

Forecast boosts net revenue by \$200 million

By **CLAIRE WITYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — State economists say the state may have nearly \$200 million more than expected in net available resources, narrowing Oregon's projected budget gap to about \$1.4 billion.

The May economic and revenue forecast provides the best estimate of how much the state can expect to realize in revenue before the Legislature adjourns in July. Legislators are busy trying to resolve the gap between what it expects to bring in and how much it would cost to maintain state services at current levels.

Tuesday's higher than expected revenue forecast also brings Oregon closer to triggering the kicker, although that's not a sure bet, said state economist Mark McMullen.

Overall, Oregon's rate of economic growth is slowing, although "Oregon's economy is bigger than ever and getting bigger every day," McMullen said.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said in a statement that the forecast included good news about revenue growth and the state's economy, but cuts to key services remained possible.

"...This doesn't change the fact that Oregon still has a structural deficit," Brown said. "This means in the long term, whether the economy is good or bad, the state will struggle to pay for education, public safety, child welfare and health care."

The governor said she was meeting with business and labor leaders every week to prevent significant cuts to such services, which may be required in order to close the budget gap without new revenues.

Patrick Critser, chair of the Oregon Business Plan and the CEO of the Tillamook County Creamery Association, reiterated the Oregon Business Plan's stance in a written statement Tuesday, saying that new revenues alone "will not fix the state's basic budget problems."

However, Critser said the coalition of businesses behind the Oregon Business Plan "remained optimistic" and "encouraged" by engagement from the legislature and the governor.

State Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, said the revenue outlook does not change what he has characterized as the need for changes to the state's tax system, a sentiment echoed by Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland:

"We can't dig out of this hole with cuts alone," Burdick said in a statement. "We need to reform and stabilize our revenue system as well." Burdick said legislators were examining "both sides of the ledger."

Meanwhile, Republican leaders in the legislature said higher than expected tax revenues were evidence in favor of spending cuts. House Minority Leader Mike McLane, R-Powell Butte, called the forecast "more evidence that Oregon needs to tighten its belt and get serious about the unsustainable rate of spending in Salem."

Legally blind sled-dog racer plans to run for congress

BEND (AP) — A legally blind woman who has competed in four of Alaska's Iditarod sled-dog races has announced she will be running for congress.

KTVZ-TV reports 32-year-old Democrat Rachael Sedoris-Salemo filed paperwork Monday to run for Oregon's Second Congressional District seat.

Sedoris-Salemo plans to unseat incumbent Rep. Greg Walden. She says she is frustrated with politicians representing special interests.

Sedoris-Salemo had been born with an uncorrectable visual disorder. She has competed in the Paralympics in tandem cycling and has worked much of her life at her father's sled-dog ride business at Mt. Bachelor.

She bought the business from her father two years ago.

Oregon insurers seek double-digit price increases for 2018

BEND (AP) — Health insurers in Oregon are seeking double-digit price increases for 2018, saying it's because of the sicker-than-expected customers that became eligible under the Affordable Care Act.

The proposed increases are not quite as steep as they've been in recent years, *The Bulletin* newspaper of Bend reported.

Companies are seeking to raise premiums on their individual market policies by between 6.9 percent and 21.8 percent. The prices on those policies went up by an average of 27 percent for 2017 and 23 percent in 2016.

In public filings, carriers reported their members were more expensive than expected in 2016, the most recent year for which statistics are available. Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, for example, spent 9 percent more than expected on its members in 2016, and profits were down 7 percent. The company seeks to raise premiums by nearly 19 percent.

Roughly 218,000 Oregon residents are covered under individual market policies, about 5 percent of the state's population. Most people with commercial insurance are covered by employers.



In this March 2009 file photo, Rachael Sedoris, from Bend, drives her team down Fourth Avenue with Yvonne Ooten, of Tallahassee, Fla., in the sled during the ceremonial start of the Iditarod race in Anchorage, Alaska. The legally blind woman, who now goes by the last name of Sedoris-Salemo and has competed in four of Alaska's Iditarod sled-dog races, has announced she will be running for congress.

Oregon jobless rate drops to 3.7 percent

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon's record-low jobless rate has fallen again.

The state Employment Department said Tuesday the unemployment rate for April was 3.7 percent, a slight drop from March's record-low rate of 3.8 percent.

The agency said gains were widespread among major industries, with government among the few sectors to shed jobs.

The unemployment rate this time last year was 5 percent. Over the past year, construction has been the fastest-growing industry, followed by transportation, warehousing and utilities.

Another unemployment measure, known as U-6, fell to 8 percent in April — down from 10.4 percent a year ago. The figure includes discouraged workers who stopped looking as well as part-time workers who want but can't get full-time jobs.

Sheriff: No violations found in Ammon Bundy jail treatment

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A sheriff says she found no criminal violations in the treatment of states' rights advocate Ammon Bundy in federal custody at a privately-run jail 60 miles west of Las Vegas.

Nye County Sheriff Sharon Wehrly said Tuesday the Nevada Southern Detention Center asked her to look into complaints posted on social media about Bundy's detention in handcuffs in a holding cell for most of a day earlier this month.

Wehrly says no wrongdoing was found, and no recommendations were made for jail policy changes.

The sheriff says she met with

Bundy family members, the Nye County manager and two county commissioners last Thursday about results of the probe.

Commission Chairman Dan Schinhofen says so jailers followed procedure after Bundy didn't comply with rules for removing handcuffs, and left him in a changing room.

Remains confirmed as those of missing mushroom hunter

GRANTS PASS (AP) — DNA testing has confirmed that remains found in Northern California are those of a southwestern Oregon man who went missing 18 months ago after wandering from a campsite while hunting for mushrooms.

The Del Norte County Sheriff's Office said Monday the remains were those of 59-year-old Lee Martinho. *The Grants Pass Daily Courier* reports the remains were found in March in rough terrain near Gasquet, California.

Kathleen McVarish of Cave Junction said her brother was a carpenter by trade who loved camping and gold mining. She said he was a champion wrestler for Illinois Valley High in 1973 and would give the shirt off his back even when he was poor.

Campgrounds proposed for three coastal state parks

LINCOLN CITY (AP) — Oregon park officials are proposing a small campground and rental cabins for Fogarty Creek in a plan for the 25 state parks on the Oregon Coast between Lincoln City and Yachats.

The plan also proposes expanded camping at South Beach State Park, along with a new disc golf course. Both projects join an ongoing plan for a new 100-site campground at Brian Booth State Park, the *Statesman Journal* reported.

The 283-page proposal, which also includes plans for new trail systems and picnic areas, is a wish list for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, said Ian Matthews, park planner for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

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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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Cloudy, showers; breezy, cooler	Warmer; a stray afternoon shower	Clouds and sun	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and pleasant

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
52°	41°	60°	45°	74°
41°	60°	45°	71°	50°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
58°	43°	68°	48°	80°
43°	68°	48°	78°	51°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m., yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW

Yesterday 61° 37°

Normals 71° 47°

Records 94° (1924) 32° (1905)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.39"

Normal month to date 0.58"

Year to date 8.60"

Last year to date 5.19"

Normal year to date 5.69"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m., yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW

Yesterday 67° 36°

Normals 73° 46°

Records 97° (1939) 31° (1932)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.19"

Normal month to date 0.56"

Year to date 6.07"

Last year to date 4.19"

Normal year to date 4.55"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:23 a.m.

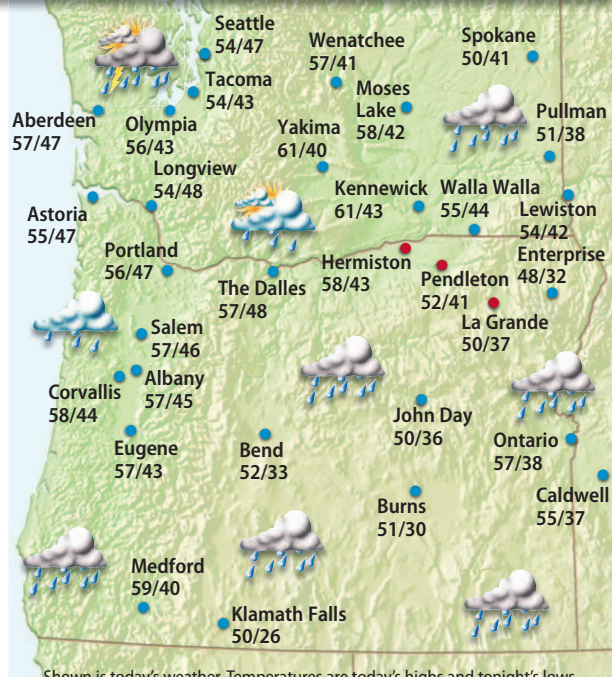
Sunset tonight 8:21 p.m.

Moonrise today 12:23 a.m.

Moonset today 10:04 a.m.

Last New First Full

May 18 May 25 June 1 June 9



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today with showers; breezy across the north. A brief shower or two tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Cooler today; showers, but rain and drizzle in central parts and near the Cascades.

Western Washington: A couple of showers and a thunderstorm today, but showers across the south.

Eastern Washington: Showers around today, but rain and drizzle near the Idaho border and in the mountains.

Cascades: Rain and drizzle today, but snow and rain in the south.

Northern California: Rain and drizzle today; a morning shower or two, then snow in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	55	47	sh	58	46	pc
Baker City	53	30	r	53	35	c
Bend	52	33	r	55	31	pc
Brookings	55	43	r	58	45	pc
Burns	51	30	r	53	31	c
Enterprise	48	32	r	46	38	r
Eugene	57	43	sh	61	39	pc
Heppner	51	38	sh	58	40	c
Hermiston	58	43	sh	68	48	c
John Day	50	36	r	50	40	r
Klamath Falls	50	26	r	59	29	pc
La Grande	50	37	r	52	42	c
Meacham	47	34	r	50	39	c
Medford	59	40	r	66	41	pc
Newport	53	45	sh	55	43	sh
North Bend	56	46	sh	59	45	pc
Ontario	57	38	r	59	44	sh
Pasco	61	42	sh	69	45	c
Pendleton	52	41	sh	60	45	c
Portland	56	47	sh	61	48	sh
Redmond	55	29	sh	58	28	pc
Salem	57	46	sh	61	43	sh
Spokane	50	41	r	58	43	c
Ukiah	47	33	r	52	37	r
Vancouver	55	47	sh	59	46	sh
Walla Walla	55	44	r	61	47	c
Yakima	61	40	sh	71	43	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	90	60	s	94	62	s
Hong Kong	84	76	sh	85	76	pc
Jerusalem	82	59	s	82	63	s
London	71	56	c	64	50	r
Mexico City	84	58	pc	85	57	pc
Moscow	48	36	r	49	40	c
Paris	77	57	pc	80	57	pc
Rome	79	58	s	78	57	s
Seoul	70	52	pc	75	53	s
Sydney	69	52	s	69	56	pc
Tokyo	70	60	pc	67	60	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	W 10-20	W 6-12
Pendleton	WSW 10-20	W 7-14

UV INDEX TODAY

1 2 3 3 2 1

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.

