

# Opposition continues despite changes to rural land use bill

Bill relaxing restrictions in slow-growth counties clears Senate committee

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Supporters of a bill to relax Oregon's land use restrictions in slow-growing counties were unable to overcome objections to the proposal despite several revisions.

Nonetheless, Senate Bill 432 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on June 26 by the Senate Rules Committee, albeit without a "do pass" recommendation.

Under the original language of the bill, counties with fewer than 50,000 residents that have experienced no growth since the previous federal population census were exempted from statewide land use planning goals. The amended version of SB 432 allows such slow-growing counties, and the cities within them, to adopt exceptions to statewide land use planning goals.

Such exceptions cannot take place on high-value farmland or adversely affect areas protected under a preservation plan for the Greater sage grouse, a sensitive bird species.

The amendment also



Capital Bureau

**Senate Bill 432, a bill to relax Oregon's land use restrictions in slow-growing counties, was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on June 26 by the Senate Rules Committee, albeit without a "do pass" recommendation.**

clarifies that counties that experience population growth greater than 4 percent or 1,000 residents between census reports cannot qualify for new land use exceptions.

"For all the angst over this bill, the impact on the ground is very small," said Dave Hunnicutt, executive director of Oregonians In Action, a property rights group that supports SB 432.

The Association of Oregon Counties and the League of Oregon Cities also support the bill, with representatives testifying that it provides economically-struggling counties with

more autonomy.

Local governments are often blocked from undertaking relatively minor land use change because they can't afford the costly studies required, said Erin Doyle, intergovernmental relations associate with the League of Oregon Cities.

The bill's scope would effectively be limited to eight of Oregon's 36 counties: Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Sherman, Wallowa and Wheeler.

Although the proposal's breadth was narrowed, the Oregon Farm Bureau and the 1,000 Friends of Oregon

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conservation group have maintained their opposition to SB 432.

Easing development in rural areas has raised worries about skyrocketing land values, potentially pricing farmers and ranchers out of the market while reducing sales for key agricultural suppliers, said Mary Anne Nash, public policy counsel for Oregon Farm Bureau.

"The biggest concern is everyone around them will parcelize out," she said.

High-value farmland is defined narrowly in the bill, excluding irrigation properties and those valuable for ranching, said Mary Kyle McCurdy, deputy director of 1,000 Friends of Oregon.

Land use restrictions haven't been shown to suppress economic development, but SB 432 would create different rules for different counties, said McCurdy.

"Predictability will be gone," she said.

# Oregon boy, 6, found in car trunk; critically injured

GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A 6-year-old Oregon boy was hospitalized Wednesday in critical condition with severe heat exhaustion after he was found locked inside his family's car trunk on a hot day, police said.

Police hope to review surveillance video from a camera attached to a neighbor's house to figure out how the boy got into the trunk, said Lt. Kerry Curtis, a spokesman for the Medford Police Department.

The child was likely in the trunk for up to an hour on Tuesday afternoon when temperatures reached 90 degrees, Curtis said.

He was flown by helicopter to Oregon Health & Science University Hospital in Portland, where he remains unresponsive and is undergoing brain scans, he said.

Authorities originally said in a statement that the case appeared to be an accident and not criminal. But Curtis said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday

that police have not ruled anything out. The surveillance video should provide more answers, he said.

"That's the million-dollar question that we're trying to answer, is how he got (in) there," he said.

Authorities do know the boy was not playing hide and seek, Curtis said.

The boy's parents do not speak fluent English, and a language barrier hampered the investigation until authorities could get a translator to the home Tuesday night.

The boy's father was

working in the garage and the mother was inside their home when the boy disappeared, Curtis said. Both parents thought he was with the other parent. When they realized he was missing, they began to search and the mother spotted a cellphone the boy had been playing with in the back seat of the family's 2003 Honda Civic, which was parked in an alley behind the house, Curtis said.

When she opened the car door to get the cellphone, she heard the boy whimpering in the trunk, Curtis said.

## BRIEFLY

### Man arrested after taking stranger's baby onto roof

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — Police in southern Oregon arrested a man accused of breaking into a woman's home, kidnapping her baby and taking the child onto a roof.

Klamath County District Attorney Eve Costello says the mother of the 13-month-old boy called 9-1-1 early Wednesday, saying she was stabbed while trying to protect the child from the stranger later identified as Brennan Stone of Klamath Falls.

Sheriff's deputies arrived and found Stone holding the baby on the roof of a neighbor's three-story house.

Costello says Stone threw a brick and was talking irrationally, but two officers climbed to the roof and persuaded Stone to hand them the baby.

Costello says the Klamath Falls resident was booked into jail on charges of attempted murder, kidnapping, assault and unlawful use of a weapon. The extent of the mother's injury has not been released. The baby was not hurt.

### Rental house owner not charged for recording hot tub

BEND — An Oregon judge has ordered a man who rents a house to vacationers to either stop recording a hot tub on the property's front porch or put up a sign telling guests they're being recorded.

The case ended Monday with no charges being filed against the Sunriver resort vacation rental owner, who said in court he used the camera for security reasons and to see if employees, such as housekeepers, showed up when they were supposed to, *The Bend Bulletin* reported.

The owner, 59-year-old Kenneth Neish, later told the newspaper he only wanted to know if the hot tub was left uncovered when children were present and not supervised.

"If I am told I am renting to a family and then I see 25 kids bringing a keg into the home, I need to protect my property," Neish said, calling the camera practical.

The hidden door-bell camera recorded video and audio. It came to light after Neish called police claiming to hear vacationers talking about LSD. Authorities found no such evidence and no drugs, but told the renters about the camera. Those renters then recalled getting in the tub naked, and became worried for their privacy.

"When we found out, our world was rocked," renter John Hill said. "Who would go to a vacation rental and be audio and visual recorded? We never expected that."

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel said while the front porch area is within the public domain, and therefore there is not a reasonable right to privacy, the hot tub is a private space.

Hummel said he will not be so lenient next time.

## Corrections

The June 28 story "Council approves agreement that moves Eighth Street bridge to Main" misstates the Pendleton Enhancement Project's current plans. The proposed location for the plaza is in the space formerly occupied by the Webb's Cold Storage building. Additionally, the group's work with the Pacific Northwest College of the Arts is already complete. The group is working with a consultant to produce renderings that incorporate the trusses and plaza into one concept.

Contributions in memory of former Echo resident Glenn Cochran may be made to the Hermiston VFW, P.O. Box 112, Hermiston, OR 97838 or the Jefferson Methodist Church in care of Fisher Funeral Home, 306 S.W. Washington St., Albany, OR 97321. The Cochran family was unaware that the Echo VFW, named in Wednesday's obituary, no longer exists.

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	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Delightful with clouds and sun	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Nice with plenty of sunshine	Sunny and pleasant
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
84°	57°	91°	63°	87°
57°	63°	87°	59°	89°
61°	89°	61°	87°	54°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
90°	56°	96°	66°	92°
66°	92°	61°	94°	64°
91°	91°	55°		

## ALMANAC

### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
82°	53°
83°	55°
109° (2015)	40° (1908)

### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	2.15"
Normal month to date	1.02"
Year to date	11.30"
Last year to date	6.47"
Normal year to date	7.53"

### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
85°	60°
84°	55°
107° (2015)	40° (1964)

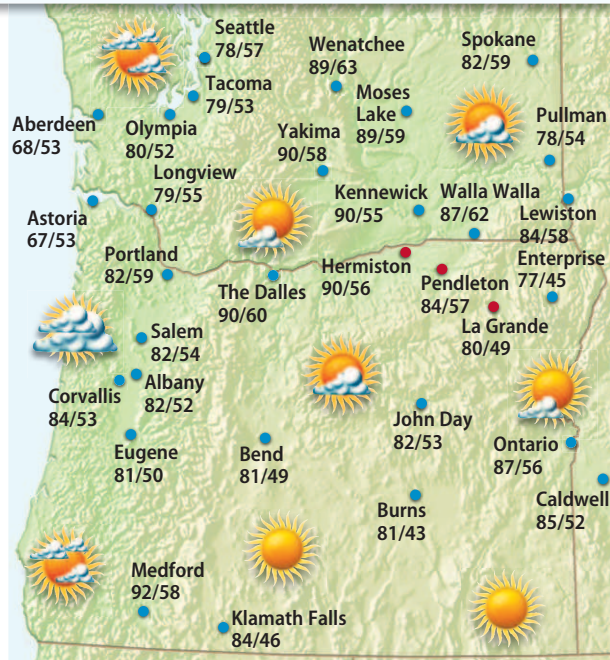
### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.28"
Normal month to date	0.56"
Year to date	6.59"
Last year to date	4.64"
Normal year to date	5.67"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:09 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:49 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:44 a.m.
Moonset today	12:08 a.m.

First	Full	Last	New
June 30	July 8	July 16	July 23



## REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Low clouds followed by some sun today. Mostly cloudy tonight.

Eastern Washington: Partly sunny today. Clear tonight. Sunny to partly cloudy tomorrow.

Cascades: Sunny today. Pleasant and warmer in central parts; pleasant in the south.

Northern California: Clouds, then sun at the coast today; hot in central parts. Sunny elsewhere.

Western Washington: Areas of low clouds and fog giving way to sun today. Clear to partly cloudy tonight.

## REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	67	53	pc	66	54	pc
Baker City	79	44	pc	86	49	s
Bend	81	49	s	87	52	s
Brookings	68	52	pc	64	53	pc
Burns	81	43	s	87	50	s
Enterprise	77	45	pc	84	50	s
Eugene	81	50	pc	80	51	pc
Heppner	83	54	pc	89	58	s
Hermiston	80	50	pc	96	66	s
John Day	82	53	pc	89	57	s
Klamath Falls	84	46	s	88	49	s
La Grande	80	49	pc	86	55	s
Meacham	77	47	pc	84	52	s
Medford	92	58	s	92	58	pc
Newport	62	51	pc	62	52	pc
North Bend	65	54	pc	64	55	pc
Ontario	87	56	s	90	57	s
Pasco	89	56	pc	95	61	s
Pendleton	84	57	pc	91	63	s
Portland	82	59	pc	85	57	pc
Redmond	85	47	s	91	51	s
Salem	82	54	pc	84	56	pc
Spokane	82	59	pc	88	62	s
Ukiah	79	45	pc	85	49	s
Vancouver	80	56	pc	84	55	pc
Walla Walla	87	62	pc	93	67	s
Yakima	90	58	pc	95	62	s

## WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	96	73	pc	98	76	s
Hong Kong	91	83	pc	90	83	sh
Jerusalem	87	65	s	88	67	s
London	67	56	c	71	57	c
Mexico City	73	58	t	71	58	t
Moscow	73	60	s	79	62	r
Paris	70	56	pc	67	56	sh
Rome	83	69	s	83	63	t
Seoul	86	69	pc	87	70	s
Sydney	61	49	pc	58	43	s
Tokyo	80	73	c	81	75	r

## WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	SSW 4-8	SSW 4-8
Pendleton	WNW 4-8	N 4-8

## UV INDEX TODAY

2 5 7 7 5 2

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