

# Three-tiered minimum wage plan passes

## Grant County rate will increase to \$12.50 by 2022

By Paris Achen  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A three-tiered minimum wage plan cleared its last hurdle Thursday when the House of Representatives approved the measure 32 to 26.

Gov. Kate Brown said she plans to sign the bill. The Senate approved the bill last week.

"Today's action advances one of my priorities for 2016: raise the minimum wage," Brown said in a statement Thursday.

The plan increases wages to \$14.75 in the Portland metro area, \$12.50 in rural and coastal areas with struggling economies, including Grant County, and \$13.50 in the rest of the state by 2022. The first pay bump starts in July, from \$9.25 to \$9.75 statewide.

Supporters of a ballot initiative to raise wages to \$15



Pamplin Media Group/Paris Achen

**Demonstrators chant for higher wages and rent control outside Gov. Kate Brown's office during a floor debate on minimum wage in the House of Representatives.**

in the next three years said the legislative plan raises wages too slowly given skyrocketing costs.

They have yet to decide whether to pursue placing the initiative on the 2016 ballot. They are continuing to gather signatures but plan to meet in the next couple of weeks to discuss whether there is enough support and resources for the ballot measure to succeed, said Justin Norton-Kertson, campaign manager for Oregonians

for \$15 Now.

During more than five hours of debate Thursday, the House rejected proposals by Republicans to send the proposal to the ballot.

"Let the 2.2 million voters decide what is best for Oregonians and for themselves," said Rep. Bill Kennemer, R-Oregon City.

Lawmakers also rejected a proposal by Republicans to send the measure to the Joint Committee on Ways and

Means for a fiscal analysis.

The legislative fiscal office has said the total cost of the bill to state government is indeterminate because the plan is phased-in and it's unknown how many wages will be affected each year.

"The decision by the majority party to bypass our budget committee in favor of an expedited approach to passing this bill is nearly unprecedented," said Rep. Greg Smith, R-Hepner. "We owe it to Oregonians to fully vet this proposal, figure out what it is going to cost taxpayers and make sure we have a plan for addressing those costs."

Rep. Tobias Read, D-Beaverton, said raising the wage also would save revenue because fewer people would need public assistance.

In rural areas, the minimum would increase to \$12.50. Those areas include Malheur, Lake, Harney, Wheeler, Sherman, Gilliam, Wallowa, Grant, Jefferson, Baker, Union, Crook, Klamath, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Umatilla and Morrow counties.

# Amended energy bill lowers cost increase caps

By Hillary Borrud  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A bill to double Oregon's renewable energy mandate is headed for a vote as soon as Wednesday in the state Senate, where it faces an uncertain fate.

The Senate Committee on Business and Transportation voted 3-2 Monday afternoon to pass an amended version of the bill out of committee. Committee chair Sen. Lee Beyer, D-Springfield, wrote

the amendment in an attempt to address concerns that the bill, which was negotiated behind closed doors by the state's two investor-owned utilities, environmental groups, the renewable energy industry and Citizens Utility Board of Oregon, will be costly to consumers and businesses.

Beyer said the amendment strengthened the role of the Public Utility Commission, in response to criticism the earlier version would have weak-

ened commission oversight.

Utilities objected to a provision in the amendment that would lower the annual cost cap for the renewable energy mandate from 4 percent to 3 percent. The existing renewable energy mandate allows utilities to ask the Public Utility Commission to approve rate increases based on costs incurred to meet the law.

"I'm not sure why changing it advances the policy now," said Scott Bolton, a vice president at PacifiCorp.

Ry Schwark, a spokesman for PacifiCorp, said he expected the bill might still undergo changes. "Since this now will likely need to go to conference, much will depend upon what comes out the other end of that process," Schwark wrote in an email.

Beyer's amendment also expanded the types of energy the utilities could use to meet the renewables mandate to include certain hydropower projects, biomass and power plants that burn municipal solid waste.

# Church Services In Grant County

**GRACE CHAPEL**  
Evangelical Methodist  
154 E. Williams St.,  
Prairie City • 541-820-4437  
gracechpl@ortelco.net  
Pastor Michael Harvey  
Early Worship ..... 8:45 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:30 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Prayer ..... 8 a.m.  
THURSDAY  
Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
SATURDAY SERVICES  
JOHN DAY  
110 Valley View Dr. - 541-575-1216  
Head Elder.....541-575-2914  
Bible Classes (all ages).....9:30 am  
Worship.....11 am  
LONG CREEK  
E. Main Street - 541-421-3033  
Head Elder.....421-3468  
Bible Classes (all ages).....2 pm  
Worship.....3 pm  
Tune into  
3 ANGELS BROADCASTING  
KSPL 98.1 FM  
Blue Mountain Cable, Channel 2  
Antenna; Digital Channel 15  
& UHF Channel 8

**Historic Remnant Church**  
Preparing for Jesus to come  
Meets Saturday at Mt. Vernon Grange  
Sabbath School.....9:30 am  
Church Services.....11:00 am  
541-620-0340

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
Come Worship with us at  
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Worship  
& Communion .....4:30 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship .....10 am  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....6 pm  
For information: 541-575-2348

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church**  
Corner of S Canyon Blvd and SW 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Mon. - Fri. Mass - 12:05 pm  
Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm  
Sunday Mass - 9:00 am  
Confession: Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm  
Anytime by appointment 541-575-1459  
St. Anne  
Monument - Sunday at 12:30 pm  
St. Katherine  
Dale  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 2:30 pm  
Office Hours  
Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

**Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**  
139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY  
541-575-2180  
Sunday Bible School (for all ages)...8:45 am  
Sunday Worship Service.....10 am  
Pastor Levi Manitsas  
cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com

**MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church**  
SUNDAY SERVICE.....9 am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9 am  
541-932-4800  
EVERYONE WELCOME

**Living Word Christian Center**  
Hwy 26 Mt. Vernon  
Celebration of Worship  
Sundays, 5:30 pm  
Kids Classes 0-6th Grade  
Kindle the Fire  
Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Family Service - all ages  
YOUTH GROUP  
Fridays, 6:30 pm  
Jr. High & Sr. High, 7th-12th  
PASTOR SHARON MILLER  
541-932-4910  
www.livingwordcc.com

**Prairie Baptist Church**  
238 N. McHaley St.  
Prairie City  
Pastor David Hoeffner  
541-820-3696  
www.prairie-baptist-church.com  
Sunday School for all ages .....9:00 am  
Sunday morning worship .....10:30 am  
Awana (Oct.-Apr.) .....3:00 pm  
Youth Group .....5:30 pm

**Strawberry Mountain CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowship  
Sunday Services .....10 am  
Seneca Outreach.....2 pm  
Midweek Services also available  
170 SE Dayton, John Day  
2nd & Ave. D, Seneca  
541-575-2006

**John Day Valley Mennonite Church**  
Meeting every Sunday  
at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship...10:50 a.m.  
Pastor Leland Smucker  
Everyone Welcome • 541-575-5507

**VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
KJV Independent  
Fundamental • Premillennial  
Terence K. Crabb, Pastor  
A Bible-believing Church  
"He that hath the Son hath life..." 1 John 5:12  
Sunday School 9:45 am • Sunday Preaching 11:00 am  
Junior Church 11:00 am • Sunday Evenings 3:30 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study & Master Club 7:00 pm  
Saturday Men's Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm  
108 S. Washington Street, Canyon City  
541-575-2688 or 541-575-0844

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
Morning Prayer.....10 am  
(1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
Eucharist & Sunday School.....10 am  
(2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
139 S. Washington, Canyon City  
541-620-1436

**JOHN DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sunday Worship • 9AM  
(541) 575-1326  
johndayUMC@gmail.com  
126 NW Canton, John Day  
Like us on Facebook!

**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
Sunday School.....9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service.....10:45 am  
Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 pm  
Children & Teen Activities  
SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO  
Weekdays: Sunshine Christian School  
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895  
www.johndaynazarene.com

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School.....10 am  
Church.....11 am  
Afternoon Service.....1 pm  
No Mid-week Services  
Pastor Ray Isenberger  
300 W. Main, John Day  
541-575-1355

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School.....9:45 am  
Sunday Worship.....11 am  
Sunday Evening Bible talk.....6:30 pm  
Saturday Men's Study.....7 pm  
Full Gospel- Come Grow With Us  
541-575-1202 Church  
311 NE Dayton St, John Day  
Pastor Al Altnow  
www.fcjohnday.com