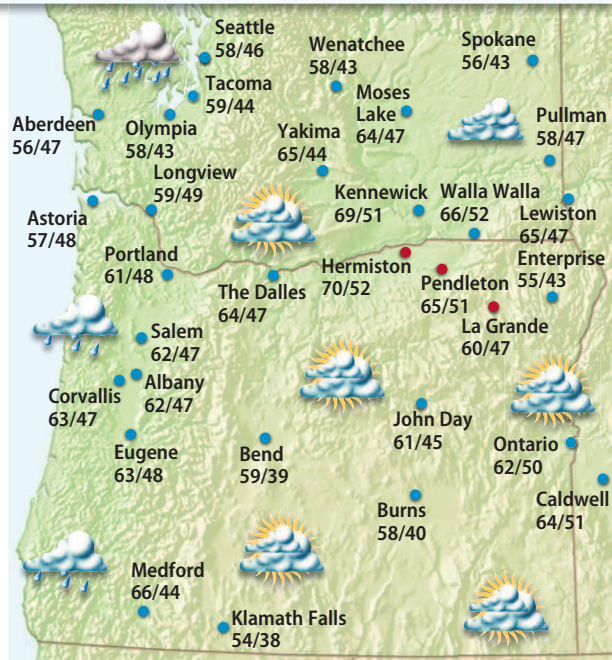
Moonset today 4:23 a.m.

Full Apr 10

Last Apr 19

New Apr 26

First May 2



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today; a little rain in the morning, but any time in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mainly cloudy today; cooler in the south and central parts. A little rain tonight.

Western Washington: Morning rain, then a shower tonight; however, a shower across the south.

Eastern Washington: Cloudy today; a shower in the north, toward the Cascades and in central sections.

Cascades: Mostly cloudy today; a passing morning shower; however, dry in the south.

Northern California: Cloudy today; rain, heavy at times, but dry in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	57	48	r	52	43	r
Baker City	57	42	c	59	35	sh
Bend	59	39	pc	51	32	r
Brookings	59	47	r	49	41	sh
Burns	58	40	c	51	31	sh
Enterprise	55	43	c	55	35	sh
Eugene	63	48	c	56	41	sh
Heppner	64	48	c	60	35	sh
Hermiston	70	52	c	66	40	pc
John Day	61	45	pc	55	34	sh
Klamath Falls	54	38	c	47	28	r
La Grande	60	47	c	60	36	sh
Meacham	59	47	c	56	33	sh
Medford	66	44	pc	54	38	sh
Newport	59	46	r	53	41	r
North Bend	61	48	r	55	42	sh
Ontario	62	50	c	64	39	sh
Pasco	69	49	c	66	39	pc
Pendleton	65	51	c	61	38	c
Portland	61	48	c	57	43	sh
Redmond	64	40	c	56	32	c
Salem	62	47	c	57	42	sh
Spokane	56	43	c	56	36	r
Ukiah	59	44	c	54	32	sh
Vancouver	60	47	c	55	43	sh
Walla Walla	66	52	c	63	40	sh
Yakima	65	44	c	63	39	pc

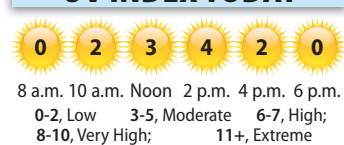
WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	79	52	s	71	57	pc
Hong Kong	77	70	c	79	71	pc
Jerusalem	77	51	s	65	46	pc
London	58	44	pc	59	42	pc
Mexico City	79	51	pc	81	53	pc
Moscow	60	43	c	53	38	sh
Paris	56	39	pc	63	43	s
Rome	66	47	t	66	46	pc
Seoul	55	45	pc	71	50	pc
Sydney	72	60	c	73	61	pc
Tokyo	64	58	c	67	60	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Fri.
Boardman	SW 6-12	SW 10-20
Pendleton	SW 6-12	SW 12-25

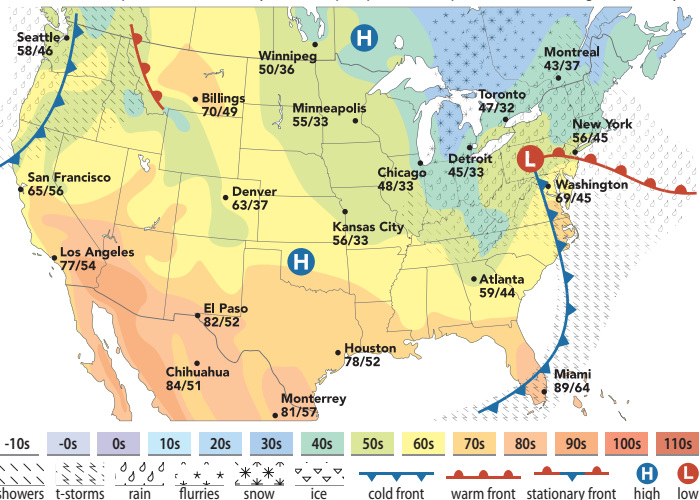
UV INDEX TODAY



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: A storm will bring flooding rain, high winds, severe thunderstorms and snow to the Northeast today. A new storm will bring rain, snow and gusty winds to the Northwest. Storms will rumble in South Florida.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 95° in Plant City, Fla. **Low 3°** in Leadville, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	70	45	s	77	47	pc	Louisville	51	38	r	57	36	pc
Atlanta	59	44	c	61	41	s	Memphis	66	43	pc	64	43	s
Atlanta City	60	47	r	53	39	c	Miami	89	64	pc	80	59	s
Baltimore	65	43	r	51	36	c	Millwaukee	47	33	c	50	37	s
Billings													