

Oregon Legislative session concludes in tense final day

By DIRK VANDERHART
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — Oregon lawmakers concluded their work for the year on Sunday, marking the close of the most remarkable and contentious legislative sessions in modern memory.

In a day filled with flaring tempers and frequent confusion, lawmakers in the House and Senate passed a completed state budget and a raft of policy bills just after 5:20 p.m., well before the midnight deadline set forth in the constitution.

Among the bills headed to Gov. Kate Brown are a proposal to create a paid family medical leave insurance program in Oregon, a law allowing duplexes in lots zoned for single-family homes, and ballot referrals that will ask voters to place a cap on campaign contributions and hike tobacco taxes.

Those were just a few of well over 100 bills — many of them high-profile goals for Democrats — lawmakers rushed through in the final two days.

As the Senate president and House speaker gavelled out the session nearly in

unison, lawmakers erupted in cheers. The doors were thrown open in both chambers, and lawmakers waved at each other from across the expanse of the rotunda. In the Senate, staffers tossed stacks of paper in the air in celebration.

But before that revelry, tensions dominated much of Sunday — particularly in the Senate, where lawmakers are still harboring resentment over a nine-day boycott by Republicans.

Controversy over comments Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, made about state police ahead of that walkout continued to roil the chamber on Sunday, with several Democrats requesting that he stay off the Senate floor.

Boquist, who'd complied with a similar request on Saturday, insisted on attending. He said his remarks just before the Republican walkout — that police should "send bachelors and come heavily armed" if they tried to arrest him — were not an indication he posed a threat.

"If people are worried, they shouldn't be," he said Sunday morning. "That's why we have state police here. They do a fine job."



OPB Photo/Kaylee Domzalski

Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, waits to enter the floor of the Senate on the last day of the legislative session.

Sen. Sara Gelser, D-Corvallis, who has raised the strongest objections to Boquist's comments, refused to attend a floor session because of his presence. She pointed out that a private attorney retained by the Legislature recently recommended Boquist be kept out of the Capitol until the matter had been resolved.

"What I was told is, 'If you feel unsafe or if you feel uncomfortable, you can leave,'" Gelser said.

Her absence nearly wound up killing the most high-profile housing bill lawmakers took up this session. House Bill 2001 would allow duplexes and other multifamily buildings on parcels currently zoned for single-family homes in cities of at least 10,000 people, essentially pushing greater

density in some residential neighborhoods as a way to address the state housing crisis.

The bill has some support and opposition in both parties, and with Gelser gone it fell one vote shy of the 16 votes required to pass. Lawmakers called the bill back in the afternoon.

By that point, Boquist had left the building — along with Senate Minority Leader Herman Baertschiger Jr., R-Grants Pass — and Gelser returned to the floor. A number of lawmakers also changed their votes on HB 2001, allowing it to pass 17-9.

As they did Saturday, lawmakers took up bills at a fast clip, passing them with little to no discussion. That included some of the session's signature proposals.

Smith lands committee assignments in Salem

East Oregonian

SALEM — Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, was appointed by Speaker of the House Tina Kotek to serve on a number of committees during the 80th Legislative Assembly, including as co-vice chairman of the joint ways and means committee.



Smith

Some of the other committees Smith has been appointed to include House committee on revenue, joint legislative audit committee, joint tax expenditures committee, co-chairman of the joint ways and means subcommittee on general government, and co-vice chair of the joint student success committee.

In addition to Smith's committee assignments, he has also been appointed by House Republican Leader Carl Wilson to continue to serve as the Caucus Budget Chair.

"I am honored to have been appointed to these positions by my colleagues and look forward to the opportunity to con-

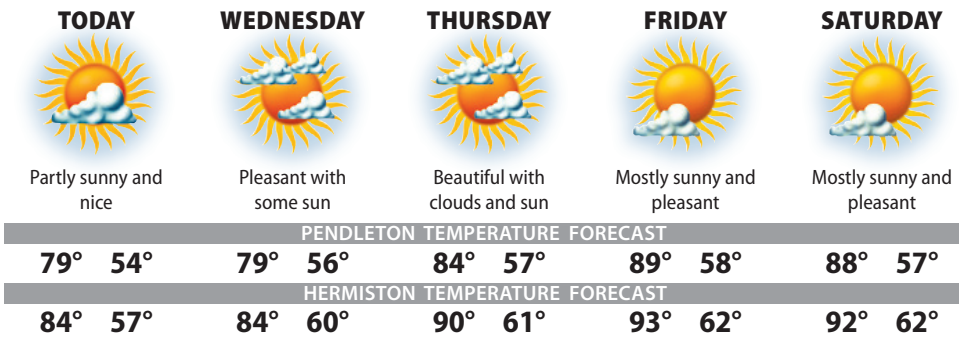
tinue to serve in a leadership capacity," Smith said. "These committee appointments will allow me to continue to bring House District 57's voice to the table as I work with my colleagues to craft solutions to the issues facing our great state."

Smith will also serve on the Oregon Legislature's Emergency Board, a bicameral and bipartisan committee that functions during the time that the legislature is not in session.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on the Emergency Board once again," Smith said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure state agencies remain funded, the state budget remains balanced, and tax dollars of hard-working Oregonians are spent wisely."

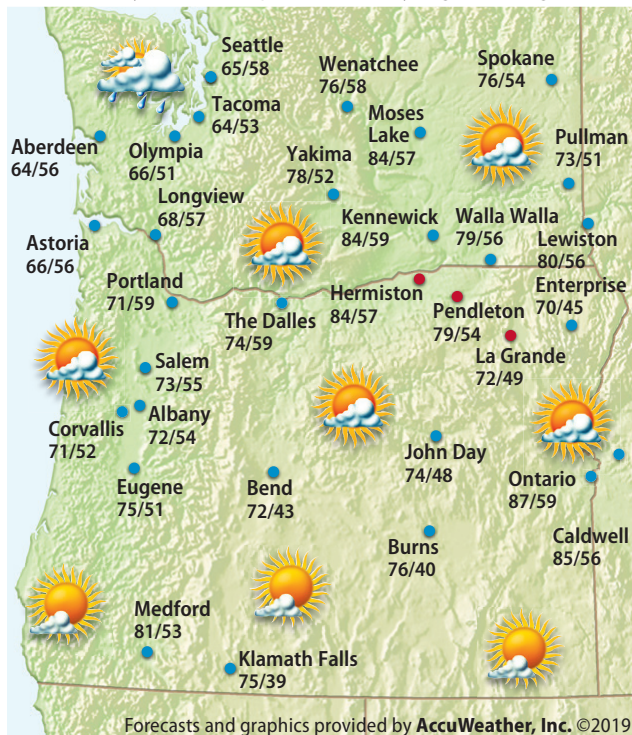
The Emergency Board allocates emergency funds, increases expenditure limitations, authorizes transfers, receives reports, and approves submissions of federal grant applications.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

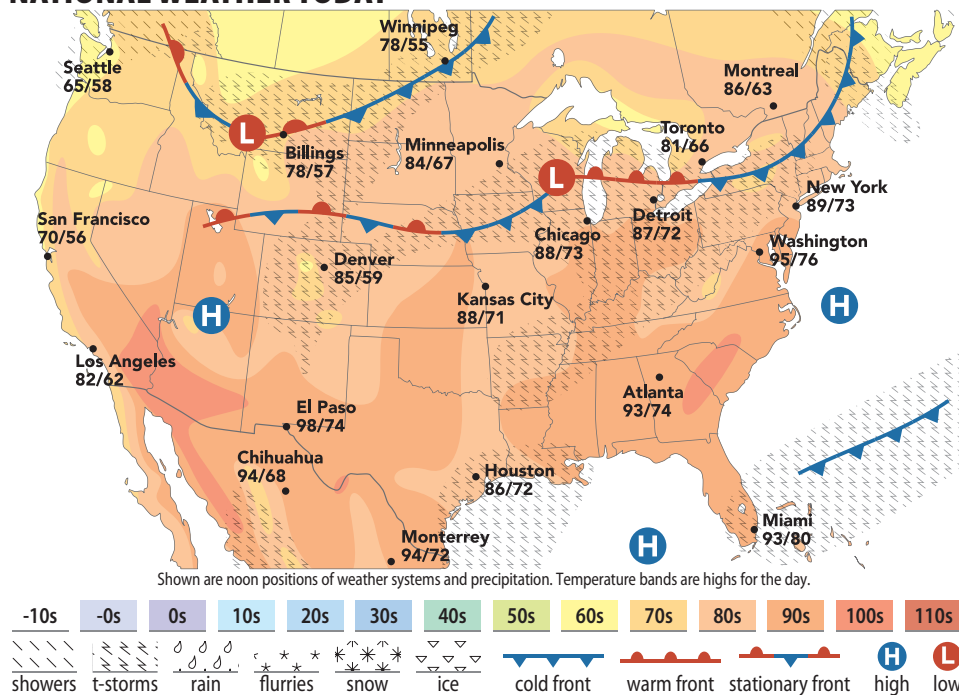
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	86°	58°	
Normals	85°	56°	
Records	105° (2013)	40° (1919)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace		
Month to date	Trace		
Normal month to date	0.01"		
Year to date	9.57"		
Last year to date	6.49"		
Normal year to date	7.58"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	89°	56°	
Normals	85°	56°	
Records	106° (2013)	40° (1931)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.00"		
Normal month to date	0.01"		
Year to date	4.55"		
Last year to date	5.10"		
Normal year to date	5.71"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	WSW 8-16	WSW 6-12	
Pendleton	W 8-16	W 7-14	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	5:10 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	8:48 p.m.		
Moonrise today	5:04 a.m.		
Moonset today	8:59 p.m.		
New First Full Last			
July 2	July 9	July 16	July 24

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 113° in Thermal, Calif. Low 30° in Truckee, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Governor threatens to do by rule what she couldn't by legislation

Brown tells media that resuming the fight for carbon legislation is a top priority

By AUBREY WIEBER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Less than 24 hours after the 2019 Legislature closed, Gov. Kate Brown renewed the fight for a cap-and-trade program, saying Monday she might act with her executive authority to drive ahead with the hotly contested environmental policy.

"Let me be very, very clear," Brown said. "I am not backing down." She spoke on the heels of a major political collapse last week, when Senate Republicans doomed a vote on House Bill 2020. The legislation, setting up a market-based credit system to force polluting industries to reform, had passed the House and was one vote away in the Democratically controlled Senate from becoming state law.

Brown wasn't taking her most significant legislative loss lightly.

Brown said she wants to see action sooner than later, and is open to calling a special session to again advance the legislation.

"I believe the bill needs some fine-tuning, but I don't think it needs to be entirely rebuilt," she said.

Brown said she campaigned on cap and trade, as did many Democratic legislators elected in November. Recent polling shows climate legislation is popular among Oregonians, though more so



AP Photo/Sarah Zimmerman

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown speaks with the media at the Capitol in Salem on Monday.

in urban areas. Her plan was backed by most Oregon voters, she said.

Brown's proclamation was immediately praised by environmental groups, still smarting from the sudden and unexpected death of HB 2020.

"This effort is not over, and not over for this year," said Renew Oregon spokesman Brad Reed. "That is extremely inspiring."

Renew is a coalition that has been the main special interest behind cap and trade, rounding up more than 800 businesses to endorse the proposal.

Renew's staff and lobbyists worked extensively with legislative leaders on the bill. Now, with Brown taking the leading role in the charge for cap and trade, Reed said his group will be as involved in the politics ahead as she lets them.

Behind the recent opposition was wildly effective messaging hitting the prevalent themes of ever-expanding government and favoritism of urban elites: The bill would decimate rural economies while flowing money to Oregon's cities, all the while

handing control over the economy to a bureaucracy led by a director appointed by Brown.

"The climate bill was a match that lit this powder keg of 30 years of resentment," Reed said.

The messaging by industry and Republican lawmakers gained traction, culminating in the largest protest of the bill yet, coming at the Capitol last Thursday, two days after Democrats declared the bill dead.

Brown accused opponents of conducting a misinformation campaign. She said she wants to talk directly to citizens and have more conversations with the public at large to better explain the proposal. Oregonians opposing the bill were fed information by industry opponents, the governor said.

The face of that opposition, at least in the Capitol, was business lobbyist Shaun Jillions, who heads trade association Oregon Manufacturers and Commerce. Jillions never gave up on the fight against HB 2020, successfully working hard in the final weeks to turn key Senate Democrats against the bill.

CORRECTION: In the Page A1 story "New learning center opens the door to industry child care in Boardman," published Saturday, June 29, the story misstated the name of the business Threemile Canyon Farms.

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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