

Governor wants to divert kicker from top earners

Plan would divert \$500 million to pay down PERS, invest in housing

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN Associated Press

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown announced a plan Thursday to limit Oregon's unique tax rebate known as the kicker, saying she wants to divert \$500 million in tax credits away from the state's top income earners to pay down pension costs and invest in rural housing. "It's fiscally responsible and makes common sense," the Democrat told reporters. "Most Oregonians would get their full kicker back."

Excess revenue is automatically returned to taxpayers in the form of a tax rebate whenever the state takes in more revenue than what state economists forecast. Oregon's facing a historic year for state revenue, and the so-called "kicker" rebate is expected to be the highest in state history at \$1.4 billion.

The governor is pro-

posing to limit refunds at \$1,000, which would reduce expected payments for approximately 20% of all taxpayers. Brown said it's a way to provide most Oregonians their full refunds while retaining \$500 million in extra revenue for the state.

Some Democrats have long criticized kicker payments for disproportionately favoring the wealthy. Under this year's historic kicker, the median taxpayer would be expected to receive \$330 dollars while the top 1% of income earners could enjoy rebates up to 40 times higher than that — nearly \$14,000.

Under Brown's plan at least \$250 million of the kicker funds would go to help pay down the state's pension debt. The rest would be dedicated to rural housing and beefing up broadband infrastructure in more remote areas of the state.

There's still no formal legislation for the proposal, and Brown said she's open to changes. She also said she's met with Republican leaders but didn't specify if they supported the move.

recoiled at any attempt to cut the kicker, saying the rebate is meant to be a safeguard against rampant government spending.

"Our state income tax revenue is at an all-time high," said House Majority Leader Carl Wilson, of Grants Pass. "This is no time to begin skimming off money that hard-working Oregonians have earned."

Brown admitted that diverting any amount of the kicker is politically difficult, as it requires a two-thirds vote from the House and Senate.

House Speaker Tina Kotek previously said that there weren't enough votes to support using kicker funds to pay down pension debt. Kotek introduced her own measure to divert half the kicker toward transportation upgrades in Portland, which was met with skepticism from even the governor who said she wanted any kicker funds to be used to benefit the entire state.

The governor's proposal is meant to be a one-time investment, and she said that she wanted to publicly release a plan to "stimulate conversation" among lawmakers and the public.

New state librarian says she has a lifelong love affair with libraries

Jennifer Patterson started new job in mid May

By MARK MILLER Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Jennifer Patterson loves libraries. She always has, she says.

Now, she's Oregon's state librarian — the person in charge of supporting every library in the state, as well as managing the State Library and helping legislators and state agencies with research, reference materials and anything else a library can provide.

"What I love about libraries is that they provide access," Patterson said. "They're all about providing access to everyone ... and to anyone who is interested in either the entertainment value that libraries can bring, the educational impact they can bring, the career opportunities that libraries bring by providing access to information and resources."

Officially, the only qualification for the job is experience and training in the library field. But in reality, it's a role that is hard to prepare for.

If you go to the Salem



Portland Tribune Photo/Jaime Valdez

Jennifer Patterson, Oregon's new state librarian, stands in the stacks of the Oregon State Library.

Public Library, for instance, you'll find families checking out books to read, older students studying or spending time with friends, adults using computers to apply for jobs or housing, and more.

The State Library, located across Court Street from the Capitol, has little of that activity. The stacks are filled with congressional reports, conference summaries and other such tomes — some of which date back to the Revolutionary War. There are conference rooms, and a small library with audiobooks and braille books, which see some public use. Patterson said she works with state officials and other libraries in a way that she never has before.

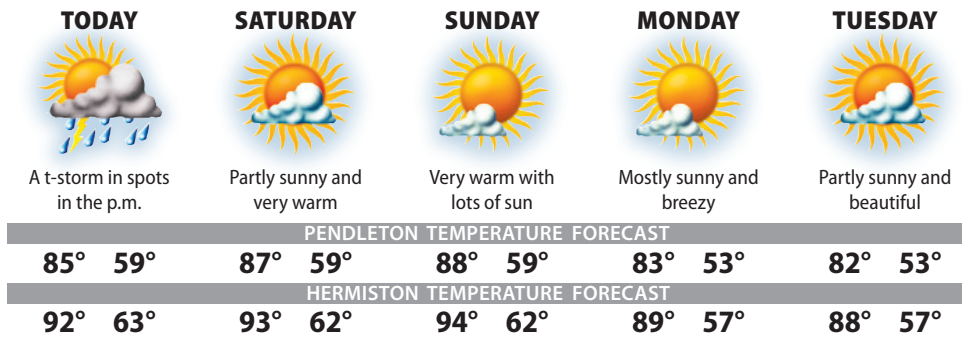
"I'm still getting my bearings," Patterson said.

Gov. Kate Brown appointed Patterson to a position that had been vacant for more than a year, after MaryKay Dahlgreen was fired in March 2018. Patterson started May 13.

Patterson comes to Salem after a career split between Los Angeles, Colorado and the Seattle area. She's never lived or worked in Oregon, but she is familiar with the state because her father and stepmother moved to Portland when she was a preteen.

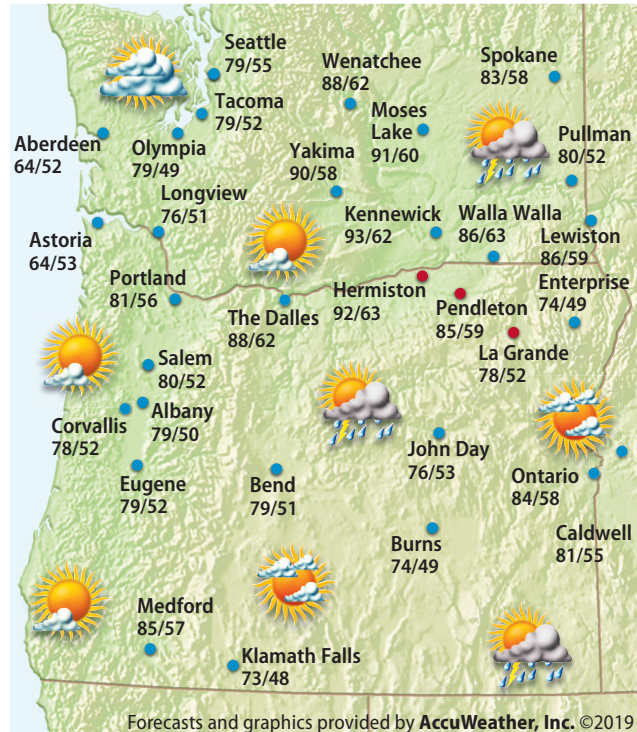
"I would come out every summer," Patterson said. "Once I moved to the Seattle area, I'd come down to Portland frequently for holidays and family events."

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	77°	LOW	56°
Yesterday	77°	56°	
Normals	74°	50°	
Records	102° (1931)	36° (1978)	

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 1.52"
Normal month to date 1.34"
Year to date 9.28"
Last year to date 6.07"
Normal year to date 6.45"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP. HIGH	83°	LOW	58°
Yesterday	83°	58°	
Normals	76°	50°	
Records	102° (1983)	34° (1979)	

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.54"
Normal month to date 1.09"
Year to date 4.42"
Last year to date 4.96"
Normal year to date 5.08"

WINDS (in mph)

Today	3-6	Sat.	4-8
Boardman	W 3-6	SW 4-8	
Pendleton	NNW 4-8	WNW 6-12	

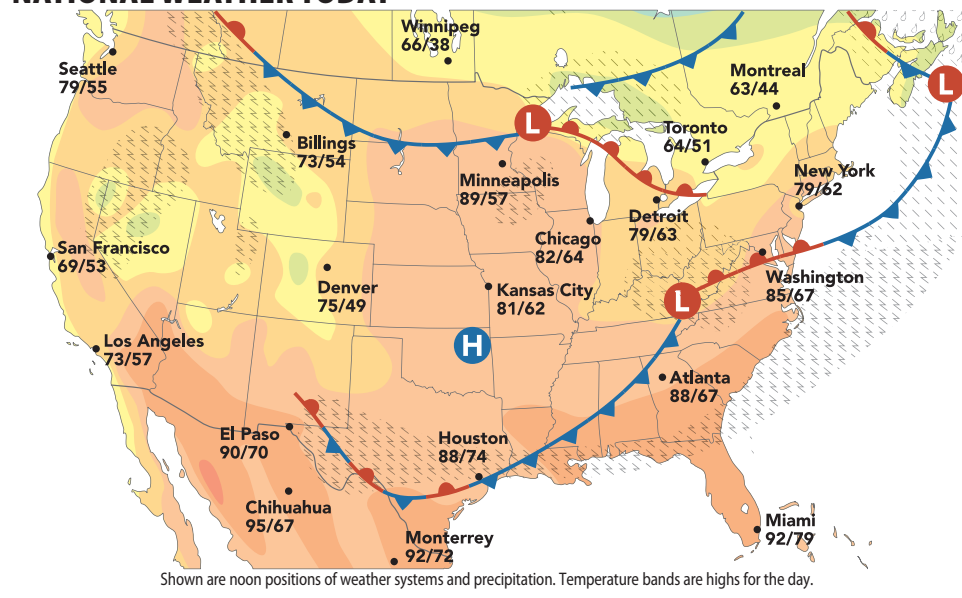
SUN AND MOON
Sunrise today 5:10 a.m.
Sunset tonight 8:36 p.m.
Moonrise today 4:00 a.m.
Moonset today 5:41 p.m.

New First Full Last
June 3 June 9 June 17 June 25

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 101° in Maxton, N.C. Low 22° in Aspen Springs, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



BRIEFLY

Judge blocks earthquake warning sign ordinance

PORTLAND (AP) — A judge has blocked the city of Portland from enforcing its earthquake warning sign ordinance while a lawsuit over the policy plays out. The Oregonian/OregonLive reported a judge had already issued a temporary injunction prohibiting the city from enforcing the rule, which requires the warning signs on brittle brick buildings that are especially vulnerable to earthquakes.

On Thursday he extended that injunction. Owners of affected buildings had shown they have a substantial likelihood of succeeding in their claim that the signs violate their First Amendment right to free speech, and that enforcing the ordinance in the meantime would cause irreparable harm.

Oregon votes to ban restaurants from offering plastic straws

SALEM (AP) — Oregon will ban restaurants from automatically offering single-use plastic straws under a measure passed by lawmakers, making it the second state to enact restrictions on plastic straws.

The House voted 48-12 late Wednesday to prohibit restaurants from providing single-use plastic straws unless a customer asks. Drive-throughs could still offer straws, as could health care facilities.

California previously passed limits on plastic straws.

Gov. Kate Brown told reporters Thursday the move is about raising public consciousness of plastic's effects on the environment and is meant to encourage more environmentally friendly lifestyle changes.

Oregon takes steps to curb pot production

SALEM (AP) — Oregon is glutted with so much legal weed that if growing were to stop today, it could take more than six years by one estimate to smoke or eat it all.

Five years after the state legalized recreational marijuana, it is looking to curb production. Lawmakers are moving to give the Oregon Liquor Control Commission more leeway to deny new marijuana-growing licenses based on supply and demand.

The bill, which passed the Senate and is now before the House, is aimed at reducing the huge surplus, preventing diversion of unsold legal marijuana into the black

market. Supply is running twice as high as demand.

1 dead in Troutdale crash

TROUTDALE (AP) — Authorities say a head-on crash at 5 p.m. Wednesday in Troutdale left one driver dead and another seriously hurt.

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office said the driver of a Toyota that flipped onto its roof was extricated by first responders but died at the scene.

The driver of the other car, a Kia Soul, was taken to a hospital with serious injuries.

Woman suing Skibowl for \$3.5M after tubing crash

PORTLAND (AP) — A woman who claims she suffered major injuries while sledding down a snow-covered slope on an inner tube is suing Mt. Hood Skibowl for nearly \$3.5 million.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Heather Frost-Eisenberg says the resort failed to create a large enough berm at the bottom of the hill to stop her from careening over it, through a nylon fence and down an 8-foot embankment onto a walkway below.

Her lawsuit, filed last week in Multnomah County Circuit Court, says she fractured three vertebrae, ribs, an elbow, her nose and some of her teeth at the resort on Dec. 30, 2017. The suit also states she suffered a traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Lane County homeless increases nearly 32 percent

EUGENE (AP) — The latest count shows a nearly 32% increase in the number of homeless people in Lane County.

The Register-Guard reports that volunteers found 2,165 people living on the streets, in short-term housing and in emergency shelter when they fanned across the county in late January. That's according to the count released by Lane County Human Services on Wednesday. Last year's tally found 1,641 people.

The count is the highest since 2011, the earliest tally available. That year, volunteers found 2,111 people. Leaders in the west-central Oregon County have developed a timeline to implement an aggressive and costly roadmap, to help people sleeping out on the streets in three-plus years.

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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Production Manager: Mike Jensen
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