



Oregon Public Affairs Digest

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LADD MARSH: The Ladd Marsh Birdathon is a May 14-16 event at LaGrande, free to the public. The state Fish & Wildlife Department maintains a schedule of events. (*Photo/Fish & Wildlife*)

A change of format

With this issue, we're moving toward changing our format for the Oregon Public Affairs Digest – weekly instead of monthly, and all on-line. And formatted for larger pages, easier to read on line (or print out for reading in that way).

More announcements and changes coming in the next few weeks.

Politics

The race is on

Primary election day is May 18.

■ Percentages are probability of party winning the seat in November, as of this issue (they may change through the campaign season), in our current estimation.

U.S. Senate	D	98%	
	R		
U.S. House 1	D	90%	
	R		
U.S. House 2	R	98%	Incumbent Greg Walden is unopposed in his primary.
	D		
U.S. House 3	D	98%	
	R		
U.S. House 4	D	98%	Incumbent Peter DeFazio is unopposed in his primary.
	R		
U.S. House 5	D	55%	Incumbent Kurt Schrader is unopposed in his primary.
	R		The primary contest between Scott Bruun , a state legislator from Lake Oswego, and Fred Thompson , began to emerge in April as a contest between a pragmatist with some moderate indications with national Republican support (Bruun), and a more ideologically-based conservative (Thompson).
Governor	D	65%	Video spots are out in the Democratic primary.
	R		The four best-known Republican candidates for governor – Alley, Dudley, Lim and Sizemore – agreed at a Portland debate that they would oppose an attempt to repeal the state's income tax kicker.
Treasurer	D	80%	Debate ensued over the financial practices of investment officials in the Treasury department – top-rank hotel stays, recreation, expensive meals, often either paid for by the investment officers with whom they work, or double-dipped by state officials. Treasurer Ted Wheeler , up for election, has proposed some steps for dealing with the issues. Primary challenger Rick Metsger said those steps aren't enough and offered more of his own.
	R		

Supt Public np
Instrn np

ELECTIONS OFFICE IN CLACKAMAS TROUBLED The five commissioners of Clackamas County on May 5 took the highly unusual step of asking the state secretary of state's office to take over operation of the county elections office, at least through the 2010 election cycle.

[A letter to Secretary of State Kate Brown](#) said that “the County Clerk erroneously placed one race on the ballot for May that should not have been voted on until November 2010. As a result, the two candidates expended considerable time and resources only to learn . . . that the County Clerk had applied the wrong law.”

Because of that and other problems, the group asked Brown to “meet with you to discuss steps to protect the integrity of future elections in Clackamas County.” They also suggested more intensive supervision of elections offices around the state.

Earlier, the Oregon Secretary of State [issued a directive](#) ordering the Clackamas County Clerk to reprint ballots for the May 18 election because of an error that was discovered on Monday. As a result newly-printed ballots will be sent to voters in the county by Tuesday, May 4, not Friday, April 30 as previously scheduled.

The error involved the primary contest for the position 3 commissioner's seat between County Commissioner Ann Lininger and Molalla City Councilman James Needham. Oregon law does not call for a primary in that contest because it involves two candidates vying for an existing vacancy on a non-partisan seat. (Lininger was appointed in January 2009 to replace Martha Schrader who is now a state senator.) She was appointed at the beginning of the former commissioner's term.

Under these circumstances only a November election is required. Both candidates will be on the Nov. 2 election ballot. Clackamas County has approximately 217,000 registered voters. Reprinting and replacing the existing ballots is expected to cost about \$120,000.

The Secretary of State issued the directive Tuesday, only days before the mailing deadline for ballots and after deadlines had passed for mailing of military/overseas and absentee ballots.

Federal/D.C.

VOTE BY MAIL NATIONALLY Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, with John Kerry (D-Mass.), Thomas Carper (D-Del.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) [introduced a package of bills on May 4](#) that would make it easier for states to institute the same vote-by-mail process currently used in Oregon. Wyden – the first federal official to be elected entirely by mail – also introduced a bill to expand on-line voter registration.

The bills that make up the vote-by-mail package are:

■ The Universal Right to Vote By Mail bill, which would guarantee everyone's right to cast a ballot by mail. Currently, 28 states and territories impose some restrictions on getting an absentee ballot. This bill would eliminate those restrictions and ensure that any voter who wishes to get a mail ballot is able to do so.

■ Vote By Mail grants bill, which would provide grants of \$2 million to states or \$1 million to smaller jurisdictions that want to institute vote by mail.

On Wednesday, May 5, Wyden and Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown will testify in support of these bills before the Senate Rules Committee.

In 1998, Oregon voters passed a ballot measure directing all elections to be conducted by mail, and Oregonians have voted exclusively by mail since the 2000 election. Instead of using costly and traditional polling places where voters go to cast ballots on election day, a ballot is mailed to each registered voter. The ballot is then returned to the county elections office, the voter's signature is verified, and the ballot is counted on election day.

According to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, Oregon has experienced a higher percentage of voter turnout since 1998 than before, and two of the three highest presidential election turnouts in Oregon were in 2004 and 2008.

SCHRADER ON COASTLINE OIL BAN Representative **Kurt Schrader** on May 5 cosponsored H.R. 5213, introduced by Representative John Garamendi (D-CA), to impose a moratorium on offshore oil drilling along the West Coast.

"As a representative of one of the West Coast's most scenic coastlines it is essential that I fight to protect it," said Schrader. "Oregon has more than 363 miles of scenic coastline, countless marine wildlife, and an economy which relies heavily on our fisheries and coastal tourism. We cannot afford an incident like the one that occurred in the Gulf coast."

In 1981, Congress passed the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, providing for a system of offshore oil leasing, regulation, and development in federal waters. The act also placed a moratorium on oil leasing and other related activities in areas off of the West Coast including Oregon, Washington, and California. The act was rescinded in 2008.

H.R. 5213, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2010 would reinstate the 1981 moratorium, prohibiting oil leasing and other related activities along the West Coast.

BONNEVILLE REVENUES DOWN The **Bonneville Power Administration** now [estimates it will likely finish the fiscal year with negative net revenues](#) of approximately \$230 million. This shortfall was reported in BPA's second quarterly review published April 30 and is a direct result of the Northwest's low snowpack. Reduced stream flows have resulted in \$450 million less revenue than BPA anticipated at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Traditionally, BPA's sales of surplus power – power available beyond BPA's commitments to its customers – have represented about a fifth of the agency's revenues. Snowpack is the fuel that typically provides surplus power from the hydro system, and revenues from these sales help keep Northwest electricity rates down.

"This is a bad situation that has just gotten worse," said BPA Administrator Steve Wright. "We had hoped a wet spring would help snowpack across the Columbia River

Basin, but that didn't happen. We are now looking at the fifth lowest runoff since the hydro system has been in existence."

BPA does not expect to make significant changes in the short term because the agency is dipping into its reserves to cover costs. This depletion of reserves, however, reduces BPA's ability in the future to handle additional financial risks, such as another below-average water year.

BPA's internal expenses are projected to be at or modestly below start-of-year estimates and hence are not contributing to the problem.

The Northwest is unique in its reliance on hydropower, which in good years provides ample clean, renewable and low-cost electricity. Snowpack, rather than rain, is most critical since the hydropower system has limited storage for water. In an ideal spring, the snow melts gradually so that water is available to power generators at federal dams throughout the summer. This surplus generation can provide upwards of a fifth of BPA's total revenue in an average year. With reduced snowpack, the fuel to power the dams is running low. By April, snowpack building season is pretty much over.

The April forecast from the National Weather Service's Northwest River Forecast Center called for 69 million acre-feet of runoff from January through July as traditionally measured at The Dalles, Ore. The reduced runoff results from a persistent El Niño weather pattern that brought unusually dry conditions to the Northwest this past winter.

BPA has been aware of the El Nino pattern and the likelihood of low runoff.

State Government

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS The first round of [interim committee meetings](#) will be held at Salem May 24-26. Sessions:

■ May 24: Committees include on the Senate side, Commerce & Workforce Development, Health Care, Rules, Business & Transportation, Judiciary and Finance & Revenue; on the House side, Education, Transportation, Judiciary, Revenue and Workforce Development (subcommittee).

■ May 25: Committees include on the Senate side, Consumer Protection & Public Affairs, Human Resources & Rural Health and Environment and Natural Resources; on the House side, Business & Labor, Human Services, Agriculture Natural Resources & Rural, and Environment & Water; also Joint E-Board subcommittees.

■ May 26: Interim Legislative Committee meeting day (Salem). Committees include on the Senate side, Education & General Government, Veterans Affairs; on the House side, Sustainability & Economic Development, Veterans & Emergency Services; Consumer Protection, Health Care, Rules. Also a Joint E-Board meeting.

STATE OFFICE CLOSURE DATES coming up this year:

■ Friday, June 18, 2010

- Friday, August 20, 2010
- Friday, September 17, 2010
- Friday, November 26, 2010

State Regulation

Substantive state regulations from the [May Oregon Bulletin](#).

Board of Chiropractic Examiners – Increase chiropractic assistant initial training hours from six to twelve, other provisions; establishes minimum requirements for chiropractic pre-payment plans, addresses refunds and treatment plans. **Coordinator:** Dave McTeague.

Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists – Creation of a supervisor registry. **Coordinator:** Becky Eklund.

Board of Pharmacy – Amend rules on duty to report, adopt rules for MTM; framework for receipt and distribution of donated prescription drugs to needy individuals. Reschedule methamphetamine as Controlled Substance Schedule I and marijuana as Controlled Substance Schedule II. **Coordinator:** Karen MacLean.

Bureau of Labor & Industries – Conforms certain minimum wage/overtime exemptions to federal law; clarifies meal period rule.

Department of Agriculture/Mint Commission – Increases the assessment rate for all mint oil produced in Oregon. **Coordinator:** Lisa Ostlund.

Department of Agriculture/Tall Fescue Commission – Increases assessment rate for all tall fescue seed produced in Oregon. **Coordinator:** Lisa Ostlund.

Department of Consumer & Business Services/Building Codes – The proposed rule clarifies the licensing requirements for installing photovoltaic (PV) systems. In general, the proposed rule restates the scope of work allowed under ORS 479.630 with regard to the limited renewable energy technician's license. The proposed rule also clarifies that an electrical license is not required for installation of purely structural components of a PV system. **Coordinator:** Dolores Wagner.

Department of Consumer & Business Services/Finance & Corporate Securities – Based on analysis of securities fees in other states, the amendments to these rules impact the filing fees for unit investment trusts, broker-dealers, and broker-dealer salespersons. For unit investment trusts, the initial notice fee increases from \$350 to \$500 per portfolio, and the renewal fee increases from \$350 to \$500 per portfolio. For a broker-dealer, the renewal license fee increases from \$200 to \$250. For a broker-dealer salesperson, the initial license fee increases from \$50 to \$55. Oregon law allows the Director of Consumer and Business Services to establish procedures for licensing investment advisers and to coordinate licensing with any national registration, licensing or notice filing system. The amendment to the application procedures for licensing state investment advisers streamlines the licensing process by requiring applicants to apply for an Oregon license through the Investment Adviser Registration Depository (IARD), an online database that the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") administers and eliminates paper filing. **Coordinator:** Shelley Greiner.

Department of Consumer & Business Services/Insurance – Oregonians who lose their jobs have two options to continue coverage under their group health plan. If their former employer has 20 or more workers, they are eligible under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). If their former employer has fewer than 20 workers, they are eligible under Oregon’s state continuation law. The federal economic stimulus package extends a 65-percent subsidy for up to nine months of coverage. Recognizing the need for changes to state law to allow Oregonians to obtain the full advantage of the federal subsidy, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2433, which extends the period of eligibility for state continuation coverage from six to nine months and allows the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to adopt rules as necessary to allow Oregonians to take full advantage of the benefits provided by the federal law. The Legislative Assembly declared an emergency exists so House Bill 2433 could take effect immediately upon passage, and on April 28, 2009, the director adopted temporary rules OAR 836-053-0850T, 836-053-0855T, 836-053-0860T, 836-053-0865T (the Temporary Rules) in recognition of the need to expedite the rules to put in place the mechanisms to facilitate Oregonians obtaining the subsidy. The permanent rules became effective October 23, 2009. The director again adopted temporary rules in December 2009 and March 2010 in response to federal extensions and changes to the federal subsidy program. These rules enact permanent provisions that establish the requisite notice insurers must provide to assistance eligible individuals, revise the dates of eligibility for the federal subsidy and establish eligibility requirements to maximize the benefit. The existing temporary rules expire June 16, 2010 and these rules are intended to replace the current permanent rules and temporary amendments to those rules in their entirety. **Coordinator:** Sue Munson

Department of Corrections – Amendment of these rules is necessary provide further clarification for implementation of Or Laws 2009 Ch 660 (HB 3508), which allows an offender sentenced to probation to be eligible for a reduction in the period of active probation for compliance with the conditions of probation and the offender’s supervision plan. Modification of these rules includes defining compliance with conditions of probation and the supervision plan, explaining the process for placing an offender on inactive supervision, and clarifying that the rules apply to offenders convicted of a crime committed before July 1, 2011, and who are on probation on or after February 24, 2010. **Coordinator:** Janet R. Worley

Another measure amends administrative rules for earned time credits for inmates in light of 2009 and 2010 legislative enactments.

Department of Environmental Quality – This proposal to revise the Oregon Administrative Rules will increase water quality permit fees. DEQ proposes to increase fees for all National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) permits by 3% to address increased water quality permit program costs. WPCF-Onsite septic system permits are included in the proposed fee increase. Suction dredge permits covered by General Permits 700-PM are not included in the proposed fee increase. **Coordinator:** Maggie Vandehey

Department of Fish & Wildlife – Amend rules relating to commercial and sport salmon fishing in the Oregon ocean terminal areas and in the Marine Northwest and southwest zones consistent with guidelines established by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and Pacific Fishery Management Council and enacted Federal

Regulations. Housekeeping and technical corrections to the regulations may occur to ensure rule consistency. **Coordinator:** Therese Kucera

Several rules changes in season and harvest limits are also under consideration.

Department of Human Services/Children, Adults & Families – Changing OARs affecting public assistance, medical assistance, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program clients. **Coordinator:** Annette Tesch

Also considering rules change on outreach worker site agreements.

Department of Human Services/Public Health – Proposing to adopt and amend Oregon Administrative Rules relating to the registration and activation of emergency health care services volunteers and the designation of emergency health care centers in response to the passage of SB 8 and HB 3021 during the 2009 Legislative Session. These rules address the extended liability protection and workers' compensation protection to qualified emergency service volunteers and reorganize current rules in order to provide consistency and clarity. The rules also help to build more programmatic structure and streamline processes to strengthen the registration process of emergency health care services volunteers and the designation of emergency health care centers. **Coordinator:** Brittany Sande

Department of Justice – Child support guidelines, calculation of support and timelines. **Coordinator:** Vicki Tungate

Oregon State Police – Creating a hearing process for vehicle tows conducted by OSP. **Coordinator:** Cort Dokken

Department of Transportation/Driver & Motor Vehicle Services – Updating rules for abandoned vehicles.

Department of Transportation/Highway – The Adopt-A-Highway program described in ORS 366.158 allows for the beautification of state highways with an emphasis on litter clean up. Chapter 547, 2009 laws (HB 2424) expanded the Adopt-A-Highway program to include the removal of noxious weeds. These rules describe how an individual, group, or business may obtain a permit from the Department of Transportation to adopt a section of state highway to remove noxious weeds, clean up litter, or both. **Coordinator:** Lauri Kunze

Land Conservation & Development Department – Amending rules to comply with the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. **Coordinator:** Casaria Tuttle

Board of Dentistry – Adopt/amends/repeals rules: Anesthesia, Limited Access Permit, Specialty Advertising, Continuing Education, Application to Practice as a Specialist. **Coordinator:** Sharon Ingram

Board of Naturopathic Medicine – Clarify what information physicians must report to the board. **Coordinator:** Anne Walsh

Criminal Justice Commission – The rule change is needed to implement Or Laws 2005 Ch. 473 (SB 914 (2005)). That legislation directs the Oregon Department of Corrections to require that a presentence report provide an analysis of the disposition most likely to reduce the defendant's criminal conduct, explain why the disposition would have such an effect, and provide an assessment of the availability to the defendant of relevant programs and treatment. The Criminal Justice Commission is amending its rule pertaining to Presentence Reports to be consistent with changes adopted by the Department of Corrections to implement SB 914. **Coordinator:** Craig Prins

Another proposed change provides the definition of a virtual public charter school.

Housing & Community Services Department – Allows reservation of program tax credits to leverage federal and state funding. Coordinator: Sandy McDonnell

Oregon University System – Various fee and tuition rule changes. **Coordinator:** Barbara Melton

Secretary of State/Corporation – Mandatory notary education online list of approved providers. **Coordinator:** Karen Hutchinson

Local Government

KLAMATH AS PRIMARY DISASTER The U.S. Department of Agriculture on May 3 [designated Klamath County as a primary natural disaster area](#) due to severe drought conditions affecting Oregon farmers and ranchers.

The designation extends disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers in Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Lake, and Lane counties in Oregon as well as Modoc and Siskiyou counties in California.

“Weather conditions can vary from year to year and some growing seasons are better than others, but when disaster strikes, we have to stand with our farmers and ranchers,” Merkley said. “Today’s designation of Klamath County as a natural disaster area is crucial in getting economic assistance to water users in the Klamath Basin so they can recover from this historic drought and preserve their land and business for the future. In my visits to the Basin in the past few months, I’ve seen outstanding cooperation and understanding between the farmers, ranchers, and tribes of the region. Secretary Vilsack has been a supportive partner throughout this process and I look forward to continuing to work with him and the USDA to mitigate the effects of the drought and preserve the local economy.”

Legal

PRISON FORECAST DOWN SLIGHTLY From the [Oregon Corrections Population Forecast released in April](#):

The prison population on March 1, 2010 was slightly over 13,900, or 1.2 percent higher than one year before. Over the next two years, the population is expected to change very little; increases resulting from Measure 57 are offset by decreases resulting from increased earned time (HB 3508 and SB 1007). From 2013 through 2015, the population will grow at a rate of 3 to 4 percent annually. The growth is due to several factors including Measure 57 repeat property offender sentencing, Measure 57 drug offender sentencing, baseline growth, growth attributable to intakes in 2008-2009, and the reduction of the increased earned time effect. The population will reach 15,000 by mid 2014, and will approach 16,000 by the end of the decade.

Decisions

Opinions from the Oregon Supreme Court.

- none thus far in May.

Business/Economy

Bradwood Landing project spiked



Bradwood Land, in NorthernStar view

The intensely controversial Bradwood Landing natural gas terminal project was dropped on May 4 by its planned developers, the NorthernStar Natural Gas Company.

The next day, company officials said they would file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in federal court in Houston, Texas. Officials at **Clatsop County**, which had incurred about \$200,000 in planning and related costs that NorthernStar had been expected to pay, [were left uncertain about the funding](#) of the costs.

The terminal was planned to be a massive \$650 million project and bring jobs to an area east of Astoria, Oregon. But local opposition was intense, and investors questioned whether the project ultimately could clear all the needed regulatory and other hurdles.

The company didn't mention the point, but the announcement also came about a week after news of the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, which may affect the political climate on environmental matters.

[From the company's statement:](#)

“The extended delays in the processing of state and federal permits for Bradwood Landing and the difficult investment environment have forced us to suspend development,” said NorthernStar Natural Gas President Paul Soanes. “In particular, the challenging regulatory environment gives investors pause, especially considering that Bradwood Landing would have such a positive impact on the Northwest’s

economy and environment while supporting the region's transition to renewable energy by providing a new source of reliable and affordable natural gas."

Since its inception, Bradwood has worked to ensure it will provide a significant and sustainable net benefit for the lower Columbia ecosystem, and serve as a model of sustainable development. Using best available science and recovery plans, the project included innovative measures to avoid and minimize impacts, robust mitigation, and a \$59 million voluntary (but legally binding) Salmon Enhancement Initiative: the largest private investment of its kind ever proposed for the region.

"While we're disappointed, we are truly grateful for the tremendous support the project received from citizens in Clatsop County and Oregon's business and labor communities," said Mr. Soanes. "Bradwood Landing is a great example of a project that business and labor came together to support. Not only would it have created hundreds of jobs, but it would have provided a needed new source of natural gas, which would have helped stabilize energy costs for thousands of businesses."

Initial development work on Bradwood Landing began nearly six years ago. Bradwood is the site of the former Bradwood lumber mill, company town and has a natural deep-water port. Bradwood Landing received its FERC certificate order September 18, 2008 after an extensive scientific and technical review, which took three and a half years and included an official record in excess of 50,000 pages. On March 20, 2008, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners approved Bradwood's consolidated land use application on a 4-1 vote after a nine-month public process.

Earlier this year, Bradwood reached a key milestone when formal consultation began under the Endangered Species Act with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Previously, the U.S. Coast Guard determined that the Columbia River could be made suitable for the LNG marine traffic associated in its record of decision dated April 24, 2009, provided full implementation of the risk mitigation measures detailed in the Waterway Suitability Report are accomplished. Those measures were included as conditions when FERC issued its Certificate Order for the Bradwood Landing LNG terminal in September 2008.

Bradwood Landing's coalition of supporters included the Oregon AFL-CIO, the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, the Oregon Machinists Council, the Washington Machinists Council, Carpenters Local 1707, the International Longshore Workers' Union (Columbia River Oregon Area), and the Steamship Operators Association.

Bradwood Landing and its associated 36.3-mile pipeline would have provided a new source of natural gas directly into the Oregon and Washington natural gas market. It would have created more than 450 jobs over three years of construction and 65 permanent jobs while contributing more than \$7.8 million annually in taxes to Clatsop County. An analysis of the effects of increased natural gas supply by former University of Oregon economist Dr. Phil Romero, showed that Bradwood Landing could reduce the wholesale cost of natural gas by 13 percent. Dr. Romero's analysis showed this decrease in energy costs would help support the creation of between 5,100 and 20,300 jobs. "

Port of Portland contracts out

The Manila, Philippines company [International Container Terminal Services, Inc.](#) in May was contracted to a 25-year deal with the Port of Portland, to manage the Oregon port's container Terminal 6.

The terminal was not sold, and most of its major equipment remains with the Port of Portland. Port officials said the agreement should help stabilize port revenues for the next couple of decades, and may even help shield it from economic downturns.

International Container manages port operations around the globe, but Portland is its first on the United States west coast. Port officials said that according to their agreement, Portland will be its only U.S. West coast client.

The contractor [on May 6 reported consolidated unaudited financial results for the quarter](#) ended 31 March 2010, posting first quarter revenue from port operations of US\$120.7 million, an increase of 30 percent over the US\$92.8 million reported last year; Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization of US\$56.6 million, 47% higher than the US\$38.4 million generated in 2009; and net income attributable to equity holders of US\$22.8 million, up 107% over the US\$11 million earned last year.

The higher net income attributable to equity holders was mainly due to an increase in volume brought about by the surge in global trade and favorable effect of operating leverage.

ICTSI handled consolidated volume of 962,028 twenty foot equivalent units in the first quarter of 2010, 27 percent higher compared to the 755,958 TEUs handled in the same period in 2009. The increase in volume was mainly due to the recovery of the global economy, particularly in markets where ICTSI's ports are located. Compared to the 841,756 TEUs handled in the first three months of 2008, the highest first quarter throughput level recorded until this year, the Group's consolidated volume for the first quarter of 2010 grew by 14 percent.

Throughput from the Group's container terminal operations in Asia, comprised of the terminals in the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, China and Brunei, increased 29 percent to 610,401 TEUs in 2010 from 474,408 TEUs in the same period in 2009. The Group's container terminal operations in Asia, which accounted for 63 percent of consolidated volumes in the first quarter of 2010, demonstrated exceptional performance in the first quarter with all operating terminals registering double-digit increases in volumes handled.

HOLLYWOOD VIDEO CLOSES IN OREGON Hollywood Video, only a few years ago one of Oregon's top business success stories with strong profits and rapid nationwide expansion, [is in the process of shutting down](#). The firm, bought in 2005 by the smaller Movie Gallery, became a combined 2,500-store operation, but its finances proved unwieldy, and it faced tough competition not only from its counterpart Blockbuster but from other sales methods, such as Netflix and Red Box.

Hollywood has maintained a headquarters office at Wilsonville, and 60 stores across Oregon. All will be closed in coming months.

CABELAS IN OREGON The sporting goods retailer **Cabela's Inc.**, a national firm which in recent years opened stores in Boise and Post Falls in Idaho and Lacey (near Olympia) in Washington, said on May 4 it will in 2011 open a new store at Springfield in Oregon.

[The firm, based in Sidney, Nebraska, reported:](#)

“The 58,000-square-foot store will anchor the west side of Gateway Mall at 3000 Gateway Street in retail space previously occupied by Ashley Furniture. It will be Cabela's first retail store in Oregon. The building's exterior will reflect Cabela's traditional store model, while the inside will highlight the company's next-generation layout, which includes an aquarium, conservation-themed wildlife displays and trophy animal mounts. The store will also have a Gun Library, Fly-Fishing Shop, General Store and Bargain Cave. Construction is expected to start in mid-August 2010.”

Stocks

Prices trended downward this week almost across the board after several weekly rises.

		This wk	Last wk	Notes
Intel Corporation	INTC	21.3	22.8	Computer memory marketplace appears to be stabilizing.
Nike	NKE	70.6	75.9	
Columbia Sportswear	COLM	51.8	55.6	
Umpqua Holdings	UMPQ	12.6	14.9	
Qwest	Q	5.1	5.2	Merger still hasn't improve prices.
Weyerhaeuser Corp	WY	44.7	49.5	
Portland Gen Electric	POR	19.1	19.9	
AVI Biopharma	AVII	1.2	1.3	
Cascade Bancorp	CACB	0.8	0.8	
Lithia Motors	LAD	7.6	8	
Willamette Valley Vineyards	WVVI	3.6	3.5	A rare rise in stock price, albeit a modest one.

GAS PRICES Gas prices have been creeping upward in April.

Gas prices (idahogasprices.com)	This week	Last week
low	2.75	2.79
high	3.13	3.19

Environment

Klamath Basin 2010 plan released

The Bureau of Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office [released the annual Operations Plan for the Klamath Project](#) on May 6. Conditions should permit releases to begin no earlier than May 15. Reclamation and irrigation contractors are together monitoring the situation closely. Releases will begin as soon as conditions allow. Klamath irrigators can expect the following releases from Project facilities:

For Upper Klamath Lake irrigators, 30 to 40 percent of average annual releases or an estimated 150,000 acre-feet of water can be expected. The 2010 Project Operations Plan identifies lake elevations that help protect the Endangered Species Act-listed (ESA) suckers in the lake. Reclamation will meet with irrigation contractors on a weekly basis to examine the situation and ensure minimum lake elevations are maintained throughout the irrigation season.

Gerber Lake's forecasted inflow and carryover will allow a release of approximately 85 percent of the average annual supply or an estimated 31,000 acre-feet.

Clear Lake Reservoir carryover storage and forecasted inflow indicate there will be no available water for irrigation releases in 2010. The current lake level is below the minimum level established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Biological Opinion, and any further reduction in the levels may be detrimental to the ESA-listed sucker population.

"We have been working closely with the Federal resource agencies, Tribes, and our irrigation contractors to keep them informed and involved in the 2010 Operation Plan process. This communication is vital as difficult decisions are made concerning management options during the drought," said Ms. Sue Fry, Klamath Project Area Manager. "Reclamation will work with the irrigation districts to monitor and continually evaluate lake elevations and provide periodic operations updates to the Service, the Tribes, and the State of Oregon," she added.

The [2010 Operations Plan](#) is available online.

GOLD RAY DAM TO BE TORN DOWN The [Jackson County Commission](#) on May 5 [agreed unanimously](#) to destroy the Gold Ray Dam, located on the Rogue River, at some point in the next few months. The dam was the first hydropower facility in the region when it was built in 1904.

Demolition is expected to cost \$5.6 million. Most of that would be underwritten by federal stimulus money (about \$5 million), and most of the rest from a Watershed Enhancement Board payment.

[WaterWatch in Oregon noted that](#) “The Gold Ray project will represent one of the largest dam removals in the country, and follows in the wake of three other significant dam removals on the Rogue in the last two years. The removal of Savage Rapids Dam – also one of the largest removals in the country – is currently underway at rivermile 107. Calendar year 2008 saw the removal of the Rogue’s Gold Hill Dam and the notching of Elk Creek Dam. After putting years of hard work into this effort, WaterWatch is thrilled to witness this unprecedented wave of river-restoring dam removals.”

It also said that “Removal of Gold Ray will provide fish with better access to 333 miles of high quality salmon and steelhead spawning habitat upstream of the dam and reclaim approximately 1.5 miles of spawning habitat under the current dam reservoir. The dams’ removal will provide a boost to the Rogue’s coho salmon listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and augment runs of spring and fall Chinook salmon, summer and winter steelhead, resident cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Improvements to the Rogue River fishery achieved through dam removal are expected to contribute to a healthier coastal and in-river fishing economy in southern Oregon and northern California.”

MID-COLUMBIA CHINOOK CLOSURE ODFW fishery managers said on May 7 that [the Columbia River above Bonneville Dam will close to spring chinook fishing](#) effective May 10. At the same time, managers announced that sport fishing for salmon and steelhead in the Select Areas near Astoria will re-open May 8.

The Technical Advisory Committee recently downsized the projected run of spring chinook from 470,000 to a range of 310,000-370,000, prompting managers to close the river from Bonneville to McNary dam in order to ensure that other fisheries have similar opportunity under the new projected run size. Managers estimate that 3,400 spring chinook will have been harvested between Bonneville and McNary dams through May 9.

The season remains open on several tributaries including the Hood, Deschutes, Umatilla and Snake rivers, and will be opening later in the month on the Willowa and Imnaha rivers.

SNOWPACK is running above normal statewide.

The percentage represents the total precipitation (beginning October 1) found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day.

this	last	basin
87	88	Owyhee
86	86	Malheur

88	85	Grand Ronde, Powder, Burnt, Imnaha
82	80	Umatilla, Walla Walla, Willow
86	85	John Day
83	82	Deschutes, Crooked
82	80	Lower Columbia, Hood
78	83	Coast Range
84	83	Willamette
84	83	Rogue, Umpqua
79	79	Klamath
82	85	Lake County, Goose Lake
90	89	Harney

WEATHER Oregon gained some moisture throughout April, but not much. The state still seems, however, to be running well above drought levels.

	Apr 30	May 06
Portland	54/44 c	68/45 c
Salem	56/41 s	67/43 s
Eugene	54/41 r	67/42 c
Medford	53/39 c	71/43 s
Coos Bay	56/43 c	57/42 s
Bend	46/28 s	58/33 s
Baker City	47/35 c	55/31 c

s- sunny; c - cloudy; r - rainy; p-snow

Health/Social

EARLY ADOPTION ON INSURANCE RETENTION The new federal health care law requires insurance companies to allow adult children to stay on their parents’ plan until age 26, for plans sold or renewing after September 2010. However, Oregon’s seven largest health insurers – which make up more than 90 percent of the private health insurance market in Oregon – [are extending dependent coverage early.](#)

“This will provide peace of mind for at least some graduating college students and their families,” said Cory Streisinger, director of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services. “We applaud this voluntary action by Oregon insurers to help ensure continuous access to care for some young adults who might otherwise be uninsured.”

Many plans currently only allow young adults to stay on their parents’ plan until they turn 23 or earlier if they are not a full-time student.

Culture/Media

EPISCOPAL SPLIT Members of the **St. Matthew's Episcopal Parish**, one of the most prominent in western Oregon, voted 92-8 to split from the Episcopal church and affirm that they were Anglicans. The overall Episcopal church population in western Oregon has been estimated at 19,000. Earlier, the **St. Mark's Parish** in Portland said that it too now considers itself Anglican.

A MORE MODEST EUGENE The city of Eugene has sometimes used as a promotional phrase, “The greatest city for the arts and outdoors.” [A news story notes](#) that it has begun using the slightly less definitive, “A great city for the arts and outdoors.”

People

Representative Greg Walden on May 6 named [Rob Patridge](#) as district director and general counsel effective May 1, 2010. Patridge succeeds **John Snider**, who has served as Walden's district director since he was first elected and who will continue to serve Oregonians on a part-time basis as Rep. Walden's director of community relations.

[Roger J. Thompson](#), who has been provost for enrollment management at Indiana University, was named to the same job at the University of Oregon, effective July 1. He will replace **Herb Chereck**, who is retiring June 30 after a 30-year career at UO. Chereck began at the university in 1980 as associate registrar, was promoted to registrar in 1983 and to associate vice president for enrollment services in 2008. His job title was changed last year to vice provost for enrollment management. Thompson is an Oregon native.

[Walter Wegener](#), 59, who has been interim superintendent of the San Juan Island School District in Washington, was named new permanent superintendent of the Baker School District.

State appointments

Governor Ted Kulongoski on May 4 delivered his nominations for volunteer service on state boards and commissions. The nominees are subject to Senate confirmation.

Accountancy Board

New appointment of Roger Graham, Corvallis and Charles Crackenberg, Newberg

Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission

New appointment of Commissioner Ann Lininger, Clackamas County

State Aviation Board

Reappointments of Chris Corich and Joe Smith, both Portland

Commission on Black Affairs

New appointments of Lorraine Wilson, Eugene, Samaura Stone and Phyllis Harris-John, both Portland

Reappointment of Phyllis Rand, Salem

Commission for the Blind

New appointment of Jodi Roth, Portland

Reappointments of Joyce Green, Portland, Annis Holsworth, Albany and Richard Phay, Prineville

Board of Boiler Rules

New appointment of Eric Anderson, Canby
Reappointment of Vincent Leedy, Ontario

Building Code Structures Board

New appointment of Gregory Nelson, Fairview

Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists

Reappointments of Nila Epstein, Lake Oswego, Linda Gray, Depoe Bay, and Julia Smith, Monmouth

Cultural Trust

New appointment of John Tess, Portland

Board of Dentistry

New appointment of Alton Harvey, Beaverton

Board of Denture Technology

New appointment of Ken Holden, Eugene

Electrical and Elevator Board

New appointments of Scott Hall, Eugene, and Robert Pyne, Boring
Reappointments of Daniel Maher, Happy Valley, Thomas Lindberg, Portland, Thomas Faires, Portland, and Dennis Perkins, Salem

Energy Facility Siting Council

New appointment of Barry Beyeler, Boardman

Government Ethics Commission

Reappointment of Joanne Waller, Portland

Oregon Health and Science University, Board of Directors

Reappointment of student member Rachel Pilliod, Portland

Health Services Commission

Reappointment of Bruce Abernethy, Bend

Board of Higher Education

New appointment of Dr. Lynda Ciuffetti, Corvallis

Commission on Hispanic Affairs

New appointments of John Haroldson, Corvallis and Judith Parker, Portland

Home Care Commission

New appointment of Roxie Mayfield, Eugene

State Housing Council

New appointments of Tammy Baney, Bend and Michael Fieldman, Roseburg

Trustees of the State Library

New appointment of Aletha Bonebrake, Baker City

Board of Licensed Social Workers

Reappointment of Carol Zancanella, Bend

Oregon Liquor Control Commission

Reappointment of Robert Rice, Portland

Long Term Care Advisory Committee

New appointment of William Bard, Portland

Board of Maritime Pilots

Reappointments of Capt. Anne McIntyre, Dundee, and Jeff Krug, Portland

Board of Massage Therapists

New appointment of Melanie Morin, Tigard

Reappointment of Craig McMillin, Salem

Mechanical Board

Reappointment of Guy Sperb, Aurora

Board of Medical Imaging

New appointments of Dr. David Farthing, Salem, Dr. Jacob Abraham, Portland, and Shaestagir Chowdhury, Portland

Board of Naturopathic Medicine

Reappointment of Dr. Michelle Homer-Anderson, Central Point

Board of Nursing

New appointment of Donna Cain, Rogue River

Reappointment of Becca Uherbelau, Portland

Nursing Home Administrators Board

New appointment of Sharon Van Eaton, Medford

Oregon State Hospital Advisory Board

New appointment of Dr. Kay Reichlin, Salem

Parks and Recreation Commission

New appointment of Davis Moriuchi, Portland

Patient Safety Commission

New appointment of Diane Lovell, Portland

Plumbing Board

Reappointments of Jonathan Gray, Colton, and Jack Vilendre, Portland

Port of Portland

Reappointment of Ken Allen, Portland

Board of Public Safety Standards and Training

New appointments of Joe Seibert, Lebanon, Chief Kent Barker, Tualatin, and Scott Stanton, Volunteer Fire Fighter, Hermiston
Reappointments of Sheriff Todd Anderson, Tillamook, and Chief Stuart Roberts, Pendleton

Residential and Manufactured Structures Board

New appointment of Bruce Dobbs, Portland
Reappointments of Kathryn Gray, Portland, and Doug Lethin, Salem

Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology

New appointments of Lyndsay Duffus, Portland and Jennie Price, Pendleton
Reappointment of Elisa Williams, Lake Oswego

Oregon Student Assistance Commission

New student appointment of Benjamin Eckstein, Eugene

Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

New appointment of Linda Brown, Lake Oswego

Trimet Board

New appointment of Steve Clark, Tigard

Commission for Voluntary Action and Service

Reappointments of Emily Gilliland and Eva Schweber, both Portland

Commission for Women

New appointment of Cynthia Homan, Bend

Workforce Investment Board

New appointment of Rosemary Pryor, Eugene

The Governor today also submitted appointments and reappointments for salaried positions that are subject to Senate confirmation:

Employment Appeals Board

Reappointment of Erik Larson, Salem

Excerpts

Ports ahead

[From a short report by the Port of Portland.](#)

Bill Wyatt, executive director for the Port of Portland, testified before a Senate Subcommittee today to emphasize the importance of seaports to the nation's exports and to identify existing transportation infrastructure constraints that threaten to hamper growth.

Wyatt joined fellow port officials and industry leaders involved with trade and transportation for a hearing titled, "Doubling U.S. Exports: Are U.S. Seaports Ready for the Challenge?" The session was convened by U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, chair of the Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness.

"About 35 percent of American exports in dollar terms, and a much larger percentage in tonnage terms, moved through U.S. seaports in 2009," said Wyatt. "Therefore, it is important to understand if seaports are operating as effectively as possible as a conduit for U.S. Exports."

He identified four primary challenges for moving forward: the poor condition of ground transportation infrastructure, deferred maintenance and improvement of waterways, lacking investments in terminal infrastructure at seaports, and limited industrial property near seaports for export and import facilities. He also cited the availability of containers and equipment as a going concern — but as a commercial problem more than a policy problem.

Wyatt offered up a series of recommendations and solutions to these challenges, such as establishing a national freight strategy, creating an office focused on freight mobility and dedicating federal funds to freight projects in the surface transportation authorization bill. He also advocated funding for waterway improvements, incentives for investment in freight rail service and removal of obstacles to brownfield remediation and redevelopment.

He expressed support for the President's National Export Initiative and encouraged Congress to stimulate U.S. exports through the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. "The Port of Portland and other U.S. port authorities are committed to helping American producers increase their exports to foreign markets," said Wyatt. "We recognize the higher value that exports generate for producers, their employees, and the communities in which they're located."

A special flower

[From a May 5 report by the state Department of Agriculture:](#)

Portland has its Rose Festival. Woodburn hosts a tulip festival. For the Southern Oregon city of Jacksonville, a festival is dedicated to the showy red wildflower known as [Gentner's fritillary](#). There are plenty of roses and tulips for everyone to enjoy, but the fritillary is a different story. The species of lily is on [Oregon's endangered plant list](#) and also has been similarly listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Several

partners, including the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Jacksonville community itself, are working hard to keep the rare plant from going extinct.

You know there aren't many of them when each population is subject to GPS tracking.

"The first component of a [recovery effort](#) is to simply get more plants," says Kelly Amsberry, a biologist with [ODA's Native Plant Conservation Program](#). "Surveys have shown the location of additional plants. In the meantime, we are continuing a project that relies on the ability to cultivate and transplant Gentner's fritillary ourselves."

The species is found from far northern California to Oregon's Josephine County. But the largest number of populations are centered near Jacksonville. It is the city's signature flower and, because of its extremely rare status, attracts visitors from around the world as it blooms each spring. While the city celebrates its existence, several groups and agencies continue efforts to protect its existence.

"We actually create new populations of Gentner's fritillary," says Amsberry. "We collect bulblets from existing plants, grow them in a nursery, and replant them to sites that are administratively protected. We are having good success."

A major challenge is the plant's lack of viable seed production. The recovery effort involves harvesting small, asexually produced bulblets from mature plants. Each bulb produces an average of 50 bulblets, grown out by ODA botanists in an Oregon State University greenhouse. In the fall, cultivated greenhouse bulbs are outplanted at selected sites in the Jacksonville area. The city and the Bureau of Land Management have provided those sites. To date, more than 13,000 bulbs have been transplanted.

Editorially

EUGENE REGISTER GUARD

May 4, [on the proposed Eugene city budget](#): "Most people will find something to dislike in Eugene City Manager Jon Ruiz's proposed budget: cuts in animal control, a later opening date for the Amazon Pool, higher parking fees near the University of Oregon, and on down the list. Faced with a \$5.7 million shortfall in the 2011 fiscal year that begins July 1, something had to give, and Ruiz found a way to balance the books without eliminating any current services."

Our Take

WHAT EVERYBODY KNOWS Seems as though the commonly-received wisdom in a bunch of quarters around Oregon is that in the Republican gubernatorial primary, former basketball player **Chris Dudley** will beat businessman **Allen Alley**, and the other candidates will be minor factors.

Maybe so. This space isn't up for bucking what seems like the consensus view: Speculation here remains that Dudley will win the nod . . . and yet . . .

Dudley's appeal is in large part simply that of an outsider celebrity. He comes across as smart but not well educated in the wonky details of substance and process of

Oregon government. (Could he give a good answer if asked simply, what is it that the governor does?) His support feels mostly like a calculation, this cycle's algebraic result for the Republican puzzler of how to win the governorship. In the end, how many votes will that bring? Enough? Maybe; but does anyone really know?

Does anyone really know, either, what kind of number legally-troubled **Bill Sizemore** may get? Not only may he be the best-known name in the race, but he also has the strongest claim to straight-line conservative voters, who are dominant in the Republican Party. No, we don't expect him to win. But might he break into double digit percentages? Maybe. And if he does, what might that do to Dudley-Alley? Does anyone have any idea?

Alley, on the other hand, has campaigned much longer and harder and has delivered a lot more meaty substance. He is even a better public speaker, and his personal presence may be better on every ground other than sheer physical height. A lot of the key endorsements have gone to him, including most of the media endorsements (with the main big exception of the *Oregonian*).

And he keeps winning straw poll-type events. Yes, they're often self-selecting and statistically they don't mean a lot, but they do add up. Today, as the ballots start to come back in, the *Portland Business Journal* is conducting a (self-selecting) [online poll of its readers on the Republican gubernatorial candidates](#). With 2,095 votes in, Alley was ahead at 51%, Dudley at 30%, **John Lim** at 6% and Sizemore at 3%.

Lessons of some sort stand to be learned out this primary. As to what they may be .

..

A FEW LEGISLATIVE RACES TO WATCH As Oregon voters begin contemplating those voting spots on their primary election ballots, they'll likely focus on the governor's primaries mostly, then some of the other major offices. Only in a few places, at this point, will there be a lot of call to focus on the legislative races.

There aren't a lot of contested primaries among the 75 legislative seats up. Republicans have primary contests for only about a fifth of them, and Democrats have contests in fewer than half that many. And most of those aren't really major races. Some are contests between little-known candidates running against an incumbent who has a strong edge either in this election or in November.

But a few of these races will merit some discussion, and may let us draw some larger conclusions, after the numbers roll in. In order or interest (*not* competitiveness), here are five.

1 – District 58 House, Republican: [Bob Jenson](#) v. [Michael Mathisen](#). Two very interesting primaries in northeast Oregon, in strongly Republican country, this one and in District 57 (see below). Jenson's may be slightly more interesting because the contrast of candidates is so totally stark. [Jenson is the incumbent](#), in fact the longest-serving House member, and though a Republican now he has been elected as a Democrat (in 1996) and an independent (in 1998) as well. Jenson's ties in the Pendleton-centered district run deep, and his politics – as his party record shows – has tended conservative but is no rigid lock. That point came to a head in the 2009 legislative session when he and District 57's Representative Greg Smith voted with Democrats for what became the Measures 66 and 67 tax increases. That drew a strong rebuke from party leadership together with explicit political punishment: A primary challenge for each of them.

Jenson's challenger, Mathisen, has lived in Hermiston just three years – a newcomer by comparison, who has gotten his key support from Salem and Portland rather than in-district. But Jenson's tax votes were a matter of controversy locally, too; and if the anti-tax crowd wants to make an example of a Republican legislator who crosses over, Jenson would be a classic case study. For Republican leadership, the risks are high: If Jenson survives, they may be exposed as toothless.

Presumption here is that he will survive the primary. But either way, there'll be some significant lessons in it.

2 – District 57 House, Republican: [Greg Smith](#) v. [Colleen MacLeod](#). The outlines of 57 are those of 58 – Smith and Jenson made similar votes (not exactly the same; Smith voted against one proposal). Smith, like Jenson, has been elected with slight competition for some years now, and he too is well-established, maybe a little less so. His opponent, MacLeod, is a former commissioner in Union county – herself better established and with her own base of support in her district than Mathisen in his, and she's received a string of endorsements from conservative interest groups. This may be a more competitive race. But its implications are as real as in 58.

3 – District 19 Senate, Republican: [Steve Griffith](#) v. [Mary Kremer](#). The eastern Oregon races have gotten a lot of attention for their high drama, this one less so; but its implications are significant. The 19th is in the Lake Oswego area, suburbs just south of Portland, an area considered solidly Republican until about a decade ago. But these were mostly moderate Republicans, and the voters were put off as the party swung harder to the right. They've been electing Democrats more recently; the incumbent here is Democrat **Richard Devlin**, who's the Senate majority leader.

The Republicans, both experienced in Oregon politics, are distinctive. Former Portland School Board member (and 2008 state House candidate) Griffith, who has endorsements from the *Oregonian* and [Willamette Week](#), is the moderate, a lot like the Republicans this area used to elect. Kremer is assumed to be the more conservative of the two and has backing from several conservative groups (Oregonians In Action, Oregon Freedom Works, Oregon Family Council, Common Sense for Oregon PAC). Which way will the Republican voters in 19 go? Analysts will be picking apart the tea leaves from this one whatever the result. (Our thin odds go to Griffith, but this race is clearly competitive, and Kremer appears to be running a strong campaign.)

4 – District 24 Senate, Democratic – [Rod Monroe](#), [Dave Mowry](#), [Ron McCarty](#). Monroe, who is the incumbent and has been in elective politics around Portland for a very long time, probably doesn't excite the base (and doesn't tend to fare well in legislative rankings like WW). His longevity may not be a plus this year. But, Mowry is a former Republican who seems not to have left the old party entirely behind, and McCarty is a recurring candidate of whom, WW opined, his "elevator doesn't climb all the way to the top floor."

Bets probably should go to Monroe here. But keep a lookout for this one on election night in case it goes in some other direction. This is, in any event, maybe the most interesting Democratic legislative primary in Oregon this year. (Does that tell you something?)

5 – District 17 House, Republican – [Sherrie Sprenger](#) v. [Bruce Cuff](#). In the first three races on this list, you have Republican contests where there's what would probably be a genuine philosophical difference between the candidate on the conservative/moderate spectrum. Not so much here. Both are self-described as conservatives in the current environmental meaning, and there's not much reason to

dispute that in either case. Sprenger has a pretty solid roster of community backers and endorsers, what you'd expect from an established Republican legislator. But you'd have to say, after reviewing their campaign statements, that Cuff is considerably more emphatic about it – he has a long list of state programs he says he'd like to cut – and describes himself: “I am the conservative Republican in the race.” ([A March blog post](#) nailed some of that down more explicitly.) So, in today's Republican environment, what sells?

Calendar

May

- 1 *Oregon Bulletin* publishes.
- 4 Last day to mail ballots for primary election.
- 6 Oregon Medical Board meeting. Portland.
- 7 Oregon Business Development Commission meeting. Salem.
- 10 Chinook salmon season closes on the mid-Columbia.
- 11 County clerk may begin scanning ballots for primary election in accordance with security plan approved by the Secretary of State.
 - Northwest Power & Conservation Council meeting. Portland.
 - Columbia River Gorge Commission meeting. Camas, Washington.
- 13 Oregon Transportation Commission meeting. Wilsonville.
- 14 Oregon University System Board meeting. Portland (Portland State University).
- 15 River People's 2nd Annual Cultural Exchange. Lyle, Washington.
- 18 Primary election day (last day to vote, votes counted).
Unemployment rate/employment data for Oregon released.
- 19 Central Oregon Higher Ed group to hold Bend and Redmond public forums to determine regional needs.
- 21 Last day to submit 100% of required signatures for state initiative petition and qualify to turn in additional signatures if petition is determined insufficient.
- 24 Interim Legislative Committee meeting day (Salem). Committees include on the Senate side, Commerce & Workforce Development, Health Care, Rules, Business & Transportation, Judiciary and Finance & Revenue; on the House side, Education, Transportation, Judiciary, Revenue and Workforce Development (subcommittee).
- 25 Interim Legislative Committee meeting day (Salem). Committees include on the Senate side, Consumer Protection & Public Affairs, Human Resources & Rural Health and Environment and Natural Resources; on the House side, Business & Labor, Human Services, Agriculture Natural Resources & Rural, and Environment & Water; also Joint E-Board subcommittees.
- 26 Last day for Secretary of State to forward any primary election ballots voted by long term absent electors to the county in which the elector who cast the ballot is registered.
 - Interim Legislative Committee meeting day (Salem). Committees include on the Senate side, Education & General Government, Veterans Affairs; on the House side, Sustainability & Economic Development, Veterans & Emergency Services; Consumer Protection, Health Care, Rules. Also a Joint E-Board meeting.
- 31 Memorial Day. State and federal holiday.

June

- 1 *Oregon Bulletin* publishes.
- 2 State Board of Agriculture. Klamath Falls.

- 3 Oregon University System Board meeting. Portland (Portland State University).
■ Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting. Salem.
■ Water Resources Commission meeting. Bend.
- 8 State Land Board meeting. Salem.
■ Oregon Transportation Commission meeting. Jacksonville.
■ Northwest Power & Conservation Council meeting. Missoula, Montana.
- 15 Unemployment rate/employment data for Oregon released.
- 16 Board of Nursing meeting. Portland.
- 17 Certification of primary election results.

July

- 1 *Oregon Bulletin* publishes.
- 4 Independence Day. State and federal holiday.
- 8 Oregon Medical Board meeting. Portland.
- 13 Unemployment rate/employment data for Oregon released.
■ Northwest Power & Conservation Council meeting. Portland.
- 14 Board of Nursing meeting. Portland (teleconference).
- 16 Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting. Salem (conference call).
■ Oregon Business Development Commission meeting. Salem.
- 21 Oregon Transportation Commission meeting. Portland.