

AP Photo/Don Ryan

Drone-flyin' Paul Ryan

House Speaker Paul Ryan, right, laughs as he flies a drone straight at the cameras during his visit to Intel in Hillsboro, Wednesday. Standing next to Ryan is Intel's chairman of the board of d irectors Andy Bryant.

State economists: Taxpayers can expect a 'kicker'

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE Capital Bureau

SALEM — State economists sav nearly \$464 million will be returned to taxpayers next year, after income tax collections were higher than expected.

Oregon operates on two-year budget cycles. The most recent biennial cycle concluded June 30.

When income tax collections exceed projections for the state's budget period by more than 2 percent, Oregon law requires that the money be returned to taxpayers, a phenomenon called the "kicker."

Since the state has collected about 2.3 percent more than predicted in May 2015, about \$463.5 million will be returned to personal income taxpayers during next year's tax filing period.

The estimated median rebate under the Oregon's unique "kicker" law will be \$89 for individual taxpayers, though the figure varies greatly based on income.

The kicker law was created in 1979 as a check on government growth. Because of the recession, Oregon taxpayers went eight years without a kicker before finally getting rebates in 2015.

A similar "kicker" rule applies to corporate income taxes, except

the excess is kept and set aside for education funding. Corporate excise taxes ended the biennium at about \$111 million more than the close of session forecast.

Wednesday's forecast was the first after the conclusion of a long legislative session revenue was a key point of contention between legislators who advocated for restructuring the state's tax system to boost revenue and those who wanted to cut costs.

Senate Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, argued in a statement that the strong forecast and the expected "kicker" indicated that a sales tax on corporate sales — one of the main concepts raised by Democrats this session was unnecessary.

"To me, this forecast signals two things: first, that we do not need a gross receipts sales tax, as our budget is in balance and our economy is producing surpluses,' Ferrioli said, "And second, Oregonians will have larger refunds or lower tax bills which will act as a further economic stimulus.'

In the next biennium, which began July 1 and ends June 30, 2019, the "kicker" will mean a slightly lower general fund revenue outlook, but will likely be offset by a robust lottery sales forecast, new legislation and higher ending balances, state economists said.

While Oregon's economic growth has slowed from previous levels, overall, the state's economy is still performing well.

"Our growth still looks great compared to the typical state," said State Economist Mark McMullen, who added that there were some signs of slowdown, in indicators of income such as salaries and wages, as well as retirement and investment income.

Across Oregon, there are 8 percent more jobs than there were before the recession, state economists said Wednesday. However, there is considerable variation in that figure in different regions of the state: Southeastern Oregon has 4.1 percent fewer jobs than before the recession, while Central Oregon has 10.9 percent more jobs.

But that figure is distinct from the unemployment rate — which also varies across the state and has been improving. And while labor force participation is rising from lows in the depths of the recession, it remains below pre-recession levels, according to state economists.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

BRIEFLY

Court rejects appeal from praying Bremerton football coach

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal appeals court says the Bremerton School District does not have to immediately re-hire a football coach who lost his job for praying on the field after games.

The three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. District Court of Appeals ruled unanimously Wednesday that coach Joe Kennedy's prayers did not constitute protected free speech because he was a public employee. The court said he took advantage of his position to press his views "on the impressionable and captive minds before him."

Kennedy previously led players in postgame prayers, but the district ordered him to stop in 2015, saying the practice violated the separation of church and state. He lost his job after he defied the ban.

He sued and asked U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton to force the district to re-hire him while the case proceeds. Leighton refused. The 9th Circuit opinion upheld that decision.

Oregon sees rise in average gas prices with solar eclipse

BEND (AP) — Central Oregon saw a spike in average gas prices in anticipation to Monday's solar eclipse and the thousands of visitors that would be coming to the state to witness the solar event.

AAA spokeswoman Marie Dodds tells the Bulletin that in Madras, the average gas price rose by 21 cents last week bringing it to \$3.03 and an average 10 cent increase was seen throughout the state. According to AAA, Oregon's unleaded regular price was the highest it's been in two years, with an average of \$2.81 a gallon. AAA found that in Bend, the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded reached \$2.87, an 11 cent increase over last week.

Dodds says the higher gas prices are predicted to linger until Labor Day passes.

Homeless population increases 6 percent

PORTLAND (AP) — A survey of Oregon's homeless population shows the number of people living on the

streets or in a shelter has jumped by 6 percent from two years ago.

Oregon Housing and Community Services released the numbers Tuesday, saying the count that took place in January found 13,953 people without a place to live. That's 777 more people compared to the last count in January 2015.

Despite the increase, the number of homeless veterans declined by 9 percent. Gov. Kate Brown says that's encouraging, but more needs to be done for children, families and seniors

Multnomah County, which includes Portland, had the most homeless people — 4,177. Nearly half reported having a serious mental illness.

The only other counties with more than 1,000 homeless people are Lane, which includes Eugene, and Marion, where Salem is located.

Idaho man throws epic eclipse festival, but few show up

CASCADE, Idaho (AP) — An Idaho man is out more than \$20,000 after organizing a solar eclipse festival that an underwhelming amount of people showed up for.

Jeff Webb's eclipse festival in Cascade was complete with campsites, shuttles for parking, eight live bands, portable toilets and food for thousands of people, KIVI-TV reported Tuesday. Webb spent nearly \$7,000 on portable toilets alone.

But to his surprise, only a few dozen eclipse enthusiasts showed

"It got hyped up and it hurt, so I lost over \$20,000 this weekend," Webb said, adding that he was hoping to renovate his current business venture in Nampa with festival profits. Webb noticed the roads were

much emptier than he expected as the drivers he did see passed his festival and found somewhere else to watch. The expected influx of tens of thousands of visitors just never arrived, he said.

Business owners in town told Webb that they were actually seeing fewer people than on an average weekend.

"One even said 50 percent less business than a regular weekend," said Webb

He said although the festival was a dud, he would do it again.

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 **SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY** Mostly sunny and Abundant sunshine Pleasant with Very warm with Sunny and very pleasant and beautiful plenty of sun plenty of sun hot PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FO 83° 50° **52°** 88° 58° 95° 63° 61° RATUR 48° 84° 47° 90° 54° 96° 59° 55°

Seattle

Wenatchee 81/52

Yakima

85/47

The Dalles 87/48

Moses

Lake

85/48

Kennewick

88/46

Hermiston

70/53

Tacoma

80/53

Bend

79/43

Klamath Falls

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

REGIONAL FORECAST

72/47

Longview

71/50

Salem

77/51

Albany

77/48

Medford

83/54

Eugene

75/47

Olympia

72/46

ALMANAC PENDLETON

through 3 p.	m. yesterday	
TEMPERA	TURE	
	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	86°	62°
Normals	86°	56°
Records	109° (1894)	34° (1910
PRECIPIT/	ATION	

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00' 0.07' Month to date Normal month to date 0.31' 11.37' Year to date Last year to date Normal year to date 8.26'

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday **TEMPERATURE** HIGH LOW

icatciday	05	7 0								
Normals	86°	56°								
Records	103° (1956)	41° (1938)								
PRECIPITATION										
24 hours en	Trace									
Month to da	0.06"									
Normal moi	nth to date	0.15"								
Year to date	6.65"									
rear to date		0.03								

SUN AND MOON

Last year to date

Normal year to date

		•				
Sunrise to	oday		6:07 a.m.			
Sunset to	night		7:48 p.m.			
Moonrise	today		9:19 a.m.			
Moonset	today		9:33 p.m.			
First	Full	Last	New			
3.1	CA.					

some sun today

4.99'

6.07

Aberdeen

Astoria

67/50

Corvallis

76/48

67/50

Sep 5

Sep 12 Sep 19

Coastal Oregon: Low clouds followed by

Eastern and Central Oregon: Some sun today; a thunderstorm in spots in central parts and the upper Treasure Valley. Western Washington: Clouds and sunshine today. Mainly clear tonight. Sunshine

Mainly clear tonight. Sunny tomorrow.

Cascades: Partly sunny today: cooler across the north. Clear tonight; cooler in central

Eastern Washington: Mostly sunny today.

Northern California: Low clouds followed by sunshine at the coast today; mostly sunny elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

					_		
	Т	oda		Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Astoria	67	50	рс	68	50	S	
Baker City	82	45	pc	85	43	S	
Bend	79	43	S	81	47	S	
Brookings	64	52	рс	66	53	рс	
Burns	83	46	рс	86	47	S	
Enterprise	80	45	рс	80	46	S	
Eugene	75	47	рс	80	48	S	
Heppner	80	48	S	79	50	S	
Hermiston	87	48	S	84	47	S	
John Day	82	48	рс	84	51	S	
Klamath Falls	83	47	рс	85	48	S	
La Grande	80	45	рс	81	43	S	
Meacham	77	41	рс	78	40	S	
Medford	83	54	рс	89	57	S	
Newport	62	46	рс	62	47	S	
North Bend	65	50	рс	65	49	рс	
Ontario	89	60	рс	91	59	S	
Pasco	87	45	S	83	46	S	
Pendleton	83	50	S	81	52	S	
Portland	74	53	рс	79	54	S	
Redmond	81	38	S	83	41	S	
Salem	77	51	рс	82	53	S	
Spokane	81	49	S	77	51	S	
Ukiah	78	39	S	78	41	S	
Vancouver	74	52	рс	79	52	S	
Walla Walla	84	55	S	82	57	S	
Yakima	85	47	S	84	49	S	

WORLD CITIES

HONED CITIES									
Т	oda	у	Fri.						
Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W				
91	64	S	88	61	рс				
91	80	t	89	81	t				
87	69	S	90	70	S				
69	53	рс	74	59	рс				
77	57	рс	77	58	рс				
67	51	sh	64	53	r				
76	61	рс	80	63	t				
84	65	S	84	65	S				
84	67	t	84	63	рс				
63	51	рс	62	48	r				
89	79	рс	91	76	рс				
	Hi 91 91 87 69 77 67 76 84 84 63	Hi Lo 91 64 91 80 87 69 69 53 77 57 67 51 76 61 84 65 84 67 63 51	91 64 s 91 80 t 87 69 s 69 53 pc 77 57 pc 67 51 sh 76 61 pc 84 65 s 84 67 t 63 51 pc	Hi Lo W Hi 91 64 s 88 91 80 t 89 87 69 s 90 69 53 pc 74 77 57 pc 77 67 51 sh 64 76 61 pc 80 84 65 s 84 84 67 t 84 63 51 pc 62	Hi Lo W Hi Lo 91 64 s 88 61 91 80 t 89 81 87 69 s 90 70 69 53 pc 74 59 77 57 pc 77 58 67 51 sh 64 53 76 61 pc 80 63 84 65 s 84 65 84 67 t 84 63 63 51 pc 62 48				

WINDS (in mph) Today

WSW 8-16 Boardman W 8-16 Pendleton **UV INDEX TODAY**

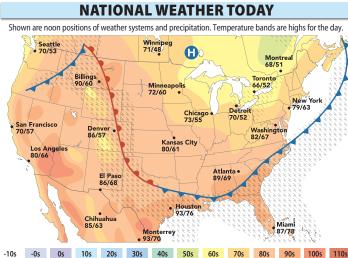
3 4 **3** 6 **3** 6 **3** 4 **3** 2

Friday

NW 6-12

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. **0-2**, Low 3-5, Moderate 8-10, Very High; 11+. Extreme The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num-

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017



National Summary: Showers will dot the Great Lakes, while thunderstorms extend from the southern Atlantic Seaboard to the southern Plains and Rockies today. A few storms are forecast for the interior Northwest.

warm front stationary front

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 109° in Needles, Calif. Low 29° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES											
		oday	Fri.					oday	Fri.		
	Hi	Lo W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo W	Hi	Lo	
Albuquerque	83	62 pc	87	66	рс	Louisville	81	60 s	80	59	рс
Atlanta	89	69 pc	88	71	рс	Memphis	85	65 s	86		рс
Atlantic City	81	64 s	79	62	рс	Miami	87	78 t	87	77	
Baltimore	80	61 s	79	58	рс	Milwaukee	69	57 pc	70	59	
Billings	90	60 pc	84	58	-	Minneapolis	72	60 pc	67	59	
Birmingham	88	66 s	89		рс	Nashville	84	62 s	84		рс
Boise	90	60 pc	91	61	S	New Orleans	89	77 t	88	77	-
Boston	79	62 s	74	58	рс	New York City	79	63 s	77	60	_
Charleston, SC	90	73 t	88		C	Oklahoma City	86	66 s	83		рс
Charleston, WV	77	54 pc	76		рс	Omaha	83	65 pc	82		рс
Chicago	73	55 pc	73	58		Philadelphia	82	65 s	80	61	S
Cleveland	73	58 pc	74	55		Phoenix	106	84 s	109	85	
Dallas	85	72 t	85	73	рс	Portland, ME	77	55 s	73		рс
Denver	86	57 pc	89	59	рс	Providence	82	60 s	77		рс
Detroit	70	52 pc	74	54	-	Raleigh	83	64 pc	86	66	рс
El Paso	86	68 t	88	70	рс	Rapid City	86	57 t	84	57	
Fairbanks	66	47 c	66	47	pc	Reno	92	62 s	93	62	
Fargo	76	59 pc	74	59	sh	Sacramento	90	58 s	90	58	
Honolulu	87	73 pc	87	75	рс	St. Louis	82	62 s	82		рс
Houston	93	76 t	86	76		Salt Lake City	92	68 pc	95	71	рс
Indianapolis	77	56 pc	77	56		San Diego	74	67 pc	75	67	
Jacksonville	91	75 t	88	75		San Francisco	70	57 pc	70	57	
Kansas City	80	61 s	81		рс	Seattle	70	53 pc	74	54	
Las Vegas	100	81 s	104	82	-	Tucson	99	75 pc	100	77	
Little Rock	82	65 s	84	66	рс	Washington, DC	82	67 s	81		
Los Angeles	80	66 pc	83	66	nc	Wichita	86	66 s	85	65	nc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain,

sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.