

**MEASURE***Continued from Page A1*

and the assessments on insurers, the Public Employees Benefits Board and coordinated care organizations.

• **How does this ballot measure affect people on the Oregon Health Plan?** Hundreds of thousands of Oregonians gained Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act, which allowed states to provide coverage to people making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. As of November 2016, about 366,000 people were eligible for OHP under the Affordable Care Act.

Previously only those making up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level were considered eligible. But that group, earning between 100 percent and 138 percent of the federal poverty level, isn't legally required by the federal government to be covered by states.

Supporters of Measure 101 say that if it fails, the Legislature could decide to cut those people from the health plan to save the money that the state government won't be able to collect.

• **If the measure fails, would lawmakers have to cut the health plan budget?** No, but proponents note that faced with funding gaps in the past, lawmakers have knocked people off the Oregon Health Plan. "If you are a Medicaid recipient, this is about whether you have access to your health care," said Jessica Adamson, a lobbyist for Providence Health & Services, which is backing Measure 101. "This is about whether or not the funding is there to fully fund this program. Anything else besides Measure 101 is a gamble. There is no Plan B."

Opponents counter that state legislators can find that money elsewhere in the budget to cover those people. "This ballot measure isn't about whether Medicaid is good or bad," said Parrish, the lawmaker urging a "no" vote. "It's about whether we picked the right funding mechanism to pay for it."

• **I buy my own insurance. Does this affect how much I pay?** Yes. Under the law, insurers will be assessed 1.5 percent of gross



Capital Bureau

**January election issue could impact how Oregon finances its share of the Medicaid bill.**

premiums earned.

Premiums on the individual market could increase by 1.5 percent because the legislation allows insurers to increase premiums by up to that amount to offset the tax that they'll be paying, opponents say.

• **So if the tax fails, my rates won't go up?** Not necessarily. Supporters of Measure 101 say that expanded Medicaid coverage reduces demands on costly emergency care. It also funds a program called reinsurance that is designed to hold down rate increases in premiums for people who buy their own insurance.

It essentially acts as insurance for insurers, providing a pool of money to reimburse insurers part of the cost of very expensive procedures. In 2018, the program is holding rates in Oregon's individual health insurance market, on average, 6 percent lower than they would be without reinsurance, according to the Department of Consumer and Business Services. That's about \$300 less per year, according to the "Yes on 101" campaign.

• **I get insurance through my employer. Does this affect how much I'll pay?** If you work for a business with 50 employees or fewer, neither outcome of the measure likely will affect your rates in 2018, but likely would in 2019.

Since 2018 rates have already been approved by the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, the Legislature would have to take action to change those rates.

Insurers in the small group market would pay the 1.5 percent tax on gross premiums earned.

• **What about big employers?** For Oregonians who are covered through an employer with more than 50 employees,

insurance costs will likely not immediately change due to either outcome of the measure, either. The state doesn't regulate rates for large employers.

Some large employers go out and buy plans from insurers. The state doesn't regulate rates for those types of plans, but it does regulate benefits, the way policy contracts are written and the financial solvency of companies offering plans. Those insurers who provide plans in the large group market will pay the 1.5 percent assessment as well if Measure 101 passes.

• **My company is self-insured. What can I expect?** Some companies — usually bigger ones — self-insure and get plans through what's called a third-party administrator. About 790,000 Oregonians are enrolled in a plan through a self-insured employer, according to the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services.

The state doesn't regulate any part of those plans due to federal law. Self-insured employers are exempt from paying the state tax on the premiums specified on the ballot.

• **How much does all of this cost?** Oregon's Medicaid program costs \$9.3 billion in state and federal funds per year, according to the Oregon Secretary of State's office.

If the measure is overturned, legislators would face an \$840 million to \$1.3 billion hole in the Medicaid budget, a figure that includes both state and federal matching funds.

• **How does this election affect people on Medicare?**

Measure 101 will not have an effect on Medicare coverage. Medicare, the health-care coverage program for people age 65 and older, is funded solely by the federal government and would not be affected by changes in state policy.

• **What about Tricare?** Tricare, the health insurance program for military members, will not be affected by the insurance tax.

• **Will the outcome of the vote settle this issue?** No. If Ballot Measure 101 fails in January, legislators will have to re-balance the budget during the February special session. But even if the measure passes, the funding provisions expire, meaning lawmakers would be debating this again in 2019.

**PROJECTS***Continued from Page A1*

"That would be people who like to look at regulations and look for blind spots," he said.

Each committee would have about 10-12 members appointed by the city council, but they don't need to be John Day residents, Green said.

**Broadband network**

Improving internet access in Grant County is a top priority for the city, and Green successfully lobbied state legislators for \$1.8 million to pay for running a fiber cable from the backbone fiber network in Burns to John Day.

The city council and the county court approved creation of the Grant County Digital Network Coalition to oversee development of a broadband network in the county, but it will be March before the coalition will begin meeting.

"I hadn't expected a 90-day delay with the county ordinance," Green said.

In the meantime, the city council approved two consulting contracts Dec. 12 to get the process started. Green said he spoke to three firms, but it was not a formal bidding process.

Victor Braud, managing director of Fiber Channels Inc., will negotiate with internet service providers for access to the fiber backbone at Burns. Braud's contract is not to exceed \$15,000 and will run through April 30.

Braud has extensive experience at the highest levels of wholesale marketing for internet connections, and "is ideally positioned to help the coalition," Green said.

The second contract is with Commstructure Consulting LLC to provide infrastructure design and project management. The contract is not to exceed \$25,000. Together, Green estimates the city will spend \$91,800 of the \$1.8 million by July.

**Innovation Gateway**

The city's acquisition of the former Oregon Pine mill property will address several city goals: provide land for

a new wastewater treatment plant, turn a brownfield property into a public venue called the Innovation Gateway and utilize reclaimed water from the treatment plant in a commercial greenhouse that will provide a revenue stream to the city.

The city will receive a \$200,000 state Transportation Growth Management grant in February for planning and design, which might not be completed until March 2019, Green said.

Construction of a riverfront trail could start in April. The overall plan also calls for extending Seventh Avenue to Patterson Bridge Road and converting the former planer building into an open market. Remodeling the steel shop building for use by the Public Works Department could be completed this year.

Plans for the commercial greenhouse were presented to the council Dec. 12. The city will solicit additional funding and start harvesting this fall.

The city plans to reclaim about 80 million gallons per year at a new wastewater treatment plant constructed on the north side of the John Day River. A feasibility study for the plant began in September, with contracts awarded to Anderson Perry Associates of La Grande and Sustainable Water of Glen Allen, Virginia.

The estimated cost for either a conventional or reclaimed water plant is at least \$10 million, which might mean sewer rate increases. An income survey of John Day and Canyon City residents will help determine if the city is eligible for federal and state funding.

**Housing and blight**

The city has two projects to address housing inventory and blight in John Day. The city used a \$100,000 Main Street Building Revitalization grant to purchase the Weaver Building on Main Street in November after the owner said it might close the building.

The goal is to provide a mixed-use downtown building with four commercial businesses on the ground floor and six condos at about 1,000 square feet each on the second floor. The city will hold an open house for contractors this year. The completed cost is estimated to be around \$2 million.

The city also initiated plans to create a Housing Development District with the goal of seeing 100 new homes in John Day. The idea is to encourage homebuilders by providing a 7 percent rebate on the cost of building a new home and fronting the cost of water and sewer hook-ups. The additional property tax revenue collected from each new home is expected to cover these subsidies in about seven years.

The city applied for a \$37,800 grant from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to conduct a feasibility study for the proposal. If the grant is awarded, the city will hire two consulting teams in February to develop the plan, Green said.

A state law limiting renewal districts to only 25 percent of a city's total area must be addressed. Green hopes the legislature will consider an exemption, waiver or flexibility in its definition. The city will also solicit public feedback and hold formal public hearings on the plan. The target date for creating the district is July, Green said.

**Fire station**

Completing construction of the city fire hall on South Canyon Boulevard stands out among the city's long-term investments.

"It's the only capital project without a capital plan," Green said.

The city has sold the old fire station, but about 1,473 square feet of space remains unfinished in the new station. The John Day Rural Fire Protection District lacks funding to complete the project, Green said, and a bid from a contractor in Bend to complete the project came to \$291,700. One city councilor noted that a new house could be built for that much money.

Pinnacle Architecture, which designed the new fire hall, contacted CSDI Construction of Boise, which is currently remodeling the Meadowbrook II apartment complex in John Day, about completing the fire hall, but they declined. The city council discussed taking on the project as a general contractor and hiring subcontractors, but no decision has been made.

"We have an obligation to the public," Councilor Paul Smith said. "It was a hard sell to get the new fire hall."

**LAWS***Continued from Page A1*

teenagers in Oregon can turn in their voter registration cards starting at age 16 so they are already registered by the time they become old enough to vote.

• If you're getting married but aren't the religious type, you can skip the ordained minister and be married by a secular organization "that

occupies a place in the lives of the organization's members parallel to that filled by a church or particular religious authority."

• The wait time to get a vasectomy should go down in Oregon as nurse practitioners can begin performing the procedure.

• Fewer crashes will be required to be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles, after the minimum monetary damage requiring a report was raised from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Drivers are still required to report to the DMV within 72 hours if damage caused by the crash is more than \$2,500, a vehicle is towed from the scene or the crash caused injuries.

• Manufacturing employers must get advance written consent from most employees before they work more than 55 hours in a week. Manufacturers are also barred from having employees work more than 60 hours a week, unless they get temporary exemption due to seasonal

work with perishable foods. Manufacturing employers must also calculate each employee's overtime by the week (for more than 40 hours) and by the day (more than 10 hours) and then pay whichever sum is greater.

• The definition of vehicular assault has been expanded from striking pedestrians and bicyclists to include striking motorcycle riders or their motorcycles.

• Charitable or fraternal organizations authorized to operate bingo or

lotto games can now pay out prizes up to \$5,000 for a single game, up from the previous maximum of \$2,500.

• Children under the age of 18 can no longer purchase nitrous oxide canisters often known as "whip-its," which are intended to be used for baking purposes but can also be abused as an inhalant drug.

• Laws that previously required drivers to stop for trains have been expanded to include all on-track equipment.

**THE FAMILY  
A PROCLAMATION  
TO THE WORLD**

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

We, The First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles, of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

All Human Beings—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

In The Premortal Realm, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshiped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize his or her divine destiny as an heir of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

The First Commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

We Declare the means by which mortal life is created to be divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its importance in God's eternal plan.

Husband And Wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. "Children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalms 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, to teach them to love and serve one another, to observe the commandments of God and to be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

The Family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support when needed.

We Warn that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

We Call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.

Paid for by Gregg Starr

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**Oregon Attorney General Settlement Notice****The Attorney General's Settlement Could Benefit You!**

**Did You Buy a TV, Monitor, or Laptop Computer That Contained an LCD Flat Panel Screen, During the Years 2002 to 2006?**

**Or Did You Buy a TV or Computer Monitor That Contained a Cathode Ray Tube ("CRT"), During the Years 1995 through 2007?**

**You May be Entitled to Compensation.**

Please read this notice carefully as your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act.  
**PARA UNA NOTIFICACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, LLAMAR O VISITAR NUESTRO WEBSITE.**

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has resolved two lawsuits she brought on behalf of Oregon natural persons against certain manufacturers of liquid crystal display ("LCD") flat panels and cathode ray tubes ("CRTs"). The lawsuits allege the manufacturers illegally agreed upon the pricing of LCD flat panels and CRTs.

Oregon has settled with all defendants for a total of \$36,900,000 ("Settlement Fund"), and you may be entitled to a portion of the Settlement Fund.

**Who Is Included?**

Natural persons who indirectly purchased at any time during the years 2002 to 2006, for their own use and not for resale, LCD panels incorporated into flat panel TVs, computer monitors or laptop computers; or who indirectly purchased at any time during the years 1995 to 2007, for their own use and not for resale, CRTs incorporated into TVs or computer monitors. A purchaser must have been an Oregon resident at the time of the purchase. An indirect purchaser is someone that purchased products containing LCD flat panels or CRTs from someone other than the company that manufactured the LCD flat panel or CRT component, such as from an electronics retailer or a device manufacturer other than one of the Defendants. "Natural persons" means a human, not a business.

**How Do I Get Settlement Funds?**

**File a claim:** Consumers need to file a claim to obtain benefits in this settlement. Claims can be completed online at [www.OregonScreenSettlement.com](http://www.OregonScreenSettlement.com) or by mailing the claim form, available for download, to the Settlement Administrator. The deadline for filing claims is April 2, 2018.

**How Do I Get More Information?**

More information about the lawsuits, settlements, and the claims process can be found at [www.OregonScreenSettlement.com](http://www.OregonScreenSettlement.com), by calling 1-877-940-7791, or writing to: Oregon Screen Settlement, c/o GCG, P.O. Box 10240, Dublin, Ohio 43017-5740.

This Notice is an official legal notice of the Oregon Department of Justice

1-877-940-7791

[www.OregonScreenSettlement.com](http://www.OregonScreenSettlement.com)

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