

Report finds GOP tax plan benefits top 1 percent

By ERICA WERNER AND MARCY GORDON
Associated Press



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. talks Wednesday about the Republicans' proposed rewrite of the tax code for individuals and corporations, at the Capitol in Washington.

WASHINGTON — The new GOP tax plan delivers a big tax cut to the wealthiest Americans while some in lower tax brackets would end up paying more, according to an analysis Friday from prominent nonpartisan researchers.

The plan being touted by President Donald Trump as the biggest tax cut ever delivers 50 percent of its total tax benefit to taxpayers in the top 1 percent, those with incomes above \$730,000 a year, according to the Tax Policy Center of the Urban Institute and Brookings Institution. For those wealthy taxpayers, their after-tax incomes would increase 8.5 percent next year.

For other taxpayers, though, the benefits are far more modest or non-existent, the report finds. Taxpayers in the bottom 95 percent would see tax cuts averaging 1.2 percent of after-tax income or less next year.

And about 12 percent of taxpayers would face a tax increase next year,

of \$1,800 on average. That includes more than a third of taxpayers making between about \$150,000 and \$300,000, mostly because of the elimination of many itemized deductions.

The findings came as Senate Republicans unveiled a budget plan that lays the groundwork for their effort to overhaul the nation's tax system. Provisions in the budget would allow Senate Republicans to pass the

tax package with a simple majority of votes, preventing Democrats from being able to block the legislation and rendering Democratic votes unnecessary.

The Tax Policy Center's analysis was based on an ambitious framework released Wednesday by the Trump administration and congressional Republicans that aims to reform the loophole-ridden code and dramatically cut corporate rates,

from 35 percent to 20 percent. It's the GOP's marquee legislative project this year, following the embarrassing failure on health care.

Trump described the tax plan Friday as a "giant, beautiful, massive, the biggest ever in our country, tax cut."

Republicans immediately disputed the Tax Policy Center analysis.

"This so-called study is misleading, unfounded and biased," said House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas. "TPC makes a variety of overreaching and unrealistic assumptions about policy decisions members of Congress still have to make as we draft pro-growth tax legislation. Republicans are unified in delivering tax reform that will lower taxes on middle-class Americans, ensure they are able to keep more of their hard-earned money, and grow our economy."

The tax legislation can advance only after House and Senate passage of the budget blueprint. The Senate Budget Committee intends to vote on its plan next week. A companion measure is headed for a House vote next week as well.

BRIEFLY

Chamber lunch features overview

HEPPNER — An all-entities report will be shared during the upcoming Heppner Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The no-host luncheon event is Thursday, Oct. 5 at noon at Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St. The meal, which is catered by Heppner Market Fresh, includes French dip sandwiches, a green salad and dessert. The cost is \$10 for lunch.

To ensure there is enough seating and food, those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Tuesday by contacting heppnerchamber@centurytel.net or 541-676-5536.

Baker Boyer hires family advisor

WALLA WALLA — Baker Boyer Bank recently announced hiring Cathy Schaeffer as a family advisor in its Walla Walla office.



Schaeffer

As the executive director of the Walla Walla Watershed Alliance and Partnership organizations from 2002-13, Schaeffer was instrumental in coordinating efforts among federal, state, tribal and local governments to arrive at a nationally recognized joint approach to water management.

She will use her project management experience, listening skills and expertise at opening dialogue on difficult topics to help solve complex problems with Baker Boyer.

In addition, Schaeffer has been a business manager for an agricultural association, a staff accountant for

a telecommunications company and a senior accountant for a local accounting firm. She also has served on several boards and coalitions.

"Cathy's diverse background is an ideal fit for this important role," said Rob Blethen, vice president family advisor manager.

Established in 1869, Baker Boyer Bank continues to grow and build on strong community ties. In addition to locations in Washington, the bank has a branch in Milton-Freewater. For more information, visit www.bakerboyer.com.

Del's Feed and Farm Supply to close Oct. 28

The final day for Del's Feed and Farm Supply in Hermiston will be Oct. 28.

The farm supply store on North Highway 395 announced in the spring that it was closing its doors this year as part of a larger decision by parent company Tractor Supply Company to close various locations around the Pacific Northwest.

"Our decision to close these locations was based on many business factors, and we came to this decision after much analysis," John Logan, regional vice president at Tractor Supply Company, said in a statement. "Del's has been a part of the Hermiston community for many years, and we are thankful to our customers for their loyalty and business."

Close-out sales began Tuesday, with discounts of 15 to 25 percent, and will continue until the store's last day on Oct. 28.

Business briefs are compiled by the East Oregonian and published each Saturday. Send your business information to newsroom@eastoregonian.com.

HERMISTON

Eastern Oregon Telecom breaks ground on new building

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian



Staff photo by Jeanne Jewett
Eastern Oregon Telecom staff break ground on their new building on South Highway 395.

Eastern Oregon Telecom broke ground Wednesday for a new building that will combine the company's business and warehouse operations into one location.

The new building on Kelli Avenue just off South Highway 395 is expected to be finished by May 1, 2018.

CEO Joe Franell said 10-minute trips back and forth between the current business offices and the place where the company stores its trucks and equipment can really add up.

"It ends up being a lot of time, so our primary reason for moving is for efficiency's sake," he said.

He said the location along South Highway 395 is also more central to EOT's service

area. The Kelli Avenue location in particular is advantageous because it has two different entrance and exit points — onto the highway or onto Feedville Road. That

area of town is also expected to see an increase in traffic due to the newly completed Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center and the Ranch & Home store currently

under construction.

"That's a growth area for our community," he said.

The new building will have a better layout for office space, Franell said, and will have almost double the amount of space for trucks and equipment storage. The company plans to hire two more employees in the next six to 12 months.

Construction is being completed by McCormack Construction Company of Pendleton and the developer is Richard Hunsaker, who handled the Holiday Inn Express in Hermiston.

Eastern Oregon Telecom offers high-speed internet and voice services in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

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