



Elaine Thompson/AP file

A sign is held aloft during an Indigenous Peoples Day march in Seattle in October 2017. Seattle is one place that has stopped recognizing Columbus Day and instead turned the second Monday in October into a day of recognition of Native American cultures and peoples.

Oregon Legislature approves bill to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day

BY SAM STITES

Oregon Public Broadcasting

The state of Oregon will recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in a bill passed this week by the Legislature.

Beginning this year, Oregon would recognize that Christopher Columbus' "discovery" of the Americas is historically inaccurate and unworthy of celebration due to his voyage opening the door to "heinous crimes against humanity."

HB 2526 passed the Oregon Senate on Tuesday 22-7. It was approved 50-5 in the House last month.

The bill, brought forth by the Legislature's only Indigenous lawmakers, Rep. Tawna Sanchez, D-Portland, and Rep. Teresa Alonso-Leon, D-Woodburn, aims to join 10 other states in recognizing the significant contributions Native Americans have made to the U.S., and more specifically the contributions of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes to the culture of this state.

"Back in 1937 Columbus Day became a federal holiday. While Oregon does not formally observe Columbus Day as a state holiday, it has been

celebrated nationwide since 1971," Sen. Majority Leader Rob Wagner said. "The state of Oregon will become the 11th state to formally recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day. Our Indigenous people, language and cultures contribute incredible richness and vitality to the tapestry of the place we now call Oregon. It is time that we honor those contributions with formal recognition."

Wagner said he felt this type of honor was long overdue. Sen. Minority Leader Fred Girod spoke against the bill.

Girod said that while this is

a tough bill to vote no on, he felt it unnecessary to "trash" Columbus in the process.

"I happen to like history. That was a very brave individual that got in a boat to prove a theory that the world was round, and I just don't think you needed to do that," Girod said. "I wanted to remove that part of this bill, and that wasn't done. Therefore, I'm going to vote no."

Four Republicans, including Tim Knopp of Bend, joined all 18 Democrats in voting for the bill, which now heads to Gov. Kate Brown's desk for her signature.

Prineville

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They tasked City Attorney Jered Reid with finding a legal mechanism the city could enact that would protect businesses regarding executive orders and state regulations.

What he found was the city was quite limited with what it legally could do, Reid said.

"A city cannot nullify or void state law in any sort of way," he said.

The solution Reid devised, Resolution 1474, passed the council later that month with a 5-2 vote. The resolution states several specific findings, like that Crook County represented a minute portion of Oregon's total coronavirus cases and that residents were making good-

faith efforts to stop the spread of the disease. Those findings could then be used to argue against a fine in an administrative hearing, such as one called by the Oregon OSHA for violating COVID-19-related business regulations.

Resolution 1474 also included a request for a judicial hearing to validate the resolution. In late March, Reid met one-on-one over video with circuit Judge Michael R. McLane in a judicial review hearing.

McLane issued his opinion upholding the resolution last week.

That judicial approval is key to the resolution, Reid said.

"In order for the resolution to have real validity in those administrative hearings I felt it

was critical to have the circuit court validate it," Reid said.

Resolutions like Baker City's include tart personal language vilifying the governor. Josephine County's resolution, which is similar to the one in Prineville, was recently thrown out on judicial review by a Josephine County circuit judge. Reid thinks this was because the language of the Josephine County resolution was too broad.

Reid said the Prineville resolution was intended to be consistent with Oregon law, not oppose it.

"The resolution wasn't designed to be a political statement," he said. "It was designed to be an actual legal tool to help our citizens."

But rather than rest on its

laurels, Prineville's council seems poised to debate the next spicy issue of the day.

On Wednesday, the state announced new Oregon OSHA guidelines regarding masks and vaccinations in a video conference.

These new guidelines appeared to have already caused a stir in the community.

"We do not live in Nazi Germany and having to show papers to be free is not Freedom!" Beebe wrote on his Facebook page May 18. "I did not serve our Country to go through this and neither did all the Americans before me. Misuse and blatant disregard for the Constitution is not okay in my book!"

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Wilsonville man heading to jail after spitting on officer while claiming to have COVID-19

BY SAVANNAH EADENS

The Oregonian

A 25-year-old Wilsonville man pleaded guilty this week to spitting in a Tigard police officer's face after being detained on suspicion of driving while under the influence.

Washington County Judge Ramón Pagan sentenced Miguel Hernandez-Cuesta to three years' formal probation and six months in the Washington County jail after the guilty plea to charges of second-degree assault, aggravated harassment and driving under the influence of intoxicants. Pagan also ordered Hernandez-Cuesta's driver's license be revoked for life.

On July 26, 2020, Hernandez-Cuesta fell asleep at the wheel of his car while placing an order at a drive-thru restaurant in Tualatin, according to court documents. A store manager confronted Hernandez-Cuesta — who denied being under the influence. He pulled into a parking spot at the restaurant, where he fell asleep at the wheel again.

Officers found Hernandez-Cuesta partially hanging out of the driver's side door while the car was still running, and they ordered him to get out of the car. The car rolled forward and nearly hit a law enforcement vehicle, officials said. Hernandez-Cuesta

then failed a field sobriety test and was arrested for driving under the influence.

While being searched by an officer, Hernandez-Cuesta "coughed profusely," said he had COVID-19 and spat in an

officer's face, according to a release from the Washington County District Attorney's office.

Hernandez-Cuesta had previously been cited twice for speeding, once for driving

under the influence of intoxicants and twice for driving with a suspended license.

OBITUARY

Wayne Coats

May 11, 2021

Wayne Coats, 61, of Victor, Iowa died on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 in Metolius, Oregon.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at the Smith Funeral Home in Victor. Live streaming of Wayne's service will begin at 9:50 am on the Smith Funeral Home Facebook page. Celebration of Life in Bend will be June 12th, 2021.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the Izaak Walton League of Iowa County and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 485, Victor, Iowa 52347. Memories and condolences may be shared with Wayne's family online at www.smithfh.com.



Revenue

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That will be enough to boost state spending, without cuts, as lawmakers finish work on the state budget for the next two years.

Meanwhile, that surge will result in an estimated \$1.4 billion — more than twice the amount projected back on Feb. 24 — going back to taxpayers next year in the form of "kicker" credits against their 2021 tax bills. The final figure will be determined in the September economic and revenue forecast, but the share of tax liability is projected at 13.6%.

For the average taxpayer with a household income of \$67,400, the credit will be \$636. For the median with household income between \$35,000 and \$40,000 — half are above and half below that range — the credit will be \$312.

"I have never seen such a strong outlook," State Economist Mark McMullen told members of the House and Senate revenue committees during his quarterly forecast on Wednesday.

"There are a whole lot more resources available than when we last reported in March, and even more than we reported at the beginning of the session, when the budget was drafted. It's quite a remarkable turnaround from a few months ago."

"When the pandemic hit, we saw these massive job losses that blew a \$2 billion hole in the budget. That hole was filled by the March forecast (on Feb. 24), and now we are past where we thought we would be even pre-pandemic."

Gov. Kate Brown proposed \$25.6 billion in spending from the tax-supported general fund and lottery proceeds, the state's two most flexible sources, back on Dec. 1. Legislative budget writers, bolstered by \$2.6 billion in federal aid from President Joe Biden's pandemic recovery plan, unveiled a framework for almost \$28 billion in spending on March 24.

Brown said in a statement that the latest forecast, coupled with projections for the following two budget cycles, sets the stage for a better Oregon:

"Our anticipated state revenues will allow us to fully fund our state agency base budgets, make investments prioritized by the Racial Justice Council, move forward with a \$9.3 billion school budget, fully fund

the Student Success Act, and ensure no one is kicked off the Oregon Health Plan, among other things.

"These investments will help Oregonians recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and move Oregon toward a future where equity is realized and all are equal."

Some Democrats want to spend more; Republicans say spending should focus on one-time purposes. Budget writers have already proposed to save some of the federal aid for the 2023-25 budget period.

Senior economist Josh Lehner said what has helped prop up the economy in Oregon and other states is the massive federal spending during the pandemic, including payments to individuals and businesses. Biden's plan gave \$1,400 payments to an estimated 95% of Oregonians.

"It has been unprecedented outside of wartime," Lehner said. "It has allowed households and firms to keep their heads above water. It does not mean that some people haven't fallen through the cracks — they have — and some businesses have closed."

McMullen said economists have not seen the steep downturn triggered by the onset of the pandemic — Oregon's unemployment rate went from a modern-low 3.5% in March 2020 to a modern-high 13.2% the following month — and the equally speedy recovery. The April 2021 rate was 6%; it has hovered around that mark for a few months.

McMullen said he still projects it will be the fourth quarter of 2022 before Oregon returns to its pre-pandemic employment levels, still shorter than the seven years following downturns in 1980 and 2007.

"Obviously, a lot of things can happen in two years," he said. "But right now, we are on a pretty strong footing."

Unlike the Great Recession between 2007 and 2010, Oregon had built up general and education budget reserves, plus a big ending balance, that cushioned the latest downturn. They will be at \$4.2 billion at the close of the current budget period June 30, but drop to \$2.2 billion — slightly under 10% — in 2021-23.

"I would implore that savings going forward is a must," McMullen said.

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