

# Clear forecast for eclipse

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SALEM — Mostly sunny skies are expected next Monday in Oregon. Except for two minutes.

At a press conference Tuesday about the eclipse that will come to Oregon, one of the rainier U.S. states, before moving across the country, perhaps the most anticipated news came from weather forecaster Tyree Wild of the National Weather Service.

He predicted good weather on eclipse day, but said patchy clouds might appear, especially along the coast.

"We really see no major weather systems coming our way," Wild said.

He added that forecasters are keeping an eye on a weather system due to arrive on Aug. 22, the day after the eclipse.

Up to 1 million people are expected to visit Oregon to see the eclipse, a quarter of the state's normal population.



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown speaks in Salem on Tuesday about the coming eclipse that will cross Oregon on Monday.

Officials have been preparing for worst-case scenarios — roads jammed with traffic, cell-phone services disrupted with people unable to call for help, wildfires breaking out — with law enforcement, firefighters, ambulance services and other first-responders beefing up

staffing. The Oregon National Guard is also ready to help deal with the influx. Traffic could be the heaviest in the state's history, officials said. Authorities, who have used response drills for a massive earthquake as a template for eclipse readiness,

are hoping the worst case scenarios will not happen, like the Y2K computer bug that was projected to set off chaos at the beginning of the year 2000 but ended up causing few problems.

"We are working together diligently," Brown said. "So we are hoping that folks use common sense as we move forward, that people will have a great time for the 2017 solar eclipse, particularly in the path of totality, and that everyone stays safe."

The eclipse will last only about two minutes in the total eclipse belt that includes Oregon, but visitors will start arriving days earlier. Tourism boosters hope they stick around for a while.

August is peak fire season in Oregon, and a forestry official said there have been more than 400 fires to date, including some in the total eclipse belt. Rains earlier this week helped clear the smoky skies that have limited visibility in many parts of the state, Wild said.

# Oregon makes drug possession a misdemeanor

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SALEM — A bill signed by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday makes personal-use possession of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and other drugs a misdemeanor, not a felony.

Oregon joined just a handful of other U.S. states in defelonizing drugs under the new law, which was supported by law enforcement groups and takes effect immediately.

Jo Meza, owner of Amazing Treatment, a rehab center in Salem, applauded the move. She has seen the damage caused by drug addiction in her 30 years in the field.

"There's a huge crisis out there, and locking people up is not going to work," Meza said.

Looking to kick their addictions, patients ascended a flight of stairs into Amazing Treatment, located above a Mexican restaurant and a barber shop in downtown Salem.

Inside the center, someone had drawn a syringe on a whiteboard with the words "No more." Above that was a quote by philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche: "Many are stubborn in pursuit of the path they have chosen, few in pursuit of the goal."

Meza said imprisoning first-time offenders with limited or non-existent treatment opportunities is not a solution. But the goal can be achieved with treatment for six months to a year with support from recovering addicts and training in how to remove oneself from the environment that

led to the drug abuse, like a circle of addicted friends or relatives, she said.

"Jailing is not helping the problem," Meza said. "All you're doing is putting a Band-Aid on it and ripping it off when they get out of jail."

Among the bill's supporters were the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, which said felony convictions include unintended consequences, including barriers to housing and employment. But the two groups, in a letter to a state senator who backed the bill, said the new law "will only produce positive results if additional drug treatment resources accompany this change in policy."

"Reducing penalties without aggressively addressing underlying addiction is unlikely to help those who need it most," the groups warned. Another measure appropriated \$7 million that can be used to pay for drug treatment.

Linn County District Attorney Doug Marteeney had tried to convince lawmakers to dump the defelonization of dangerous drugs from the bill, which also targets police profiling.

"To change the classification of this behavior from a felony to a misdemeanor is tantamount to telling our schoolchildren that tomorrow it will be less dangerous to use methamphetamine than it is today," he wrote.

Those who have a prior felony conviction won't be afforded misdemeanor consideration, nor will people who have two or more prior drug convictions or possess more than user amounts.

# Tribes sue state over destruction of sacred site

GOVERNMENT CAMP (AP) — Native American tribe elders in Oregon are suing the state based on claims that it destroyed a sacred site to expand a highway.

Hereditary Chiefs of the Klickitat and Cascade Tribes of the Yakama Nation filed the lawsuit last week in federal court alongside a third tribal elder with the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde and two nonprofit groups, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

The lawsuit says the government destroyed the site in 2008 along a roughly 5-acre patch of land on the north side of U.S. 26.

An attorney representing the tribal elders said the tribes tried for years to work with the government to avoid a lawsuit, but were unsuccessful.

The tribes claim the government violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The Federal Highway Administration declined to comment.

"When it's an endangered species, wetlands, or even a nearby tattoo parlor, the government finds a way to protect it," said Luke Goodrich, an attorney with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a public interest law firm. "But when it's a Native American sacred site, they unleash the bulldozers and chain saws."

# Governor Brown expands abortion, reproductive coverage

SALEM (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday signed into law a bill expanding coverage on abortions and other reproductive services to thousands of Oregonians, regardless of income, citizenship status or gender identity. Proponents called it America's most progressive reproductive health policy.

The Pro-Choice Coalition of Oregon said it is the first legislation in the United States to comprehensively address systemic barriers to accessing reproductive health care. Chris Pair, Brown's press secretary, confirmed Brown signed the bill Tuesday.

Opponents have noted it will force taxpayers, even those who object morally to abortions, to assume some of the costs.

"Brown has enshrined into state law forced abortion funding, including for illegal aliens, even late-term and sex-selective abortions," Republican state senators Kim Thatcher and Dennis Linthicum said in a joint statement. Linthicum predicted lawsuits will be filed over the issue.

Oregon's legislation was introduced largely in response to Republican congressional attempts to repeal former President Barack Obama's

health care law, which includes minimum coverage requirements for reproductive services.

The law allocates almost \$500,000 from Oregon's general fund over the next two years to expand cost-free reproductive health coverage, including abortions, to immigrants who are otherwise ineligible under the state's Medicaid program, which currently spends nearly \$2 million a year to pay for roughly 3,500 abortions statewide.

The bill passed in July by the Legislature requires insurance companies to cover abortions at no cost to the patient. The voting was generally along party lines, with Democrats in favor and Republicans opposed.

Two other states, California and New York, require all private health insurance plans to cover abortion.

The Pro-Choice Coalition of Oregon said the state is also the first to codify no-cost abortion coverage in state statute, the coalition said.

Laurel Swerdlow, Advocacy Director for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, which belongs to the coalition, said "Oregonians don't want reproductive health care attacked."

## Corrections

Pendleton repaired one of the city's two largest water supply wells. The *East Oregonian* ran incorrect information about the status of the Roy Raley Park well in the Tuesday story. "Wells repaired, outdoor water easement lifted." 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: Pleasant with plenty of sunshine. THURSDAY: Sunny and pleasant. FRIDAY: Plenty of sun. SATURDAY: Partly sunny and beautiful. SUNDAY: Partly sunny and nice. PENDING FORECAST: 88° 57° 86° 55° 90° 59° 84° 56° 86° 57°. HERMISTON FORECAST: 91° 58° 88° 56° 93° 60° 87° 54° 89° 52°. ALMANAC: PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday. TEMPERATURE HIGH 81° LOW 47°. RECORDS 109° (1901) 38° (1910). PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00". SUN AND MOON: Sunrise today 5:57 a.m., Sunset tonight 8:01 p.m., Moonrise today 12:41 a.m., Moonset today 3:46 p.m.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY. Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. National Summary: Storms will riddle the Southeast and Ohio Valley today. Yesterday's National Extremes: High 104° in Carrizo Springs, Texas, Low 30° in Meacham, Ore. NATIONAL CITIES: Albuquerque 87 63 s, Atlanta 90 75 pc, Atlanta City 84 70 pc, Baltimore 89 69 pc, Billings 85 58 pc, Birmingham 89 76 pc, Boise 88 60 s, Boston 84 62 s, Charleston, SC 94 77 pc, Chicago 85 72 pc, Cleveland 84 68 pc, Dallas 96 79 s, Denver 75 55 pc, Detroit 84 67 pc, El Paso 95 69 s, Fairbanks 62 44 c, Fargo 72 55 r, Honolulu 88 72 pc, Houston 94 80 pc, Indianapolis 86 75 t, Jacksonville 94 76 t, Kansas City 85 68 s, Las Vegas 99 78 s, Little Rock 90 77 pc, Los Angeles 77 62 pc, Louisville 87 76 t, Memphis 90 77 c, Miami 92 80 pc, Milwaukee 80 71 pc, Minneapolis 78 65 r, Nashville 90 76 t, New Orleans 90 77 t, New York City 87 68 s, Oklahoma City 90 70 t, Omaha 81 67 t, Philadelphia 89 71 s, Phoenix 102 77 s, Portland, ME 82 54 s, Providence 86 60 s, Raleigh 91 72 pc, Rapid City 80 53 pc, Reno 90 60 s, Sacramento 88 61 s, Salt Lake City 88 66 s, San Diego 74 64 pc, San Francisco 72 59 pc, Seattle 77 58 s, Tucson 98 70 s, Washington, DC 89 75 pc, Wichita 90 67 t.