

Crime by foreigners fuels sanctuary state debate in Oregon

By **ANDREW SELSKY**
Associated Press

SALEM — A man suspected of being in the United States illegally ran a red light while drunk on a street in Oregon's state capital and crashed into a motorcycle carrying a man and woman, killing them both, authorities said.

A judge set bail for Eduardo de la Lima Vargas at \$500,000 on Wednesday, saying he's a threat to society and a flight risk. The Mexican man was sent back to the Marion County jail, joining the hundreds behind bars in Oregon who federal immigration authorities believe are deportable.

Of the 14,916 inmates in Oregon Department of Corrections prisons, 943 were foreign nationals as

of July 1, according to David Olen Cross, who voluntarily compiles data and shares his information with lawmakers, law enforcement, media and others.

All had Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees on them, said Cross, who compiles data from ICE and the state corrections department for his reports.

ICE spokeswoman Carissa Cutrell said her agency "only lodges detainees on individuals who are subject to removal, meaning these individuals violated the terms of their lawful status or are in the country illegally."

The biggest share of for-



Vargas

eign national prisoners — 229 — resided in Marion County, Cross said. The county includes the state capital of Salem and many Hispanic communities and is heavily agricultural.

Cases such as the one involving de la Lima Vargas are fueling a debate ahead of the November election, when voters will decide whether Oregon should repeal its sanctuary state law, the nation's oldest. It prevents law enforcement from detaining people who are in the United States illegally but have not broken other laws.

De la Lima Vargas was intoxicated on Aug. 19 when he drove a pickup

truck pulling a loaded horse trailer through a red light in Salem and struck a motorcycle that Logan and Jessica Wilson were riding on, killing the Salem couple, prosecutors said.

De la Lima Vargas is charged with two counts of manslaughter, driving under the influence, reckless driving and recklessly endangering another person.

"There is no question in my mind that there is a danger to the public if Mr. Vargas is released," Judge David Leith said at Wednesday's bail hearing. "Circumstances also suggest some real risk of flight."

Court-appointed defense attorney Manuel Perez said de la Lima Vargas came to the United States 18 years ago, and had gone back to Jalisco, Mexico, for

six of those years. He was self-employed, working construction with a friend, Perez said.

De la Lima Vargas was barely audible when he agreed to waive his right to a speedy trial.

On Aug. 23, ICE lodged an immigration detainer on de la Lima Vargas, saying he is illegally residing in the United States. But the jail won't accept ICE detainees without a criminal warrant issued by a magistrate judge, ICE officials say.

"Sanctuary policies not only provide a refuge for illegal aliens, but they also shield criminal aliens who prey on people in their own and other communities," ICE said in a statement.

Advocates of Oregon's 1987 sanctuary law accuse its detractors of seizing upon

criminals in the country illegally to push their case for supporting a repeal of the sanctuary state law. Most immigrants are law-abiding, fill jobs that U.S. citizens often don't want, and contribute to society, they say.

Those who support the 1987 law say if it is repealed, Latinos and others would be subjected to racial profiling by law enforcement, and that people in the country illegally would be reluctant to report crimes, fearing deportation.

Those who support repeal, including 16 of Oregon's 36 sheriffs, say respect for the law is paramount.

Marion County Sheriff Jason Myers was among the majority of sheriffs who did not sign an open letter supporting repeal.

Gov. Kate Brown, Knute Buehler eye Medicaid funding gap

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — As the state stares down an \$830 million funding gap in the state's Medicaid program, both gubernatorial candidates say they want to find a long-term funding solution.

The Oregon Health Plan is jointly funded by the

state and federal government and provides coverage to low-income Oregonians and other qualifying groups. About a million Oregonians are OHP members.

Oregon voters approved the Legislature's plan for temporary funding for the program, Measure 101, in a special election last January.

However, many of the

revenue sources in that legislation are expiring next year, and even if renewed, could not cover the entire anticipated shortfall. The shortfall is due to a number of factors, including declining federal financial support for people who gained eligibility under the Affordable Care Act.

A number of revenue

options and cost-cutting measures have been suggested by a special work group focused on financing OHP, led by the governor's senior health policy adviser, Tina Edlund.

Potential revenue sources include a tax on ambulatory surgical centers, a tax on medical claims, a tax on employers whose workers are on OHP, and increasing an existing assessment on certain large hospitals.

Although the work group does not want to cut eligibility or benefits for the program, it is also looking at ways to contain costs.

Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, is fending off a challenge this November by State Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend.

Brown's health policy plan, released Friday, makes clear, among other priorities, that she wants to expand access to health insurance coverage and do so by "optimizing federal funds, funding the program from a broader revenue base and providing a longer and more stable funding timeline."

Buehler, an orthopedic surgeon, said in his July health care platform that he wanted "stable, long-term and broad-based" funding for the program.

"Knute believes that providing low-income Oregonians with health care and fully funding Medicaid is a value that we all share," Monica Wroblewski, a spokeswoman for Buehler, said in a state-



Capital Bureau

Both Gov. Kate Brown and her challenger Knute Buehler want a broad, long-term plan to cover a \$830 million shortfall in Medicaid funding, but specifics remain elusive.

ment Friday. "He is open to a discussion about the best way to accomplish this, but any solution should be balanced, equitable and permanent. And we should start by making the current hospital assessments permanent."

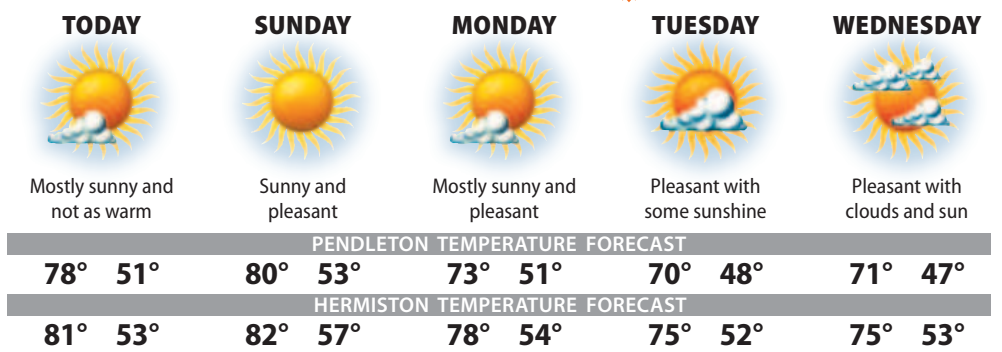
A spokeswoman for Brown said in an email that some of the potential revenue options, laid out in a July 13 work group presentation obtained by the EO/Pamplin Capital Bureau this week, were mutually exclusive, so all nine options listed in the presentation are more like a menu

of options and would not all be deployed at the same time.

Some of the potential revenue sources, such as a tax on vaping, echo some of the funding ideas floated by opponents to Measure 101, who sought alternative revenue sources to the Legislature's funding plan.

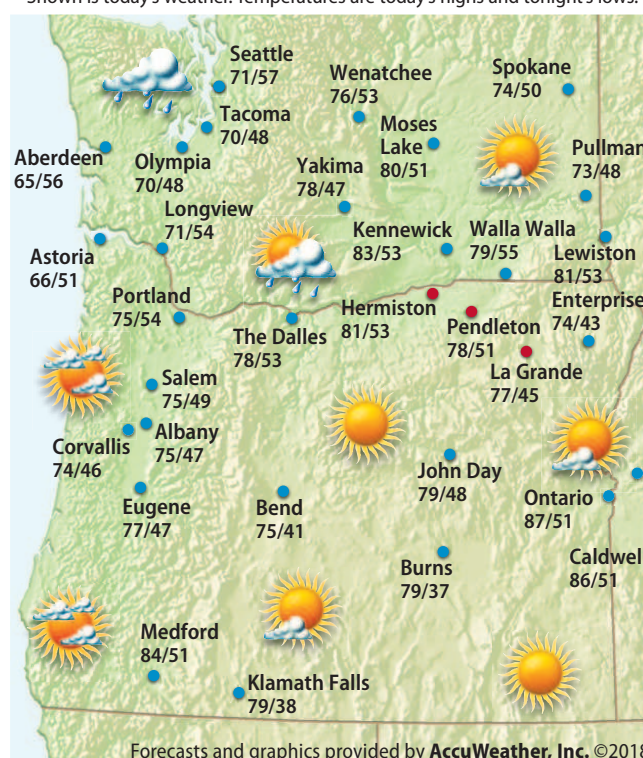
Measure 101 asked Oregonians whether to affirm or overturn a set of temporary assessments on health care providers to fund the Oregon Health Plan. Voters affirmed the legislature's plan by a wide margin.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	89°	59°
Normals	81°	52°
Records	100° (1932)	32° (1910)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.11"
Year to date	6.52"
Last year to date	11.37"
Normal year to date	8.49"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	92°	62°
Normals	82°	51°
Records	101° (1955)	32° (1929)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.08"
Year to date	5.15"
Last year to date	6.65"
Normal year to date	6.20"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sun.
Boardman	WSW 8-16	SW 6-12
Pendleton	W 7-14	WNW 4-8

SUN AND MOON

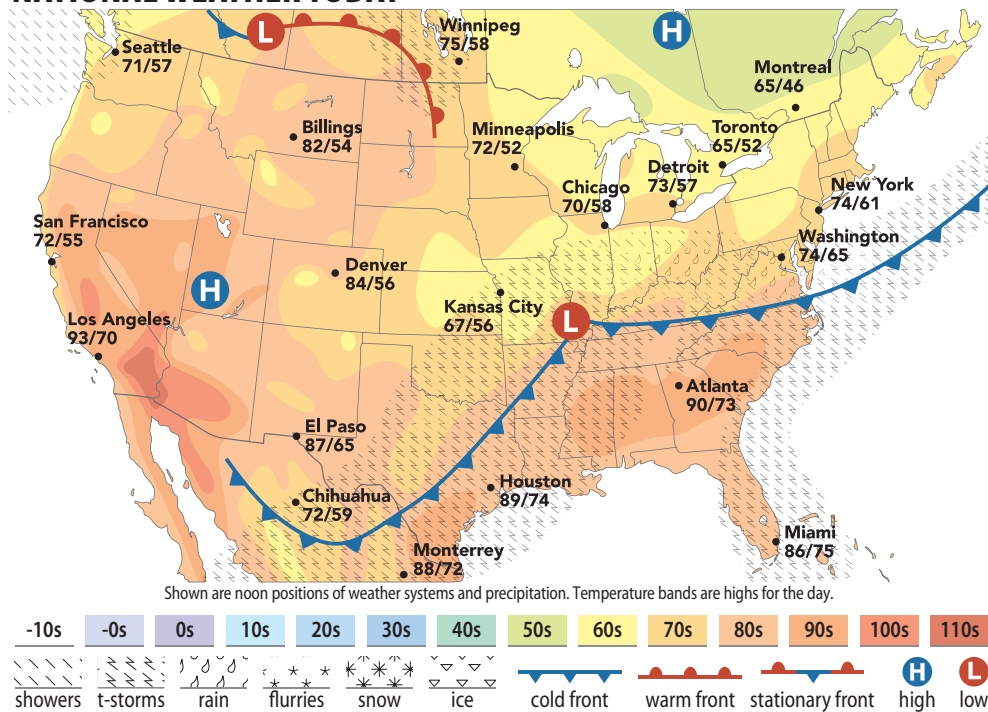
Sunrise today	6:25 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:20 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:50 a.m.
Moonset today	7:08 p.m.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 114° in Thermal, Calif. Low 29° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



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