

Weather forecast for Today through Wednesday. Includes icons for sun, clouds, rain, and snow, along with high/low temperatures and brief descriptions of the day's weather.

ALMANAC section containing temperature records for Bend Municipal Airport, precipitation data for the month, and sunrise/sunset times for the week.

OREGON WEATHER map showing current conditions and forecasts for various Oregon cities. Includes a legend for weather symbols and a table of high/low temperatures for the day and Friday.

TRAVEL WEATHER NATIONAL table listing high/low temperatures for various cities across the United States for the previous day, today, and Friday.

UV INDEX TODAY section showing UV levels for different times of the day (10 a.m., Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m.) and a brief explanation of the index.

ROAD CONDITIONS section providing updates on major passes and roads in Oregon, such as Santiam Pass, Cabbage Hill, and Willamette Pass.

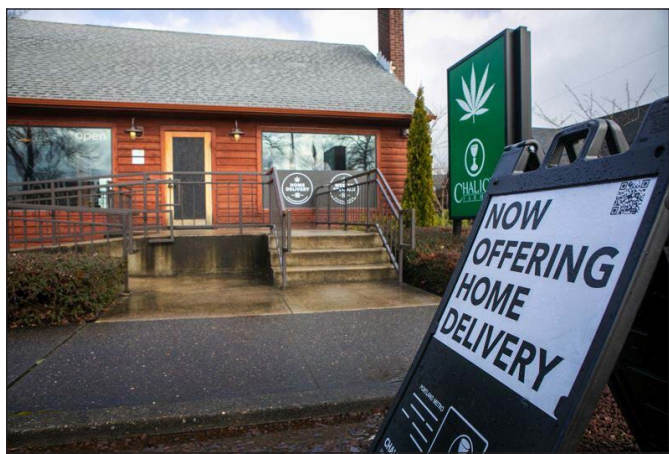
NATIONAL WEATHER section featuring a map of the United States with weather systems and a table of high/low temperatures for major cities.

INTERNATIONAL table listing high/low temperatures for various international cities for the previous day, today, and Friday.

SKI REPORT table showing snow conditions for various ski resorts, including new snow, base snow, and other metrics.

NATIONAL WEATHER map showing weather systems and precipitation across the United States, with a legend for weather symbols.

INTERNATIONAL table listing high/low temperatures for various international cities for the previous day, today, and Friday.



Despite big profits as a sector of Oregon's economy, especially during the pandemic, not all retailers are prospering.

Cannabis
Continued from A11
In the next two-year budget cycle, which begins July 1, cities and counties will have only \$18 million in marijuana money to split amongst themselves, an almost 72% drop compared with the \$63.7 million they expected under the old funding formula, according to the League of Oregon Cities.

City Halls eager to bump up their cannabis tax include Gresham, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Tualatin, Sherwood, St. Helens, Happy Valley, Eugene and Bend, staff for the league said in testimony to a revenue committee hearing of the Legislature on March 4.
League of Oregon Cities lobbyist Mark Gharst told lawmakers the COVID-19 pandemic prompted a decline in

lodging and gas taxes, park and development fees — and the worst crunch for city budgets may be yet to come, if property tax revenues fall due to commercial vacancies.
“I don’t think that the voters were saying that they wanted local governments to cut services in order to fund that recovery,” Gharst said. “We can have our cake and eat it, too.”
Marijuana insiders see it differently. They say cannabis retailers can’t just pass the tax increase on to users, many of whom could dial up their old dealer from the years before legalization.
Whitney, the economist, estimates that most consumers will pay a premium of just 10% to 15% to acquire their weed legally. Go above that, and they might just get their marijuana on the black market.
“Consumers are very price conscious,” agreed Casey Houlihan, executive director of the Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association. He calls the proposed 10% tax a “disaster” in the making, saying the lure of the illicit market could lead

governments to collect less in the future than they do now.
“One only needs to look around on Instagram to see cheap ounces or pounds being sold,” Houlihan said.
Bursting bubble?
Stata data confirms that consumers haven’t noticed much difference at the cash register so far.
Despite the billion-dollar consumer market in 2020, the average retail price for consumers has remained at or below \$5.50 per gram nearly every month since July 2018, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission said in its Feb. 1 supply-and-demand report.
The price of wholesale flower, the smokeable part of the cannabis plant, hit \$1,499 per pound in December 2020, levels not seen since late 2017.
That’s good news for growers, who for years have complained that Oregon’s cannabis market is oversupplied. Demand is now devouring 65% of annual supply, up from just 50% two years ago, per the report.

Teens
Continued from A11
Researchers reported high levels of virus-fighting antibodies, somewhat higher than were seen in studies of young adults.
Kids had side effects similar to young adults, the company said. The main side effects are pain, fever, chills and fatigue, particularly after the second dose. The study will continue to track participants for two years for more information about long-term protection and safety.
Dr. Philip J. Landrigan of Boston College said the results are encouraging.
“It’s hard to get kids to comply with masking and distancing, so something that gives them hard protection and takes them out of the mix of spreading the virus is all for the good,” said Landrigan, who was not involved in the study.
Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech in the coming weeks plan to ask the U.S. Food and Drug Admin-

istration and European regulators to allow emergency use of the shots starting at age 12.
Pfizer isn’t the only company seeking to lower the age limit for its vaccine. Results also are expected by the middle of this year from a U.S. study of Moderna’s vaccine in 12- to 17-year-olds.
But in a sign that the findings were promising, the FDA already allowed both companies to begin U.S. studies in children 11 and younger, working their way to as young as 6-month-old.
It’s not clear how quickly the FDA would act on Pfizer’s request to allow vaccination starting at age 12. The agency has taken about three weeks to review and authorize each of the vaccines currently available for adults. That process included holding a public meeting of outside experts to review and vote on the safety and effectiveness of each shot.
The process for reviewing data in children could be shorter, given FDA’s familiarity with each vaccine.

Rent
Continued from A11
The grants are part of the state’s \$100 million commercial rent relief program, which lawmakers approved in January. Business Oregon, which is administering the fund, will reopen applications for another \$42 million round in mid-April.
Nearly 88% of the applicants that applied for funding through the program earlier this month were approved, pending final confirmation of their documentation.
Applicants in most parts of the state were approved for funding as long as they met the necessary requirements, but Business Oregon only funded 80% of applicants from the Portland area. That’s because the state is working to distribute grants equitably across the state.
Business Oregon held a lottery to determine which eligible applicants to approve.

Those that weren’t approved initially will automatically be considered along with new applicants during the second round of funding in April.
While the vast majority of applicants were approved, it is still unclear how many business owners across the state are behind on rent due to the pandemic.
Melanie Marconi, the owner of Vida, a coworking space in Northeast Portland, told lawmakers earlier this month that her landlord had not applied for the funds, even though she had fallen significantly behind on rent. Other business owners have raised similar concerns.
While both landlords and tenants must participate in Oregon’s application process, landlords must submit the initial application. Landlords who accept the funding must also sign an agreement forgiving any outstanding penalties or interest and promising not to evict their tenants.

Despite the commercial rent relief program, business groups and owners also remain concerned about a looming eviction crisis.
Oregon lawmakers allowed the state’s moratorium on commercial evictions to expire last September, but gave business owners until the end of March to repay their outstanding rent. That may have prevented an onslaught of commercial evictions over the last six months.
Lawmakers are currently considering a proposal to give business owners until the end of September to repay rent bills they accumulated during the worst days of the coronavirus recession last year.
However, lawmakers are unlikely to vote on that bill before the current grace period expires at the end of March, potentially opening up business owners to evictions if their landlords have not applied or been approved for funding through the commercial rent relief program.

Advertisement for Laurie's Grill featuring a 50% discount at CentralOregonDeals.com. Includes the restaurant's address (415 NE 3rd St., Bend) and phone number (541-330-8955).