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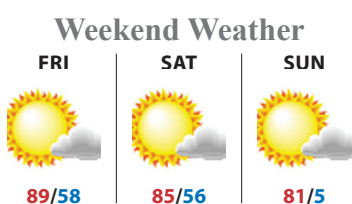
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## Worries linger over Washington sales tax

Gone are the days of showing Oregon ID and skipping sales tax in Washington

By KATE DAVIDSON  
*Oregon Public Broadcasting*

SALEM — Oregonians, say goodbye to your Washington sales tax break — at least as you've come to know it.

Gone are the days of showing an Oregon ID at a Washington register and getting an automatic pass on sales tax. Starting July 1, Oregonians who shop in Washington must save their receipts if they want to get reimbursed later. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signed the measure into law in May.

Washington leaders project the change will raise about \$54 million for their general fund over the next two years. But some business owners in Southwest Washington fear the revenue comes at their expense.

Their concern — and confusion — can be summed up in tractors and teak.

Skip Ogden owns Dan's Tractors outside Battle Ground, Washington. He's been at it for decades. He says he's learned something about his Oregon customers: They hate paying sales tax.

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## BMCC gets \$13 million for FARM II

New, multi-use facility will include indoor rodeo arena, classroom space

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — Blue Mountain Community College got an early sign that it was going to get what it wanted — a new, multi-use facility that will include an indoor

rodeo arena and classroom space for classes in veterinary science, unmanned aerial systems, and other agricultural education.

They then had to wait almost the entire 159-day session to confirm they were getting it.

The college announced Tuesday that the project, which was once known as the Blue Mountain Regional Training Center and is now back to operating under

its FARM II working title, had received \$13 million from the Oregon Legislature just before it closed shop for the year on June 30.

In a press release, BMCC President Dennis Bailey-Fougner celebrated the state's decision and credited Northeast Oregon's legislative delegation.

"We are very grateful to the Legislature for its support of this unique community project," he said. "Gov-

ernor (Kate) Brown showed her support by including the project in her proposed budget, and then Sen. Bill Hansell and Rep. Greg Smith — who both sit on the Ways and Means Committee on Capital Construction — as well as Rep. Greg Barreto, helped us keep the project in front of their colleagues in the Capitol in a positive way that gar-

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## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Eastern Oregon Cancer Center expects to start seeing patients in December



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Dump trucks and other heavy machinery work to prepare the site for the new Eastern Oregon Cancer Center in Pendleton on Wednesday afternoon. The center is expected to be completed in December.

By ALEX CASTLE  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — Access to cancer treatment is coming closer to home for Eastern Oregon residents with construction of a new oncology radiation center underway.

Radiation Business Services, the Tennessee-based company in charge of planning and overseeing the project, held an informal groundbreaking event on June 18 and is eyeing a December completion date. The facility will be known as the Eastern Oregon Cancer Center at Pend-

leton and will be located on the almost 2-acre lot on Southwest 24th Street across from Rice Blakely Park.

Trip Leasure, the RBS vice president of project development and the Pendleton center's project manager, was joined by Mayor John Turner and a number of other community members associated with the project for the groundbreaking event.

"It was great," Leasure said. "Especially on relatively quick notice to get all the critical community members that helped get us to groundbreaking to be there."

This April, Turner announced that he

was free of throat cancer, which he had faced over the previous eight months. Though he was given as much as an 80% chance for recovery at the time of his diagnosis, the mayor had to travel nearly 40 miles to Walla Walla five days a week over the span of seven weeks to receive his treatments.

"I received excellent care," he said. "But it would have been nice to not have to travel so far to get it."

Thanks to the new center, Turner's hope will become a reality.

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## Local legislators reflect on tough 2019 session

By JADE MCDOWELL  
*East Oregonian*

SALEM — The 2019 legislative session came to a turbulent conclusion as Republican senators returned from a nine-day walkout over cap and trade, but the drama overshadowed the hundreds of less-controversial bills passed over a four-month session, often with bipartisan support.

Rep. Greg Smith, Rep. Greg Baretto and Sen. Bill Hansell worked on a variety of policy and budget bills throughout the session, some tailored specifically to Eastern Oregon issues and others that have more broad benefits through-

out the state.

Hansell was a sponsor or chief sponsor of 138 bills and resolutions, not all of which became law by the end of the session.

He was the chief sponsor of Senate Bill 290, which protects people voluntarily helping fight a fire in good faith, such as farmers helping fight wildfires on neighboring farms, from civil liability. Hansell likened it to Good Samaritan laws that protect people who stop and render first aid at the scene of a car crash.

He was also sponsor of SB 312, which requires public universities

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AP Photo/Andrew Selsky

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