

# Oregon considers changing the way mentally ill people are committed

Oregon Public Broadcasting

Last year, Don Baglien's 19-year-old son experienced a psychotic break. It was a Sunday afternoon. He picked up the family picnic and threw it over the fence. Then he started turning on every faucet in the house, dragging furniture outside and howling.

It got so bad Baglien called the Roseburg police and had him arrested for menacing. Baglien worked with the local behavioral health provider to get him help. But since his son is an adult, he couldn't intervene and things got worse.



Bouneff

"There were at least six or seven times when things were so out of hand that it was clear that he needed to get a bed somewhere where someone could keep an eye on him," Baglien said.

Although the 19-year-old has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, he does not accept that he's ill. Baglien has tried to get him civilly committed by having people argue in front of a judge

that he's a danger to himself and others — that's the legal standard in Oregon. But during those proceedings, his son understood enough to appear rational and calm — convincing the judge not to commit him.

Civil commitment is a delicate issue for families and authorities. The way it works now is that when someone threatens a family member or runs through traffic screaming at cars, police can place a hold on them. A county judge then decides whether they're "a danger to self or others."

But that legal standard has not been defined by the courts.

The process is justifiably difficult. But many think it's become so difficult that people only end up getting help after they break the law and are criminally committed. So Oregon is thinking about changing the way people with mental illnesses are civilly committed.

Chris Bouneff lives with a mental illness and heads the Oregon branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. He understands the reluctance to civil commitment.

"Just because we have a mental illness and we're



Oregon Public Broadcasting Photo/Kristian Foden-Vencil  
**Don Baglien worked with the local behavioral health provider to get his 19-year-old son help. But since he's now an adult, Baglien wasn't privy to his medical history. That meant he couldn't intervene and things got worse.**

symptomatic doesn't mean we're stupid or drooling on ourselves. I mean we have a sense of reality. We're able to understand, if we're before a judge, that I may lose my liberty," Bouneff said.

Civil commitments have been appealed so many times that the legal standard has become harder and harder to meet. For example, one threat of suicide is no longer enough to prove a danger, according to the courts. And any perceived danger has to be "highly probable," not just likely.

"We've reached a point where the bar is so high, that really the only way to enter the Oregon State

Hospital, for example, is to be arrested. And we find that to be unacceptable," Bouneff said.

He said Senate Bill 763 aims to decriminalize mental illness and is a minimal fix. The bill would define "dangerous to self or others" as "likely" to inflict serious harm within the next 30 days. The bill also dictates that one threat of suicide can now be considered by a judge.

"We certainly don't want to open the floodgates. We don't want to make it so easy that we're overusing civil commitment. But the bar has to come down a tiny bit because we are losing people," Bouneff said.

## OREGON IN BRIEF

### Small earthquake hits Oregon coast

ROSE LODGE — The U.S. Geological Survey says a magnitude 3.7 earthquake hit along Oregon's Pacific coast. The earthquake struck a spot 1.3 miles southwest of Rose Lodge, a town of about 1,900 people, at 9:23 a.m. Sunday. The earthquake had a depth of 29 miles.

The Oregonian/OregonLive.com reported that minor shaking was reported along the coast from Waldport to Cloverdale, with scattered reports further inland. No damage was reported.

### Woman stops to check skid marks, finds injured man

PORTLAND — An Oregon woman likely saved a man's life when she stopped to investigate skid marks on a mountain road and spotted an SUV crashed below, emergency responders said.

Laurie Bowers, of Happy Camp, on Saturday morning stopped to look over a cliff on Grayback Road in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon. Bowers spotted a red Jeep about 50 feet below, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

A single tree held the SUV from sliding down a

40-degree slope. Emergency responders found the driver suffering from hypothermia, a fractured leg and internal bleeding. He was airlifted to a hospital in Medford. His name has not been released.

### Portland to crack down on short-term rentals

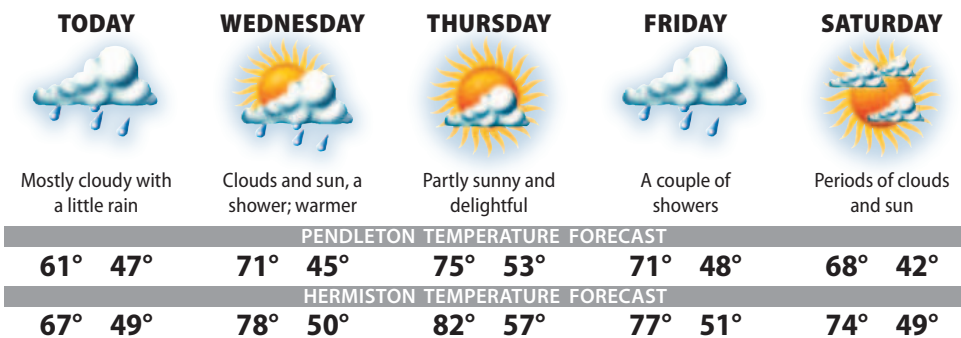
PORTLAND — Portland's mayor is planning to introduce an ordinance that would force online short-term rental companies like Airbnb to take down unpermitted rentals.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the proposed crackdown follows a federal court ruling in March that dealt a legal blow to Airbnb's long-held position that it is not responsible for policing unpermitted listings on its site.

Portland's revenue division has been trying to reach a voluntary agreement with the company for more than a year. The city says Airbnb's latest offer represented a step backward, so it is preparing to try a tougher tactic: an ordinance that goes after Airbnb's profits.

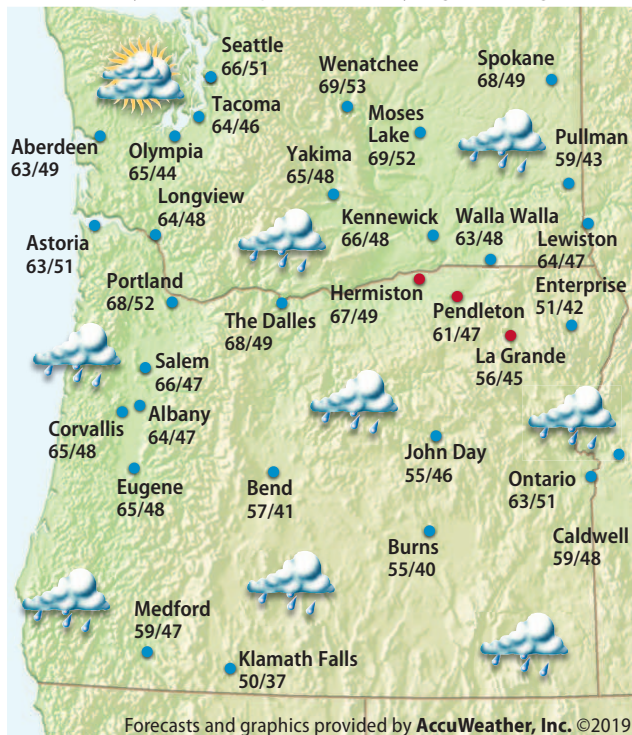
The draft ordinance would prevent Airbnb from collecting booking fees on unpermitted rentals in Portland.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



## ALMANAC

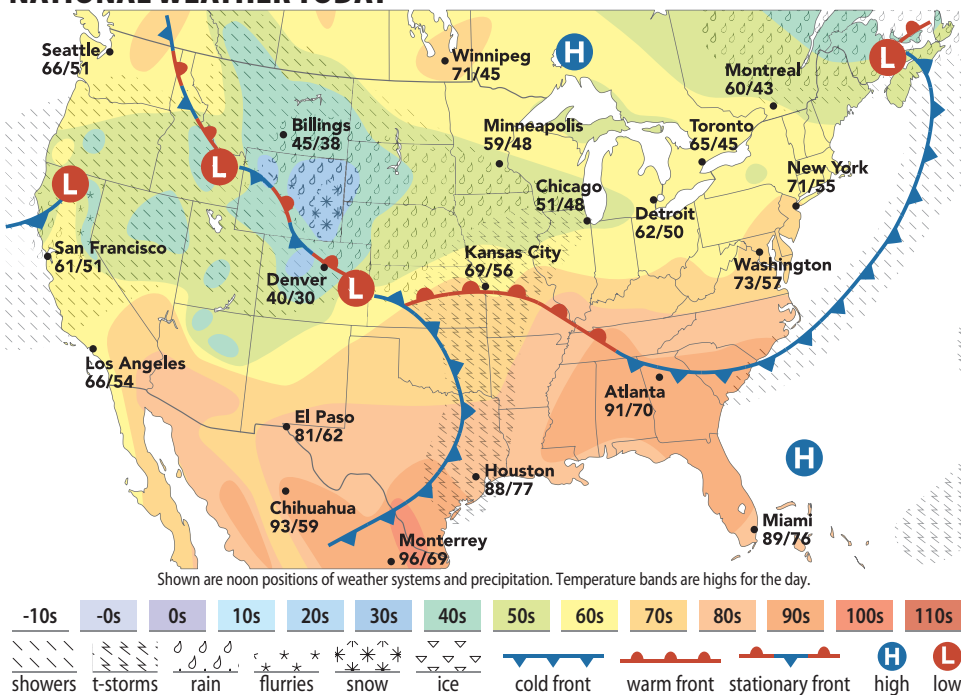
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	65°	44°
Normals	72°	48°
Records	93° (1928)	33° (1910)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.16"	
Month to date	0.89"	
Normal month to date	0.80"	
Year to date	8.65"	
Last year to date	6.07"	
Normal year to date	5.91"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	71°	47°
Normals	74°	48°
Records	94° (1928)	35° (2003)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace	
Month to date	0.29"	
Normal month to date	0.73"	
Year to date	4.17"	
Last year to date	4.96"	
Normal year to date	4.72"	
WINDS (in mph)		
Today	W 6-12	Wed. NNE 6-12
Pendleton	WSW 6-12	N 6-12
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:18 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	8:26 p.m.	
Moonrise today	11:29 p.m.	
Moonset today	7:36 a.m.	

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 99° in Zapata, Texas Low 8° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Carbon pricing proposal takes significant step toward reality

By AUBREY WIEBER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon's carbon cap and trade proposal passed out of its legislative committee on a party-line vote Friday, setting it up as the next landmark piece of legislation to pass in the 2019 session.

It's now one step closer to the desk of Gov. Kate Brown, who this week signed the Student Success Act into law. If cap and trade were to pass as well, it would give her two landmark wins within months of her re-election.

The bill now goes to the Ways and Means Committee, where it can continue to be tweaked, though the committee will look at the financial aspects of the bill, not the policy.

House Bill 2020 would set a 52 million metric ton cap on greenhouse gas emissions. Companies that produce at least 25,000 metric tons of emissions per year would have to pay for every ton they emit by buying allowances through an auction. The proceeds from those sales would go to a highway projects, climate mitigation projects, rural and minority communities, and other programs.

The passage would join Oregon with California as the only U.S. states to implement cap-and-trade systems. It's a journey Oregon lawmakers have been on for about a decade.

The bill's passage out of committee was expected. While similar proposals failed in past years, Democratic leadership has been

adamant that it's time to move forward with an answer to climate change.

The proposal has received strong criticism from Republicans and the business community, but with Democratic supermajorities in both the House and Senate, it was always expected to have the votes to pass. It was also something Brown campaigned on.

However, there was a hiccup earlier this week when a deal over an education package was reached. In order to pass a \$1 billion-per-year business tax to fund education reforms, Democrats agreed to kill a couple bills and do a "reset" on cap-and-trade.

For several days, it wasn't clear what that meant. That's because the specifics were never hammered out.

**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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