

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Sunny, hot; breezy in the p.m.	Very warm with plenty of sun	Sunny	Sunny and pleasant	Sunny and beautiful
98° 60°	96° 63°	93° 63°	87° 56°	88° 60°
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
98° 60°	96° 63°	93° 63°	87° 56°	88° 60°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
102° 63°	100° 66°	97° 67°	91° 60°	93° 62°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	99°	62°
Normals	86°	57°
Records	108° (1968)	42° (1898)

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.06"
Year to date 11.30"
Last year to date 6.47"
Normal year to date 7.63"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

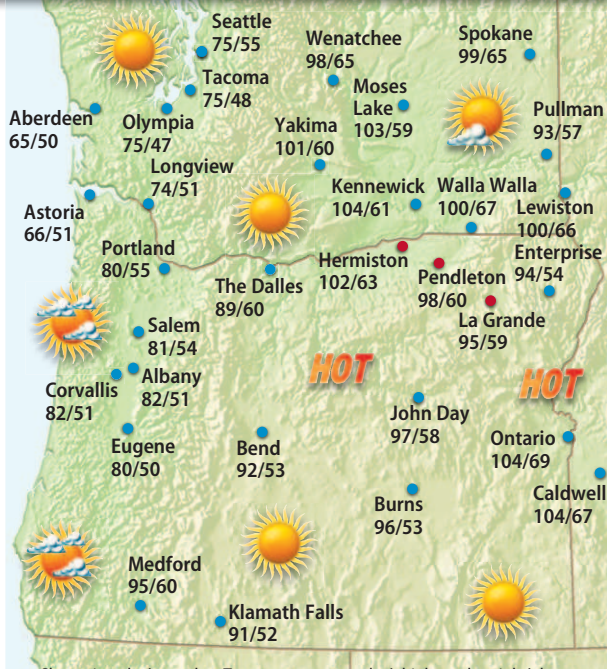
TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	101°	65°
Normals	87°	57°
Records	105° (1968)	44° (2010)

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.04"
Year to date 6.59"
Last year to date 4.64"
Normal year to date 5.74"

SUN AND MOON

	Full	Last	New	First
Sunrise today	5:14 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	8:46 p.m.			
Moonrise today	7:34 p.m.			
Moonset today	4:16 a.m.			

July 8 July 16 July 23 July 30



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Low clouds giving way to sunshine today. Mainly clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Sunshine and very hot today. A moonlit sky tonight. Mostly sunny and hot tomorrow.

Western Washington: Low clouds followed by sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight. Sunny tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Mostly sunny today. Clear to partly cloudy tonight. Plenty of sun tomorrow.

Cascades: Plenty of sun today. Clear tonight. Very warm tomorrow with plenty of sunshine.

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

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	66	51	pc	68	54	s
Baker City	94	54	s	92	55	s
Bend	92	53	s	93	56	s
Brookings	63	52	pc	66	54	pc
Burns	96	53	s	97	56	s
Enterprise	94	54	t	93	58	s
Eugene	80	50	pc	86	50	s
Heppner	94	58	s	94	59	s
Hermiston	102	63	s	100	66	s
John Day	97	58	s	97	62	s
Klamath Falls	91	52	s	94	52	s
La Grande	95	59	s	94	62	s
Meacham	92	55	s	92	58	s
Medford	95	60	s	97	61	s
Newport	61	48	pc	62	50	s
North Bend	62	51	pc	64	52	s
Ontario	104	69	s	103	72	s
Pasco	104	59	s	98	61	s
Pendleton	98	60	s	96	63	s
Portland	80	55	pc	85	58	s
Redmond	95	49	s	95	51	s
Salem	81	54	pc	88	56	s
Spokane	99	65	s	94	65	s
Ukiah	93	50	s	91	53	s
Vancouver	78	53	pc	84	55	s
Walla Walla	100	67	s	97	69	s
Yakima	101	60	s	98	63	s

WORLD CITIES

City	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	92	71	pc	94	74	pc
Hong Kong	87	81	t	87	82	sh
Jerusalem	83	66	s	86	66	s
London	83	62	pc	78	61	pc
Mexico City	69	56	pc	67	56	t
Moscow	59	48	r	56	51	sh
Paris	90	64	s	87	66	c
Rome	90	65	s	88	67	s
Seoul	84	74	r	83	75	r
Sydney	66	46	s	64	45	s
Tokyo	84	73	pc	86	74	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	W 7-14	NW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

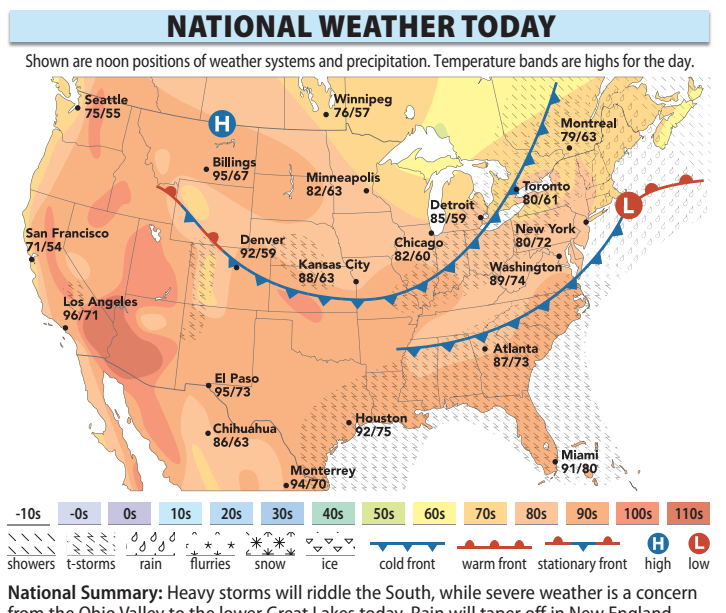
2 5 7 7 5 2

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 Summary: Heavy storms will riddle the South, while severe weather is a concern from the Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes today. Rain will taper off in New England. Storms will dot the Rockies and Sierra Nevada.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 117° in Needles, Calif. Low 35° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	95	69	t	93	69	t
Atlanta	87	73	t	90	71	t
Atlantic City	81	72	r	86	67	pc
Baltimore	87	70	pc	88	63	pc
Billings	95	67	s	99	69	s
Birmingham	87	73	t	90	72	t
Boise	103	69	s	102	72	s
Boston	72	65	r	86	65	pc
Charleston, SC	95	78	t	94	76	t
Charleston, WV	86	69	pc	81	58	pc
Chicago	82	60	pc	81	62	s
Cleveland	84	65	t	77	60	pc
Dallas	95	77	pc	96	77	s
Denver	92	59	t	88	61	s
Detroit	85	59	t	79	58	pc
El Paso	95	73	s	97	74	pc
Fairbanks	79	57	pc	79	61	c
Fargo	82	58	s	87	61	s
Honolulu	87	75	s	88	74	pc
Houston	92	75	t	95	76	t
Indianapolis	85	61	t	78	59	s
Jacksonville	95	75	t	96	75	t
Kansas City	88	63	pc	87	67	s
Las Vegas	114	90	s	113	90	pc
Little Rock	94	73	s	89	70	s
Los Angeles	96	71	pc	96	70	s
Louisville	90	69	t	90	71	pc
Memphis	92	76	pc	90	71	pc
Miami	91	80	pc	91	80	pc
Milwaukee	76	59	pc	78	64	s
Minneapolis	82	63	s	85	66	s
Nashville	89	73	pc	88	66	pc
New Orleans	90	77	pc	91	77	t
New York City	80	72	r	85	66	pc
Oklahoma City	97	72	s	93	71	t
Omaha	87	65	pc	90	69	s
Philadelphia	87	73	r	88	66	pc
Phoenix	116	92	s	112	90	t
Portland, ME	75	60	r	82	58	t
Providence	73	65	r	87	63	pc
Raleigh	91	72	t	93	67	pc
Rapid City	92	59	pc	96	66	s
Reno	99	69	s	100	69	pc
Sacramento	104	63	s	97	58	s
St. Louis	93	69	pc	89	70	s
Salt Lake City	103	74	s	103	76	pc
San Diego	81	69	pc	81	69	pc
San Francisco	71	54	pc	69	54	pc
Seattle	75	55	pc	81	57	s
Tucson	110	82	t	106	81	t
Washington, DC	89	74	pc	89	69	pc
Wichita	97	68	t	84	69	c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
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• Danni Halladay
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• Jeanne Jewett
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COMMERCIAL PRINTING
Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com

HOSPITAL: St. Anthony's charity care this year is \$1.5 million

Continued from 1A

emergency rooms.

"We saw our bad debt and charity care go down," Burke said, referring to expenses the hospital writes off for patients that can't or won't pay. "At hospitals across the state, we saw our margins improve."

However, that's changing, he said, not because of Medicare (Oregon Health Plan) enrollees, but rather because of those insured on the exchanges. As insurance premiums climb, many are dropping from platinum and gold plans down to silver and bronze plans that require larger deductibles.

"Charity care and bad debt are going back up again," Burke said. "Some people can't afford what their insurance doesn't pay."

In addition, some young and healthy people dropped totally out of the insurance markets, opting to pay the cheaper penalty. That boosted premiums for those who remained.

Hospitals began to feel the sea change. Geller said St. Anthony's charity care this year is \$1.5 million, roughly three times last year's total of \$500,000.

Despite the imperfections of the ACA, neither CEO is a fan of the U.S. Senate's Better Care Reconciliation Act. Citing a report by the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Geller said the state would lose billions from its Medicaid program and a third of Oregonians receiving insurance through the exchanges would become uninsured.

"About 440,000 will lose coverage (by 2021)," Geller said. "The Senate bill is more tragic than the House bill in the long run."

"In Oregon, we have more at stake than most other states," Burke said. "We are the fourth most dependent of the 50 states on federal dollars supporting our Medicaid

program — it's not an enviable position."

Nationally, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that 22 million people will lose health insurance by 2026 under the Republican plan.

Additionally, the bill offers little help to hospitals, many of which are becoming fiscally fragile. Recently, two hospitals just over the state line in Washington reported financial problems. Walla Walla General Hospital will close July 24 while Trios Health, a hospital located in Kennewick, announced last week it would seek Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection.

"There's a perception that hospitals are flush with cash. That's not true," Geller said. "There is a lot of pressure on large, medium and small hospitals."

Eight of the larger Oregon hospitals are losing money, he said, and another 17 aren't generating sufficient profit to replace capital equipment. The GOP health care bill could weaken those hospitals further.

Not all is grim, however. The CEOs had praise for a federal health care-related bill passed in 2015 — MACRA, the Medicare Access and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) Reauthorization Act. The title is daunting, an acronym within an acronym, but it's a beacon of hope and proof that legislators on both sides of the aisle can come together, said Geller. Lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to pass the bill, a massive change in the way doctors who treat Medicare patients are reimbursed, starting in 2019.

"It's going to be huge," Geller said. "It's going to be a

paradigm shift."

Medicare payments to doctors will be tied to the cost of care and to health outcomes, rather than the number of tests and procedures they order or perform.

"If you're very efficient with high-quality outcomes, you'll get bonus payments," Geller said. "If you're at the other end, you'll be penalized. There will be winners and there's going to be losers."

Geller said the bill had vast bipartisan support, passing 92-8 in the Senate and 392-37 in the House, but didn't attract much attention from the media. The legislation, he said, reflects just how much both Democrats and Republicans worry about mounting health care costs.

The United States pays \$9,237 annually per man, woman and child for health care, at least twice as much per capita than other developed countries and has lower life expectancy than many of them.

"Both parties have railed for years on cost," Geller said. "There's universal agreement. We're hitting up against 20 percent of GDP (for health care costs). That's a problem. Both parties recognize it. It's one-sixth of the economy and everyone is touched by it."

While both men are immersed in health care daily and pay a lot of attention to proposed health care-related legislation coming down the pike, neither administrator is making any grand predictions for the future.

Burke shook his head and flashed a wry smile. "It's complicated," he said.

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or call 541-966-0810.



Transportation package heads to governor's desk

Required a three-fifths majority vote in each chamber

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A \$5.3 billion statewide transportation package is headed to Gov. Kate Brown for a signature after the Senate passed the bill 22-to-7 Thursday.

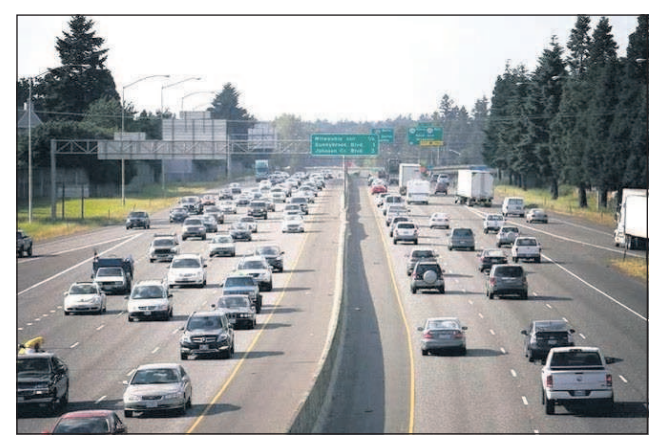
"This is a critical and most important piece of legislation. This is the piece of legislation is what the 2017 session will be known for 20, 30, 40 years from now," said Sen. Rod Monroe, D-Portland, one of 14 lawmakers who crafted the plan.

The House of Representatives passed the bill 39-to-20 Wednesday.

Due to tax hikes and new taxes, the bill required a three-fifths majority vote in each chamber, according to the Oregon Constitution.

The 10-year plan includes hikes in the gas tax, registration and title fees and new taxes on payroll, new vehicle purchases and bicycles priced more than \$200.

The package also calls for congestion-priced tolling at some of Portland's bottlenecks. The Oregon Transportation Commission is responsible for estab-



Pamplin Media Group
The Oregon Senate on Thursday approved a \$5.3 billion transportation package. It now goes to the governor for her signature.

lishing the program, which could toll certain lanes on Interstate 5 and Interstate 205 to pay for congestion-busting projects.

Among projects specified in the plan are congestion relief on Highway 217, widening northbound Interstate 205 from Powell Boulevard to Interstate 84 and initial investment in adding new lanes to Interstate 5 through Portland's Rose Quarter.

The plan also includes other projects around the state. Senators each received a summary of what projects in their respective districts are included.

The plan hikes the state's existing 30-cent gas tax gradually over a seven-year period to a total of 40 cents. Registration fees would climb by \$13 and title fees by \$16 in 2018. Beginning in 2020, the state would move toward a tiered system of registration and title fees based on a vehicle's gas mileage.

The plan also levies a 0.5 percent tax on the purchase of new vehicles. About \$12 million of the revenue from the vehicle excise tax would be used for rebates on the purchase of electric vehicles.

A \$15 flat fee would be charged on the purchase of new adult bicycles with a price tag of more than \$200. The proceeds of that would go toward paying for commuter bicycle and pedestrian paths.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Corrections

Paul Gadaire's name was misspelled in a Wednesday article about the Pendleton Fourth of July parade. 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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