**TONIGHT** 

Partly cloudy

Intervals of clouds and sun

ms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice, Tr-trace, Yesterday data as of 5 p.m. yesterday

Mostly cloudy

26°

A couple of showers

possible

TRAVEL WEATHER

NATIONAL

Venus 6:33am/5:25pm 6:32am/5:28pm 9:33am/12:41am 9:31am/12:40am Jupiter 5:36am/3:33pm 5:33am/3:30pm 5:09am/2:45pm Uranus 8:38am/10:34pm 8:34am/10:30pm Last New First Full Mar 5 Mar 13 Mar 21 Mar 28 **Tonight's sky:** Constellation Leo due south

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI **UV INDEX TODAY** 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number the greater the need for eve and skin protection, 0-2 Low. 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High; 8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme

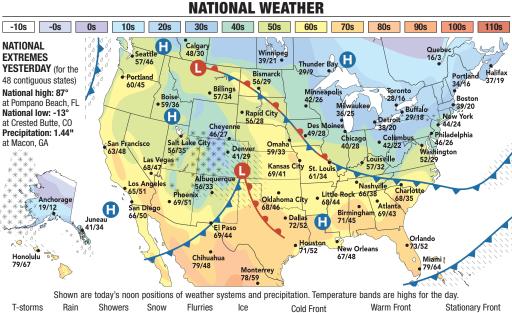
**ROAD CONDITONS** 

For web cameras of our passes, go to www.bendbulletin.com/webcams I-84 at Cabbage Hill: Mostly sunny today. Clear tonight. Dry and mild Friday. US 20 at Santiam Pass: Partly to mostly cloudy today Rain and snow Friday US 26 at Gov't Camp: Mild today with clouds US 26 at Ochoco Divide: Partly sunny today ORE 58 at Willamette Pass: Sunshine and patchy clouds today. Increasing cloudiness tonight.

### ORE 138 at Diamond Lake: Sun and clouds; breezy today. Windy, mild Thursday SKI REPORT In inches as of 5 p.m. vesterday Ski resort Base New snow Anthony Lakes Mtn 0-100 Hoodoo Ski Area Mt. Ashland 61-66 Mt Bachelor 113-123 Mt. Hood Meadows 0-184 Mt. Hood Ski Bowl 79-104 Timberline Lodge 186-186 Willamette Pass 0-80 Aspen / Snowmass, CO 44-59 Mammoth Mtn. Ski. CA 60-105 Squaw Valley, CA Park City Mountain, U7 58-70 Sun Valley, ID 82-101

## snow at night **OREGON WEATHER**

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows EAST: Mostly sunny Astoria and mild Thursday. •52/46 Fair and chilly tonight Seaside Hood 53/46 Partly sunny, windy and milder Friday Cannon Beach 52/47 Hillsboro Portland 57/43 **CENTRAL:** Sunny to Tillamook 53/40 63/36 partly cloudy, breezy and mild Thursday. 56/46 61/38 52/41 Lincoln City Camp 52/37 Fair and cool Thursday 53/45 night. Windy Friday. • Baker City Newport 53/44 60/44 WEST: Thickening clouds Thursday. Pe-Camp Sherman Redmond Corvallis 59/42 **Yachats** •Prineville Sisters 64/43 riods of rain Thursday 53/45 Day 57/37 Ontario night into Friday; Eugene \*Bend 62/45 areas of fog 57/47 Sunriver . 57/31 52/33 • La Pine 55/33 **OREGON EXTREMES** Coos Bay **YESTERDAY** 57/47 Fort Rock High: 67° 53/33 Christmas Valley at Medford Silver Lake 54/34 Jordan Valley 52/34 ● Frenchgler 55/32 52/34 Low: 16° at Klamath Falls Port Orford Grants Burns Junction Chiloquin 53/37 63/30 56/36 65/33 Klamath AccuWeather McDermitt 56/28 Get the new app Yesterday Yesterday Friday Yesterday Hi/Lo/Prec Hi/Lo/W Hi/Lo/W Hi/Lo/Prec Hi/Lo/W Hi/Lo/W Hi/Lo/Prec Hi/Lo/W Hi/Lo/W Astoria 48/32/0.00 52/46/r 50/40/r La Grande La Pine 50/26/0.00 53/43/s 54/34/pc Portland 59/34/0.00 60/45/sh 52/41/r Prineville 52/35/0.00 55/48/r 50/39/r Medford 67/31/0.00 68/43/s 57/37/r 67/23/0.00 64/42/pc 61/31/0 Roseburg 60/29/pc 51/23/0.00 56/27/9 53/44/1 49/39/ 61/34/0.00 67/46/pd 51/38/ 62/43/sh 54/34/s 51/32/s 59/44/sh 64/43/pc 61/38/pc 57/47/1 49/38/1 61/16/0.00 57/18/0.00



### City Hi/Lo/Prec Hi/Lo/W Hi/Lo/W City Hi/Lo/Pred Hi/Lo/W Hi/Lo/W 38/33/0.28 71/35/0.00 51/29/0.00 67/44/0.00 41/33/sn 58/35/c 40/19/s 74/50/s Albuquerque Las Vegas 68/47/9 26/24/sn 59/23/0.00 Anchorage 20/4/0.00 19/12/s Lexington 52/25/s 45/23/pc 69/43/s 64/43/pc 40/31/s 69/25/0.00 68/33/0.00 58/32/pc 58/38/sh Little Rock Atlantic City 68/44/s 74/52/pc Austin 73/35/0.00 78/52/pd Los Angeles 58/48/0.16 65/51/s 75/49/s 50/28/pc 42/18/s 58/40/c 79/68/pc 40/26/s 45/26/s 65/29/0.00 51/23/0.00 63/31/0.00 86/69/0.00 59/24/0.00 44/26/s 57/34/s Louisville Madison, Wi 57/32/9 37/17/pc 69/48/s 79/64/pc 36/25/s 42/26/s 66/38/s 65/41/pc 64/32/s 63/40/s 33/18/pc 39/20/s Minneapolis 50/26/0.00 Bridgeport, CT 51/28/0.00 43/25/pc 38/26/9 64/32/0.00 56/34/pc New Orleans 63/44/0.02 Burlington, VT 30/17/0.06 New York City 52/31/0.00 44/24/pc 44/25/pc Caribou, ME 29/4/0.00 Newark, NJ 52/27/0.00 55/34/pc 68/46/pc 59/33/s 73/52/s 76/53/s 60/44/1.59 69/43/s 61/41/5 Norfolk, VA Oklahoma City 57/32/0.00 47/34/s 65/39/Tr 67/38/Tr 58/28/0.00 59/36/0.00 69/29/0.00 66/27/0.00 75/65/0.47 66/48/Tr 61/31/0.00 Orlando Palm Springs Cincinnat 50/26/s Peoria 52/27/s 34/24/s Philadelphia Cleveland 54/32/0.00 34/23/pc 55/29/0.00 46/26/pc 41/29/s 54/29/pc 53/31/pc 62/40/s Colorado Springs 60/30/0.00 71/35/0.00 Phoenix 86/49/0.00 69/51/pc Columbia, MO Columbia, SC 64/37/s 55/26/0.00 36/23/s 64/41/0.40 71/39/s Portland, ME 37/14/0.00 34/16/s 27/12/pc Columbus, GA Columbus, OH 67/41/0.24 71/44/s 49/24/0.00 35/21/s 53/32/s 41/24/s 26/11/pc 80/54/c 65/46/c 43/24/s 60/25/0.00 63/34/0.00 64/34/s 62/29/s 65/35/pc 49/27/s 30/18/s Rochester, N 46/24/s Dayton Denver 63/28/0.00 41/29/sn 54/32/9 Sacramento 66/39/0.00 67/45/pc Des Moines St. Louis 61/34/s Salt Lake City 63/32/0.00 56/35/r 74/56/pc 61/41/s Duluth 42/24/0.00 34/21/s 40/23/9 San Antonio 71/38/0.00 74/34/0.00 69/44/pc 68/42/9 San Diego San Francisco 63/49/0.57 66/50/9 69/54/s 68/46/pc 68/46/pc 59/28/s 66/46/s 52/41/r 1/-8/0.02 64/48/0 00 63/48/nr 43/22/0.00 55/15/0.00 50/31/0.00 45/28/0.00 70/46/0.00 62/22/0.00 62/46/1.71 56/35/0.00 Green Bay 35/19/s Sioux Falls 63/30/0.00 62/32/s 53/29/9 62/27/0.00 55/29/s 60/33/pc Harrisburg Hartford, CT 60/23/0.00 42/28/s 33/18/s Spokane 57/30/0.00 39/18/pc Springfield, MO Tampa 68/30/0.00 67/45/9 52/28/s 55/27/0.00 56/34/pc 73/66/0.17 72/56/9 78/62/s Tucson Tulsa Washington, DC Wichita Honolulu 78/68/sh 83/45/0.00 67/45/p 82/57/s 79/67/pc 71/52/s 72/54/t 60/36/pc 46/25/s 69/41/0 00 71/39/0 00 69/48/s 56/36/ 60/30/0.00 69/31/0.00 69/25/0.00 73/48/0.00 52/29/s 66/46/pc 60/37/pc 72/47/s

			INTERN	IATIONAL			
Amsterdam	47/35/0.04	44/31/r	44/30/pc	Mecca	87/68/0.00	84/61/s	90/69/9
Athens	63/43/0.00	63/47/s	65/52/pc	Mexico City	79/55/0.00	81/55/s	83/53/9
Auckland	75/65/0.26	72/60/t	74/61/pc	Montreal	32/16/0.18	20/10/pc	19/7/c
Baghdad	79/55/0.00	79/54/pc	72/49/s	Moscow	37/27/0.02	37/20/sn	30/17/0
Bangkok	93/81/0.00	91/78/pc	93/78/t	Nairobi	83/59/0.00	79/60/t	81/61/0
Beijing	49/30/0.00	52/31/s	45/26/sh	Nassau	84/70/0.00	79/66/t	78/68/p
Beirut	62/57/0.08	59/53/pc	66/52/s	New Delhi	86/55/0.00	90/60/s	88/60/p
Berlin	57/27/0.00	43/28/c	42/25/pc	Osaka	51/37/0.00	62/50/pc	59/52/0
Bogota	64/51/0.00	64/50/pc	65/49/t	Oslo	37/25/0.02	38/22/s	37/23/9
Budapest	61/25/0.00	61/39/pc	52/26/r	Ottawa	30/16/0.12	19/6/s	19/7/c
Buenos Aires	82/74/0.00	80/68/t	78/62/s	Paris	64/43/0.04	55/37/c	44/30/p
Cabo San Lucas	82/62/0.00	84/59/pc	83/60/pc	Rio de Janeiro	88/75/0.00	88/76/s	91/77/p
Cairo	63/51/0.00	69/50/pc	72/51/s	Rome	61/37/0.00	60/44/pc	59/46/0
Calgary	46/30/Tr	48/30/pc	53/31/pc	Santiago	88/59/0.00	91/59/s	84/58/9
Cancun	88/64/0.00	82/73/sh	81/73/pc	Sao Paulo	86/70/0.05	83/69/t	78/68/t
Dublin	44/39/0.00	43/38/c	43/33/pc	Sapporo	30/9/0.02	37/32/s	44/22/p
Edinburgh	39/36/0.38	41/31/sh	42/31/pc	Seoul	49/27/0.00	54/32/c	58/36/9
Geneva	55/36/0.00	59/39/sh	52/33/r	Shanghai	54/35/0.19	60/45/pc	60/49/9
Harare	74/57/0.03	76/60/pc	78/58/pc	Singapore	90/77/0.00	90/78/pc	90/78/p
Hong Kong	69/63/0.02	73/68/sh	75/70/sh	Stockholm	44/30/0.02	36/22/s	33/21/9
Istanbul	50/34/0.00	50/41/s	58/48/s	Sydney	70/59/0.02	78/65/s	73/64/p
Jerusalem	54/44/0.18	51/47/pc	57/41/s	Taipei City	67/55/0.03	73/63/sh	81/64/p
Johannesburg	77/54/0.00	80/61/s	82/61/s	Tel Aviv	63/52/0.33	63/55/pc	67/51/p
Lima	82/72/0.00	78/69/pc	78/69/pc	Tokyo	51/41/0.00	55/49/pc	58/51/p
Lisbon	66/48/0.00	60/51/r	61/50/sh	Toronto	45/27/0.00	28/16/s	32/19/p
London	48/39/0.17	44/35/c	43/31/pc	Vancouver	50/39/0.01	52/45/c	50/41/s
Madrid	57/44/0.00	61/43/s	64/41/pc	Vienna	48/25/0.00	57/39/pc	42/25/r
Manila	90/79/0.00	90/77/s	91/77/s	Warsaw	45/30/0.00	44/28/pc	39/24/
	Athens Auckland Baghdad Bangkok Beijing Beirut Berlin Bogota Budapest Buenos Aires Cabo San Lucas Cairo Calgary Cancun Dublin Edinburgh Geneva Harare Hong Kong Istanbul Johannesburg Lima Lisbon London Madrid	Athens 63/43/0.00 Auckland 75/65/0.26 Baghdad 79/55/0.00 Bangkok 93/81/0.00 Beijing 49/30/0.00 Beirut 62/57/0.08 Berlin 57/27/0.00 Beirut 62/57/0.08 Berlin 67/27/0.00 Budapest 61/25/0.00 Buenos Aires 82/74/0.00 Cairo 63/51/0.00 Cairo 63/51/0.00 Cairo 63/51/0.00 Cairo 63/51/0.00 Cairo 88/64/0.00 Calgary 46/30/1r Cancun 88/64/0.00 Loblin 44/39/0.01 Edinburgh 39/36/0.38 Geneva 55/36/0.00 Berlin 44/39/0.01 Berlin 54/44/0.18 Johannesburg 74/57/0.03 Jerusalem 54/44/0.18 Johannesburg 77/54/0.00 Lima 82/72/0.00 Lisbon 66/48/0.00 London 48/39/0.17 Maddid 57/44/0.00	Athens         63/43/0.00         63/47/s           Auckland         75/65/0.26         72/60/t           Baghdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc           Baghdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc           Baghdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc           Beiling         49/30/0.00         52/31/s           Beirut         62/57/0.08         59/53/pc           Berint         62/57/0.00         43/28/c           Bogota         64/51/0.00         64/50/pc           Budapest         61/25/0.00         61/39/pc           Cabo San Lucas         82/62/0.00         84/59/pc           Calgary         46/30/Tr         48/30/pc           Calgary         46/30/Tr         48/30/pc           Calinburgh         39/36/0.38         41/31/s           Geneva         55/36/0.00         59/39/sh           Hong Kong         69/63/0.02         73/68/sh           Istanbul         50/34/0.00         50/41/s           Jerusalem         54/44/0.18         51/47/pc           Johannesburg         77/54/0.00         80/61/s           Lima         82/72/2.00         78/69/pc           Limbon         66/48/0.00         60/51/r<	Amsterdam         47/35/0.04         44/31/r         44/30/pc           Athens         63/43/0.00         63/47/s         63/2/pc           Auckland         75/65/0.26         72/60/t         74/61/pc           Baghdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc         72/49/s           Bangkok         93/81/0.00         52/31/s         45/26/s1           Beijing         49/30/0.00         52/31/s         45/26/s1           Beirut         62/57/0.00         59/53/pc         66/52/s           Bertin         57/27/0.00         43/28/pc         42/25/pc           Budapest         61/25/0.00         61/39/pc         52/26/r           Buenos Aires         82/74/0.00         88/68/t         8/69/pc         63/60/pc           Cairo         63/51/0.00         69/50/pc         72/51/s         53/31/pc           Calgary         46/30/Tr         48/39/pc         53/31/pc         53/31/pc           Cancun         88/64/0.00         82/73/sh         13/3/pc         53/31/pc           Caliburgh         39/36/0.33         41/31/sh         42/33/pc         53/31/pc           Geneva         55/36/0.00         59/39/sh         55/33/r         76/60/pc         78/59/pc         78/50/sh <td>Athens         63/43/0.00         63/47/s         65/52/pc         Mexico City           Auckland         75/65/0.26         72/60/t         74/61/pc         Montreal           Baghdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc         72/49/s         Moscow           Bangkok         93/81/0.00         19/74/pc         39/78/t         Moscow           Beijing         49/30/0.00         52/31/s         45/26/sh         Nassau           Beirut         62/57/0.08         59/53/pc         66/52/s         New Delhi           Begrin         57/27/0.00         64/50/pc         65/49/t         Osko           Budapest         61/25/0.00         61/39/pc         52/26/r         Otawa           Buenos Aires         82/74/0.00         80/85/pc         28/26/r         Paris           Cabo San Lucas         82/62/0.00         84/59/pc         83/60/pc         Rio de Janeiro           Calgary         46/30/Tr         48/30/pc         53/31/pc         Santiago           Calgary         46/30/Tr         43/38/c         43/33/pc         Sapporo           Edinburgh         39/36/0.38         41/31/sh         42/31/pc         Seoul           Harare         74/57/0.03         76/60/pc         78/58/</td> <td>Amsterdam         47/35/0.04         44/31/r         44/30/pc         Mecca         87/68/0.00           Athens         63/43/0.00         63/47/s         65/52/pc         Mexico City         79/55/0.00           Auckland         75/65/0.26         72/60/t         74/61/pc         Montreal         32/16/0.18           Baghdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc         72/49/s         Moscow         37/27/0.02           Baighdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc         72/24/s         Moscow         37/27/0.02           Beijing         49/30/0.00         52/31/s         45/26/sh         Massau         84/70/0.00           Beirut         62/57/0.08         59/53/pc         66/52/s         New Delhi         86/55/0.00           Bertin         57/27/0.00         43/28/c         42/25/pc         Osaka         51/37/0.00           Budapest         61/25/0.00         61/39/pc         52/26/r         Ottawa         30/16/0.12           Cabo San Lucas         82/62/0.00         84/59/pc         83/60/pc         Paris         64/43/0.04           Calgary         46/30/Tr         48/30/pc         53/31/pc         Santiago         88/59/0.00           Calos San Lucas         82/40/0.00         82/73/sh</td> <td>Amsterdam         47/35/0.04         44/31/r         44/30/pc         Mecca         87/68/0.00         84/61/s           Athens         63/43/0.00         63/47/s         65/52/pc         Mexico City         79/55/0.00         81/55/pc           Auckland         75/65/0.02         67/60/t         74/61/pc         Montreal         32/16/0.18         20/15/pc           Bangkok         93/81/0.00         79/54/pc         72/49/s         Moscow         37/27/0.02         37/20/sn           Beijing         49/30/0.00         52/31/s         45/26/sh         Nassau         84/70/0.00         79/60/t           Beirlut         62/57/0.08         59/53/pc         66/52/s         New Delhi         86/55/0.00         90/60/s           Berlin         57/27/0.00         43/28/pc         66/52/s         New Delhi         86/55/0.00         90/60/s           Budapest         61/25/0.00         61/39/pc         52/26/r         Ottawa         30/16/0.12         19/68           Buenos Aires         82/74/0.00         88/68/r         82/60/pc         83/60/pc         83/60/pc         Paris         64/43/0.04         55/37/c           Caipary         46/30/Tr         48/30/pc         53/31/pc         Santiago         88/59/0.00</td>	Athens         63/43/0.00         63/47/s         65/52/pc         Mexico City           Auckland         75/65/0.26         72/60/t         74/61/pc         Montreal           Baghdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc         72/49/s         Moscow           Bangkok         93/81/0.00         19/74/pc         39/78/t         Moscow           Beijing         49/30/0.00         52/31/s         45/26/sh         Nassau           Beirut         62/57/0.08         59/53/pc         66/52/s         New Delhi           Begrin         57/27/0.00         64/50/pc         65/49/t         Osko           Budapest         61/25/0.00         61/39/pc         52/26/r         Otawa           Buenos Aires         82/74/0.00         80/85/pc         28/26/r         Paris           Cabo San Lucas         82/62/0.00         84/59/pc         83/60/pc         Rio de Janeiro           Calgary         46/30/Tr         48/30/pc         53/31/pc         Santiago           Calgary         46/30/Tr         43/38/c         43/33/pc         Sapporo           Edinburgh         39/36/0.38         41/31/sh         42/31/pc         Seoul           Harare         74/57/0.03         76/60/pc         78/58/	Amsterdam         47/35/0.04         44/31/r         44/30/pc         Mecca         87/68/0.00           Athens         63/43/0.00         63/47/s         65/52/pc         Mexico City         79/55/0.00           Auckland         75/65/0.26         72/60/t         74/61/pc         Montreal         32/16/0.18           Baghdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc         72/49/s         Moscow         37/27/0.02           Baighdad         79/55/0.00         79/54/pc         72/24/s         Moscow         37/27/0.02           Beijing         49/30/0.00         52/31/s         45/26/sh         Massau         84/70/0.00           Beirut         62/57/0.08         59/53/pc         66/52/s         New Delhi         86/55/0.00           Bertin         57/27/0.00         43/28/c         42/25/pc         Osaka         51/37/0.00           Budapest         61/25/0.00         61/39/pc         52/26/r         Ottawa         30/16/0.12           Cabo San Lucas         82/62/0.00         84/59/pc         83/60/pc         Paris         64/43/0.04           Calgary         46/30/Tr         48/30/pc         53/31/pc         Santiago         88/59/0.00           Calos San Lucas         82/40/0.00         82/73/sh	Amsterdam         47/35/0.04         44/31/r         44/30/pc         Mecca         87/68/0.00         84/61/s           Athens         63/43/0.00         63/47/s         65/52/pc         Mexico City         79/55/0.00         81/55/pc           Auckland         75/65/0.02         67/60/t         74/61/pc         Montreal         32/16/0.18         20/15/pc           Bangkok         93/81/0.00         79/54/pc         72/49/s         Moscow         37/27/0.02         37/20/sn           Beijing         49/30/0.00         52/31/s         45/26/sh         Nassau         84/70/0.00         79/60/t           Beirlut         62/57/0.08         59/53/pc         66/52/s         New Delhi         86/55/0.00         90/60/s           Berlin         57/27/0.00         43/28/pc         66/52/s         New Delhi         86/55/0.00         90/60/s           Budapest         61/25/0.00         61/39/pc         52/26/r         Ottawa         30/16/0.12         19/68           Buenos Aires         82/74/0.00         88/68/r         82/60/pc         83/60/pc         83/60/pc         Paris         64/43/0.04         55/37/c           Caipary         46/30/Tr         48/30/pc         53/31/pc         Santiago         88/59/0.00

68/44/pc 68/50/s

### **Les Schwab**

**Continued from A11** 

Les Schwab Tire Centers is among Oregon's largest businesses, with annual sales approaching \$2 billion and 500 stores across 10 western states. Its headquarters are in Bend and its lone distribution center remains in nearby Prineville, Schwab's hometown.

what it paid for the Oregon company, but when Schwab Tire announced plans to sell the business in 2019, Bloomberg reported that Schwab's heirs were hoping the business would fetch \$3

billion.

The decision to stop paying the dividend represents a major cultural test for Schwab Tire and its new ownership. Its bonus and dividend structure differentiated it from other retail chains and have been an essential element of its workplace culture.

\*

ther(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-sh

Employees, who asked not to be named speaking about their company, noted that the \$3,000 dividends represent a hefty share of their annual income. Tire dealers nationally pay an average annual wage of about \$45,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

It's not clear whether

Schwab Tire will create an alternative to the dividends to replace the lost income.

'Our employees are the heart of our Company, and we continually modernize and optimize our programs to ensure they remain competitive and highly valued by our workforce," Dale Thompson, Les Schwab's chief marketing officer, said in a written state-

"It's absolutely our intention to provide our employees with outstanding programs, in keeping with the generous, special company Les Schwab is," Thompson said. He did not say whether the company

will continue paying the separate, annual profit-sharing bonus.

Schwab Tire delivered the news about cutting off the employee dividend in a larger note thanking them for their work last year and setting the date for their annual bonus and for their final, 2020 divi-

dend payment. "Our 2020 accomplishments are a direct result of your consistent delivery of World Class Customer Service in the face of what was one of the most challenging years we've ever had," Cuniff, the CEO, wrote. "You are the Les Schwab difference."

## \$17-an-hour

62/34/0.00 55/48/0.70

Jacksonville

70/43/s 71/43/s

**Continued from A11** 

The hourly minimum goes up every year under provisions of a bill passed in 2016, rising to \$14 an hour this summer in the Portland area. It will increase to \$12.75 an hour in Deschutes County and to \$12 in Crook, Jefferson and other nonurban counties around the

Oregon's minimum wage is due to increase to \$14.75 an hour in 2022 in the Portland area, \$13.50 an hour in Deschutes County and \$12.50 in Crook, Jefferson and other nonurban counties. As of July 1, 2023, it would be adjusted annually based on the consumer price index.

House Bill 3351 would do away with regional differences and set a \$17 minimum as of July 1, 2022. Annual increases based on inflation would continue thereafter.

Economists have long debated the effect of higher minimum wages on inflation and employment. The conventional wisdom that higher minimums would lead to major job losses was tested over the past several years, as Washington, Oregon and many other states raised their minimum wages while unemployment fell to an alltime low in the period before the pandemic.

However, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office concluded last month that a Democratic proposal to increase the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour over the next five years would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs. The researchers also found that raising the federal minimum would lift 900,000 out of poverty and raise incomes for as many as 27 million Americans.

Democrats had hoped to include the federal minimum wage hike in the coronavirus relief package now working its way through Congress but that appears unlikely. Senate rules would require at least 60 votes to accomplish that and Republicans — who control half the chamber — are unanimous in their opposition to raising the minimum that high.

## **Rental rules**

**Continued from A11** 

The Arch Cape ordinance requires a minimum seven-night stay, and only one reservation is allowed during a seven-day period. Street parking is not allowed. There is no limit or minimum stay requirement for other unincorporated areas, and street parking is allowed.

Commissioners directed staff to set parameters and a scope of work for a committee to help combine and reconcile the two ordinances.

"Those would be the two big areas where we would need to have a committee to look at it and determine how

best to reconcile," Henrikson said. "Whether it's taking one of the ordinance provisions and recommending that to be adopted or just creating some sort of compromise between the two ordinances."

The board's guidance on other questions could be drafted as amendments. Some of those questions include whether there should be a "three-strikes rule" — requiring staff to revoke a vacation rental permit after three complaints — and penalties for people who knowingly submit false complaints.

Some policy items were provided as a starting point for future discussions, including questions about capping

short-term rentals, prohibiting them in certain parts of the county and how the lodging tax is utilized.

Henrikson said those items will not be included in the revisions to the ordinances at this time.

"It was so clear to me how much everybody who wrote cared about this issue," said Commissioner Lianne Thompson, who represents south county. "Every single person has this passionate devotion to community well-being. There is not a consensus on what that community well-being looks like, how it's defined, none of it. There's no agreement.

"My concern about estab-

lishing a committee would be it would have to have a purview where it looked at what was state law, what were the sidebars. I've seen some things with citizen advisory committees that have caused me great concern.

'There have been a number of proposals that have been in clear violation of state law and have been termed 'aspirational.' Well, I don't have an aspiration to break the state law, and I think it doesn't help the situation when anybody thinks that their will or their whim or their idea or their passion, however we want to characterize it, can have the force of state law or county ordinance."

## **Vacasa**

**Continued from A11** 

The Portland company says it can outperform competitors by using technology to dynamically adjust rental prices for busy periods, which makes rental properties more expensive for vacationers but more profitable for the homes' owners.

Vacasa has raised about \$630 million over the past several years, including a \$108 million investment round last spring. It had 6,000 employees prior to the pandemic, most of them in vacation destination markets where local crews maintain and clean vacation homes between rentals.

Bend-based Meredith Lodging maintains 700 homes, in destinations along the Oregon Coast and in Central Oregon. In its complaint, filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Eugene, Meredith alleges that Vacasa sales representatives have been badmouthing the smaller competitor to its clients.

Meredith states that Vacasa representatives have been cold-calling vacation property owners who contract with Meredith. The Bend company alleges that Vacasa's representatives spread falsehoods about the cleanliness of Meredith's properties and how it manages negative reviews, then asks

them to switch to Vacasa. "Our primary objective re-

ally is to stop Vacasa from engaging in this untoward business practice," said Annie Robertson, Meredith's chief legal officer. "This damages our reputation to call people and say negative things about our company."

Meredith said it wants the court to stop Vacasa from "falsely advertising," and to pay attorney fees and unspecified damages from lost revenue damage to the brand and other costs. Robertson said that Vacasa had inquired previously about acquiring the Bend company, but that Meredith made it clear it wasn't interested.

Meredith asked Vacasa to stop with the cold calls before filing Wednesday's lawsuit, ac-

cording to Robertson, but she said the Portland company refused. She said the dispute illustrates the issues that arise when one large business gains a big share of any market.

We're starting to see that with these vacation rental management companies. They're being consolidated and rolled up into larger organizations," Robertson said. She said Vacasa and other big players are making the vacation management business more difficult for small companies and more expensive for vacationers.

'That has an impact on competing businesses," Robertson said, "and that has an impact on consumers."

# Robot

**Continued from A11** 

"It was challenging, no doubt about it, but at the same time, it was also exciting in a way," Myint said of opening a restaurant during a pandemic. "We love problem-solving, and it gives you a sort of motivation or push to try harder.

"We have to keep evolving and changing and coming up with new things to sort of forge ahead of everybody."

The robots — Milo, Navi and the Beast — also teleport customers to a future built on effi-

ciency and limited contact. Bistro Royale uses mapping software to tell the robots where to go throughout the restaurant. Once the software is set up, the robots use markers on the ceiling to navigate between tables and provide takeout orders for customers or to-go drivers. They also have motion detection cameras to weave between people.

Myint is so interested in the potential of robots in the food service industry that he has his own restaurant robotic company, called Bottica Inc. The business also serves retailers, hotels and hospitals, he said.

Despite his love for the machines, Myint wants to be clear that he does not think they can
— or should — fully replace human servers.

"In the robotic industry, there's a lot of worry about robots taking jobs away," he explained. "They're like a cellphone, right? You have your cellphone as a tool. So, we're using them as a tool to sort of amplify what they do best."

Myint said his employees have loved having the robots around, and that they have learned "super-valuable knowledge as the future moves forward with this technology."

For people in Asian countries, robots at restaurants may not be new, but Myint says his customers are usually surprised to see Milo moving from table to table.

"He's a celebrity," Myint said with a chuckle. "We have families just come here for Milo. I guess he's getting more popular than the restaurant."