

Might Oregon kill 'kicker tax' rebate to help education?

PORTLAND (AP) — Momentum is building to end the only-in-Oregon approach of issuing tax rebates in order to build reserves for schools.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports that if Oregon economists' predictions hold, taxpayers will receive up to \$724 million worth of "kicker" rebates when they file their income taxes in 2020.

Right now, the median state resident with roughly \$36,000 a year in adjusted gross income can expect a tax credit of about \$175 in 2020.

But it's possible voters will decide to instead send the money to a rainy day fund for schools that the state could tap during economic downturns.

Business leaders who gathered in Portland on

Monday said polling showed more than 60 percent of respondents would support such a change. Jeremy Rogers, vice president of the Oregon Business Council, told attendees at the Oregon Leadership Summit that lawmakers could refer the question to voters in the May 2019 election.

It was the latest sign that the idea is gaining momentum, six years after voters approved ending the kicker rebate on corporate taxes.

Under Oregon's Constitution, the unique kicker tax rebate is triggered when tax revenues for a two-year budget cycle come in more than 2 percent above economists' forecast from the start of the cycle.

One question heading into the legislative session is how high a prior-

ity it will be for Democrats to change the kicker, as they aim to pass major climate change legislation and raise billions in fees and taxes to fund Medicaid and education.

Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, is chair of the Oregon Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue. On Tuesday, he expressed support for the idea of ending the kicker.

"I would love to redirect it to the rainy-day fund," Hass said on Tuesday, noting that Oregon's dependence on income taxes exposes the state to wild fluctuations in revenue. "The next best thing to a major structural reform is to have a strong rainy-day fund to cushion the inevitable downturns we have. It's poor public policy to begin with."

Lawsuit: Family dog died from pharmacy error

PORTLAND (AP) — A Portland area couple, who say their Labrador retriever died after a Walmart pharmacy gave them the wrong medicine has filed a \$10,000 lawsuit.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Elise and Nick Carter say the phar-

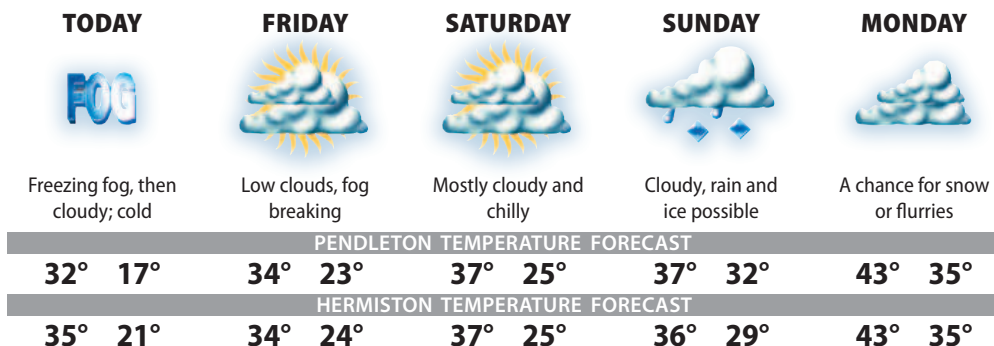
macy made an error that cost them and their three children their family dog, Bailey.

Walmart spokesman Randy Hargrove told the newspaper that because the suit was just filed, the company hasn't had an opportunity yet to investigate

what happened.

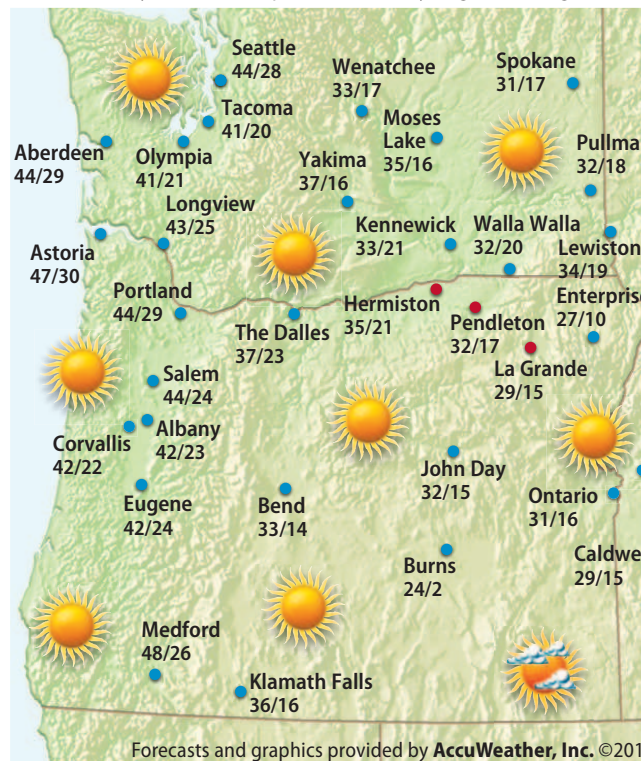
The suit says Bailey's veterinarian diagnosed the 10-year-old with diabetes on Nov. 29, 2016, and the Carters went to the Wood Village Walmart Supercenter pharmacy to have a Novalin N insulin prescription filled.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

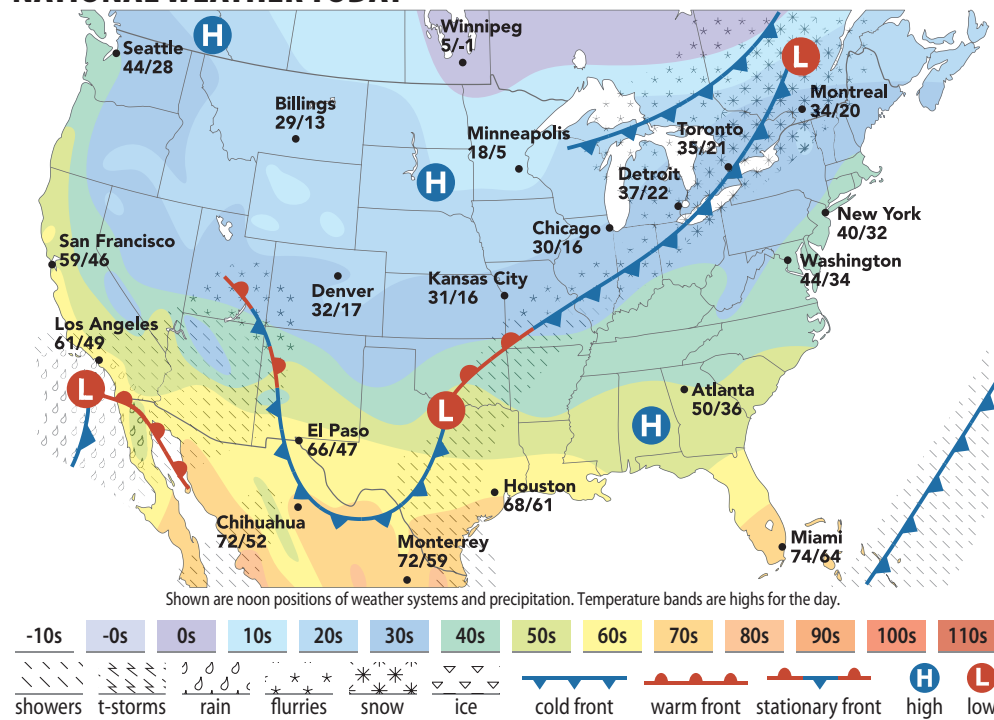
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	27°	24°		
Normals	41°	28°		
Records	66° (1944)	1° (1972)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"			
Month to date	0.01"			
Normal month to date	0.23"			
Year to date	8.88"			
Last year to date	15.33"			
Normal year to date	11.70"			
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	34°	30°		
Normals	41°	29°		
Records	63° (1946)	1° (2013)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"			
Month to date	0.01"			
Normal month to date	0.27"			
Year to date	6.97"			
Last year to date	8.77"			
Normal year to date	8.74"			
WINDS (in mph)				
	Today	Fri.		
Boardman	NE 3-6	NE 3-6		
Pendleton	N 3-6	NNW 3-6		
SUN AND MOON				
Sunrise today	7:21 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	4:11 p.m.			
Moonrise today	6:29 a.m.			
Moonset today	4:13 p.m.			
	New	First	Full	Last
	Dec 6	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 80° in Key West, Fla. Low -30° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Train carrying load of logs derailed in Oregon's capital

SALEM (AP) — A train carrying a load of logs derailed near downtown Salem, causing authorities to close several roads.

The derailment occurred Tuesday night in an industrial area a few blocks north of downtown.

Several railroad cars loaded with dozens of heavy logs remained off the tracks Wednesday, but the logs had not spilled off the railroad cars.

By late Tuesday night, two Salem thoroughfares had reopened to traffic. Railroad crews decoupled the derailed cars from the rest of the train, allowing the locomotive and numerous cars to continue on their way.

A crane stood nearby to pluck logs from the railroad cars so they could be moved back onto the tracks.

Trains frequently pass through Oregon's capital city. Salem police said no hazardous materials were on board the derailed train.

'Decorative panel' falls from tram, hits pedestrian

PORTLAND (AP) — Authorities say a 35-square-foot metal panel fell an estimated 130 feet from the Portland Aerial Tram, hitting a 21-year-old woman in the head as she walked down the stairway of a Southwest Portland pedestrian bridge.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Portland Fire & Rescue responded to the incident at about 11:45 a.m. Tuesday.

The woman had walked across the Darlene Hooley

BRIEFLY



AP Photo/Andrew Selsky

A train carrying a load of logs is derailed Wednesday near Salem, causing authorities to close several roads.

Pedestrian Bridge when she was hit by the falling metal.

Fire bureau spokesperson Lt. Rich Chatman said the woman suffered minor injuries and didn't ask for further treatment.

It's unclear what caused the piece to plunge the estimated 130 feet to the bridge below.

The tram, which opened in 2006, is owned by the city. Some 10,000 people ride it between Oregon Health & Science University's Marquam Hill and waterfront campuses each day.

Authorities: Man dies at logging site

WINSTON (AP) — Authorities say a 57-year-old man died in an industrial accident at a logging site south of Eugene.

The World reports someone called 911 at about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday requesting medical help for a man who was injured while working on a piece of equipment.

Richard Allen Smith of Tenmile died at the scene.

The Douglas County Medical Examiner's Office

is investigating the death.

Three jail officers acquitted in inmate's death

MADRAS (AP) — A judge has found three Jefferson County Jail corrections officers not guilty of criminally negligent homicide in a man's death.

KTVZ-TV reports Crook County Circuit Judge Daina Vitols decided Tuesday that evidence presented at trial was insufficient to prove the deputies' failure to more quickly summon medical care was the cause of James Wippel's death.

Prosecutors accused Cpl. Anthony Hansen and deputies Michael Durkan and Cory Skidgel of ignoring medical issues leading to the death of the 59-year-old from a burst ulcer.

The Portland man was arrested on drug charges in April 2017. Wippel died two days later at the jail.

Vitols said no one was able to testify to the critical question of when it was too late for medical treatment to save Wippel.

Dick's Sporting Goods settles lawsuit over gun sale age restrictions

Oregon Public Broadcasting

Tyler Watson, a 20-year-old Oregonian, settled his age discrimination lawsuit last month against Dick's Sporting Goods. In February, the retailer changed its firearms policy, raising the minimum age to buy a gun to 21.

Soon after the change, Watson attempted to buy a .22 caliber Ruger rifle and was turned away.

The legal age to buy a gun in Oregon is 18, but Dick's made the decision to raise the minimum age after the store learned a 19-year-old school shooter in Park-

land, Florida, had legally bought a firearm from one of its stores. The corporation encouraged the government to similarly raise the federal age for purchase.

Lawyers for both Watson and Dick's declined to comment, saying the settlement details are confidential.

Jim Oleske, a professor at Lewis and Clark Law School specializing in anti-discrimination law, said people settle for a variety of reasons, but he thinks Watson had a good case against Dick's.

"From the text of the statute, it looked like a very strong case," said Oleske.

Oleske said it's unusual that Dick's hasn't changed its policy as a result of the settlement.

"Any other individual could go into any one of their stores, attempt to make a purchase and if they're turned away bring a lawsuit," he said. "The question is, why is Dick's settling?"

Earlier this week, Forbes reported that Dick's is considering removing all hunting gear from its stores, and has already done so in 10 pilot stores.

Walmart also raised the minimum age to buy a firearm and Watson has a similar lawsuit pending against them.

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