

Water rights transaction fee hike gains traction



A linear irrigation system operates in a corn field in Oregon's Willamette Valley. A bill proposing to raise fees on many Oregon water rights transactions by nearly 16 percent has unanimously cleared the Subcommittee on Natural Resources of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A key group of lawmakers has approved a 16 percent fee hike for Oregon water rights transactions while a more controversial proposal has languished.

Fees for numerous water rights transactions administered by the Oregon Water Resources Department would collectively be raised by 15.88 percent under House Bill 2295, which averts the loss of 5.5 full-time staff dedicated to processing such requests.

"People would have to be laid off and transactions would go through slower," said Rachel Snell, executive director of the Oregon Water Resources Congress, which represents irrigation districts.

"You've got to have people at

the department who can process those pieces of paper," Snell said.

The bill is scheduled for a June 16 vote by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means after recently clearing its Natural Resources Subcommittee with a "do pass" recommendation, which bolsters its chances of approval by the full Legislature.

If HB 2295 does become effective, it would mark the third increase to water rights transactions fees since 2009. But if it fails, those fees would revert to 2009 levels.

The OWRD argues the latest hike is necessary due to rising salary, benefit and retirement expenses, and points out that it has significantly reduced backlogs of various transaction types in recent years.

The Oregon Farm Bureau does not oppose HB 2295 as long as

there are no other new fee increases that would skew funding for water rights transactions more heavily toward irrigators, said Mary Anne Nash, public policy counsel for the organization.

Currently, the total cost of such transactions — which covers roughly 35 staff positions — is split evenly between the general fund and irrigator fees.

A proposal to impose a new \$100 fee on all existing water rights in Oregon, House Bill 2706, is also before the Joint Ways and Means Committee but it hasn't been referred to a subcommittee, which is generally a necessary first step toward passage.

While HB 2706 will technically stay alive through the end of the 2017 legislative session, it's expected to go no further this year, said Snell of OWRD.

House approves ban on 'lunch shaming'

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon House of Representatives has unanimously passed a bill to prohibit school practices that single out pupils whose parents don't pay their school lunch bills.

The bipartisan bill by House Minority Leader Mike McLane, R-Powell Butte, and Rep. Brian Clem, D-Salem, now heads to the Senate.

The two lawmakers proposed the "lunch shaming" ban after seeing widespread media coverage of the phenomenon. Lunch shaming can mean practices or policies that shame, penalize or single out pupils whose parents have failed to settle up or are late in paying for their children's participation in the school lunch program.

"Collection tactics by having kids singled out is just something we want to nip in the bud," McLane said.

The state's largest school district, Portland Public Schools, maintains a policy that allows schools to stamp the hands of pupils whose guardians owe lunch money, or to give a "gentle reminder" to the students.

"The student is singled out and reminded to have their parents pay the bill even to the extent of not allowing the student to eat lunch



Students at Hermiston's West Park Elementary School are served lunch in this file photo. The Oregon House has passed a bill banning school districts from collection actions that single out kids when their parents don't pay lunch bills.

"Collection tactics by having kids singled out is just something we want to nip in the bud."

— Mike McLane, House Minority Leader, R-Powell Butte

but giving the student an alternative meal of milk, fruit and vegetables," McLane said of the Portland policy. "When you could be having lasagna or something hot, you are singled out, and that is embarrassing."

The Portland policy prescribes a series of steps to take to remind

guardians even before a student's school meal plan is in the red. The stamp, for instance, can be applied with principal approval when a pupil's account falls below \$13.50, the equivalent of five lunches.

Several other states have passed similar legislation.

Ex-girlfriend says man was erratic before beheading mother

ESTACADA (AP) — The ex-girlfriend of an Oregon man accused of killing his mother on Mother's Day and then cutting off her head and carrying it into a store says her ex-boyfriend's eyes "did not look right" beginning two months before the incident.

Court documents state Heather Suydam noticed a drastic change in Joshua Webb's behavior before the incident, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive reported Tuesday.

Suydam told authorities that Webb called her on April 8 and told her about an "odd, squid-pulsing sensation" he was having in the back of his head. This call came a few days after Suydam said Webb became "super religious," but that it was unclear what faith he started believing in.

Webb, 36, remains held in jail

on charges of murder and abuse of a corpse in the May 14 death of his mother, 59-year-old Tina Webb. He is accused of killing his mother, driving her vehicle to a nearby city and carrying her head into the town's only grocery store, investigators said. He is then accused of running to the back of the store and stabbing 64-year-old Thriftway employee Mike Wagner.

Wagner and other employees subdued Webb, who was covered in blood and armed with a knife, and tied him up with duct tape until emergency responders arrived, witnesses said. Wagner underwent surgery for his injuries and is recovering at home, his family said.

Webb faces additional charges in the stabbing of Wagner and death of his dog at the family home.

Northwest hop acreage estimated to increase by six percent

MOXEE, Wash. (AP) — Washington, Oregon and Idaho are on pace to set another record in hop acreage, but reports indicate supply is catching up to demand.

The *Capital Press* reports USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service estimates the three states will harvest 54,135 acres this year, 6 percent more than the 2016 crop of 50,857 acres.

According to the NASS, Washington accounts for 72 percent of the national average with 38,921 acres. Oregon, with 8,045 acres, is 15 percent of the acreage, and Idaho, with 7,169 acres, is 13 percent of the estimate.

Hop Growers of America officials say acreage has caught up with the needs of small, craft breweries and big brewers are losing market share worldwide.

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 —

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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

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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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Single copy price:

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | |
| A couple of afternoon showers | A few afternoon showers | Pleasant and warmer | Mostly sunny and comfortable | Mostly sunny |
| 73° 55° | 63° 50° | 75° 53° | 84° 55° | 90° 60° |
| 76° 57° | 71° 52° | 80° 55° | 89° 59° | 94° 62° |

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

| Today | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| 73° 55° | 63° 50° | 75° 53° | 84° 55° | 90° 60° |

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

| Today | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| 76° 57° | 71° 52° | 80° 55° | 89° 59° | 94° 62° |

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

| TEMPERATURE | HIGH | LOW |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Yesterday | 69° | 47° |
| Normals | 78° | 52° |
| Records | 103° (1933) | 37° (1930) |

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.95"
Normal month to date 0.72"
Year to date 10.10"
Last year to date 5.92"
Normal year to date 7.23"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

| TEMPERATURE | HIGH | LOW |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Yesterday | 73° | 51° |
| Normals | 79° | 53° |
| Records | 102° (1933) | 37° (1930) |

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.24"
Normal month to date 0.33"
Year to date 6.55"
Last year to date 4.35"
Normal year to date 5.44"

SUN AND MOON

| | Last | New | First | Full |
|----------------|------------|-----|-------|------|
| Sunrise today | 5:05 a.m. | | | |
| Sunset tonight | 8:46 p.m. | | | |
| Moonrise today | 12:14 a.m. | | | |
| Moonset today | 10:58 a.m. | | | |

June 17 June 23 June 30 July 8

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Periods of rain today, except a passing shower in the south. A shower tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Clouds today. Showers across the north; partly sunny in the morning, then mostly cloudy in the south in the afternoon.

Western Washington: Periods of rain today. Showers tonight. Showers tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Cloudy today and tonight with a couple of showers.

Cascades: Periods of rain today; any time across the north, during the afternoon elsewhere.

Northern California: Sun and some clouds today. Partly cloudy tonight. Partial sunshine tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

| | Today | | | Fri. | | |
|---------------|-------|----|----|------|----|----|
| | Hi | Lo | W | Hi | Lo | W |
| Astoria | 61 | 56 | r | 62 | 49 | sh |
| Baker City | 72 | 51 | sh | 62 | 39 | sh |
| Bend | 68 | 51 | c | 61 | 41 | c |
| Brookings | 60 | 55 | pc | 61 | 53 | c |
| Burns | 73 | 50 | c | 67 | 38 | c |
| Enterprise | 68 | 50 | sh | 59 | 42 | sh |
| Eugene | 65 | 57 | sh | 65 | 49 | sh |
| Heppner | 72 | 54 | sh | 63 | 47 | sh |
| Hermiston | 76 | 57 | sh | 71 | 52 | sh |
| John Day | 72 | 53 | c | 62 | 46 | c |
| Klamath Falls | 73 | 50 | pc | 75 | 45 | pc |
| La Grande | 71 | 53 | sh | 61 | 45 | sh |
| Meacham | 68 | 51 | sh | 58 | 44 | sh |
| Medford | 78 | 60 | pc | 76 | 55 | pc |
| Newport | 59 | 54 | r | 59 | 50 | sh |
| North Bend | 65 | 58 | sh | 64 | 53 | c |
| Ontario | 81 | 60 | c | 72 | 52 | c |
| Pasco | 74 | 56 | c | 70 | 50 | c |
| Pendleton | 73 | 55 | sh | 63 | 50 | sh |
| Portland | 64 | 58 | r | 66 | 56 | sh |
| Redmond | 71 | 50 | c | 64 | 38 | c |
| Salem | 64 | 58 | r | 67 | 52 | sh |
| Spokane | 66 | 53 | sh | 63 | 47 | sh |
| Ukiah | 68 | 50 | sh | 58 | 43 | sh |
| Vancouver | 63 | 59 | r | 65 | 54 | sh |
| Walla Walla | 75 | 58 | sh | 68 | 53 | sh |
| Yakima | 69 | 51 | sh | 72 | 45 | c |

WORLD CITIES

| | Today | | | Fri. | | |
|-------------|-------|----|----|------|----|----|
| | Hi | Lo | W | Hi | Lo | W |
| Beijing | 102 | 68 | c | 101 | 72 | pc |
| Hong Kong | 88 | 81 | t | 89 | 80 | t |
| Jerusalem | 80 | 62 | s | 83 | 62 | s |
| London | 74 | 55 | pc | 74 | 58 | pc |
| Mexico City | 77 | 57 | pc | 78 | 53 | pc |
| Moscow | 52 | 46 | r | 60 | 49 | sh |
| Paris | 84 | 54 | t | 75 | 55 | pc |
| Rome | 83 | 64 | s | 84 | 66 | s |
| Seoul | 81 | 64 | s | 86 | 62 | pc |
| Sydney | 69 | 56 | pc | 65 | 55 | sh |
| Tokyo | 78 | 66 | pc | 82 | 67 | s |

WINDS

| (in mph) | Today | Friday |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| Boardman | WSW 6-12 | SW 8-16 |
| Pendleton | WSW 4-8 | WSW 6-12 |

UV INDEX TODAY

1 3 5 4 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.

National Summary: A mosaic of showers and thunderstorms will extend from the central Great Lakes to the Gulf and southern Atlantic coasts today. Showers will invade the coastal Northwest. Most other areas will be dry.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 106° in Pecos, Texas Low 25° in Truckee, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES

| | Today | | | Fri. | | |
|----------------|-------|----|----|------|----|----|
| | Hi | Lo | W | Hi | Lo | W |
| Albuquerque | 95 | 62 | s | 97 | 64 | s |
| Atlanta | 90 | 72 | t | 86 | 72 | t |
| Atlanta City | 72 | 64 | pc | 74 | 68 | c |
| Baltimore | 82 | 66 | pc | 84 | 68 | c |
| Billing | 78 | 55 | pc | 77 | 54 | c |
| Birmingham | 89 | 71 | t | 88 | 72 | t |
| Boise | 79 | 61 | c | 72 | 52 | c |
| Boston | 72 | 58 | s | 68 | 62 | c |
| Charleston, SC | 90 | 73 | pc | 89 | 74 | pc |
| Chicago | 86 | 67 | t | 86 | 70 | t |
| Cleveland | 86 | 69 | t | 91 | 71 | pc |
| Dallas | 96 | 79 | pc | 97 | 79 | s |
| Denver | 88 | 55 | pc | 91 | 59 | pc |
| Detroit | 87 | 66 | t | 88 | 68 | pc |
| El Paso | 104 | 70 | s | 104 | 73 | s |
| Fairbanks | 71 | 47 | pc | 67 | 52 | pc |
| Fargo | 81 | 56 | sh | 81 | 58 | pc |
| Honolulu | 86 | 74 | t | 86 | 74 | pc |
| Houston | 94 | 75 | pc | 94 | 76 | pc |
| Indianapolis | 86 | 69 | t | 91 | 70 | pc |
| Jacksonville | 90 | 71 | t | 88 | 71 | pc |
| Kansas City | 95 | 71 | t | 91 | 74 | t |
| Las Vegas | 105 | 79 | s | 107 | 81 | s |
| Little Rock | 90 | 73 | t | 91 | 72 | pc |
| Los Angeles | 88 | 63 | s | 90 | 63 | s |
| Louisville | 87 | 71 | t | 94 | 73 | pc |
| Memphis | 89 | 74 | t | 91 | 74 | t |
| Miami | 89 | 78 | t | 87 | 77 | t |
| Millwaukee | 88 | 68 | pc | 87 | 67 | c |
| Minneapolis | 87 | 66 | s | 88 | 67 | pc |
| Nashville | 88 | 69 | t | 92 | 71 | t |
| New Orleans | 87 | 75 | t | 88 | 74 | pc |
| New York City | 73 | 60 | pc | 68 | 63 | sh |
| Oklahoma City | 97 | 70 | t | 98 | 75 | t |
| Omaha | 94 | 68 | t | 92 | 71 | t |
| Philadelphia | 81 | 64 | pc | 81 | 68 | sh |
| St. Louis | 108 | 78 | s | 110 | 79 | s |
| Portland, ME | 69 | 55 | s | 63 | 56 | c |
| Providence | 73 | 57 | t | 70 | 62 | c |
| Raleigh | 88 | 70 | t | 89 | 69 | t |
| Rapid City | 83 | 53 | pc | 84 | 54 | pc |
| Reno | 87 | 58 | s | 94 | 63 | pc |
| Sacramento | 93 | 64 | s | 100 | 70 | t |
| Salt Lake City | 95 | 75 | t | 94 | 74 | t |
| Salt Lake City | 88 | 62 | pc | 88 | 65 | s |
| San Diego | 78 | 62 | pc | 81 | 63 | s |
| San Francisco | 72 | 57 | t | 74 | 59 | s |
| Seattle | 63 | 56 | r | 67 | 51 | sh |
| Tucson | 106 | 70 | s | 106 | 7 | |