

Grants Pass

# Daily Courier

\$1.50  
WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 10, 2024

## Oregon will receive at least \$61 million in tax revenue from Powerball winner

By Carlos Fuentes  
The Oregonian

Oregon will collect between \$61 million and \$131 million in state taxes from the individual who purchased the winning \$1.3 billion Powerball ticket in northeast Portland last week.

The exact amount and timing of Oregon's slice of the massive pie, however, depends on a key variable: whether the winner decides to take an instant payout or receive installments over 30 years.

Even if the winner lives in a different state, the individual will still have to pay Oregon taxes on their winnings, just like they would if they had earned a paycheck in Oregon, according to Robin Maxey, a spokesperson for the state department of revenue.

That revenue might seem like a large influx of dollars coming to the state, but it likely won't have a big impact on Oregon's budget, said Josh Lehner, an economist at the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

"An extra \$60 million certainly could provide a lot of teaching days or teacher salaries from a budgeting perspective," Lehner said, but in the grand scheme of things, "the state general fund budget is in the tens of billions of dollars already."

The unknown individual who bought the winning ticket at a Plaid Pantry convenience store in northeast Portland has the option to receive the full \$1.3 billion prize in a 30-year annuity plan or take a \$621 million instant payout. The individual has already come forward to claim the prize.

Oregon automatically withholds an 8% state tax on all lottery prizes of \$1,500 and more. If the winner takes the instant payout, as most lottery winners do, the state would automatically receive \$49.6 million.

If the winner opts into the 30-year payment plan, Oregon would automatically deduct \$3.54 million from their yearly earnings of \$44.2 million, adding up to more than \$106 million over the 30-year period.

In addition to automatic withholdings,

Turn to REVENUE, Page 6A

## Verifying Oregon Powerball winner could take weeks, lottery officials say

By Fedor Zarkhin  
The Oregonian

It could take several weeks before the Oregon Lottery can hand over cash to the winner of the historic, \$1.326 billion Powerball jackpot, because of necessary — if opaque to the public — security measures, an agency spokesperson said Tuesday.

"We can't get into too many specifics," Melanie Mesaros told a group of newspaper and TV reporters gathered in the parking lot of the Plaid Pantry convenience store in northeast Portland that sold the winning ticket Saturday. "We have a process to vet the claimant. We have a process that would look at the ticket itself and the retail purchase."

A person has come forward to claim the jackpot. The Oregon Lottery hasn't yet publicly identified the winner.

Mesaros, the Lottery spokesperson, confirmed that the security process includes looking at the person's physical ticket, checking their government-issued identification and reviewing the store's security camera footage. But she repeatedly declined to elaborate on other steps the lottery takes to ensure the money goes to the rightful winner.

"We have security processes that we just need to keep close in order to make sure the process is able to operate properly," Mesaros said.

Mesaros did say that anyone who plays the lottery should sign the back of their ticket. Otherwise, whoever holds the ticket essentially owns it, she said.

An added complication before the winner is handed the cash is the fact that there's just so much of it, and that it's funded by multiple states' lotteries, not just Oregon's. That means, Mesaros said, the agency has to go through several steps to meet the requirements of the Multi-State Lottery Association to get all the money transferred to Oregon.

The \$1.326 billion jackpot has a cash value of \$621 million if the winner chooses to take a lump sum rather than an annuity paid over 30 years. The prize is subject to federal taxes and state taxes in Oregon.

## Shady Cove fighting governor's potential veto on infrastructure

City says it is in dire need of the \$1.5 million allocation approved by the Legislature

By Vickie Aldous  
of the Daily Courier

With some wells drying up, others tainted by arsenic and no municipal water system, Shady Cove says it desperately needs \$1.5 million in state infrastructure funding that

could be vetoed by Gov. Tina Kotek. "The city is definitely disappointed by this potential red-line veto by the governor," said Thomas Corrigan, city administrator for Shady Cove.

In addition to serving current residents, a reliable water source could

pave the way for more housing — including proposed subdivisions with more than 70 lots, plus a 90-unit apartment complex, he said.

"Right there is a huge influx of housing so people aren't reliant on trailers and RVs for housing," Corrigan said.

Kotek announced Monday she is considering vetoing seven of 44 projects around the state that got \$100,000 to \$6 million in infrastructure funding from the Oregon Legis-

lature in March to boost housing production.

Of the seven at-risk projects, three are in Jackson County, impacting Shady Cove, Gold Hill and Butte Falls. Funding for projects in Medford, Phoenix and Talent isn't at risk of veto.

Kotek said the seven communities need to provide more information about how the infrastructure money

Turn to VETO, Page 7A

## La Clinica to take over operations of SOU's student health center



Photos by JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

Anna D'Amato is the executive director of the Southern Oregon University Student Health & Wellness Center in Ashland. She says financial pressures led SOU to ask La Clinica to take over operations of the on-campus health center.



SOU students can get physical and mental health care for everything from respiratory infections to eating disorders at the campus health center, which also offers low-cost medications.

By Vickie Aldous  
of the Daily Courier

With costs outpacing revenue at the Southern Oregon University Student Health & Wellness Center, La Clinica has partnered with SOU to take over operations of the on-campus clinic starting this fall.

La Clinica already operates 29 health centers in Jackson County, including 19 in local schools. This marks its first foray into operating a health clinic on a college campus.

"Our goal is to keep costs low for students. We want to make it accessible so they're not having to choose between health care and books and food," said Elise Travertini Windbigler, director of school-based health centers for La Clinica.

The SOU health center doesn't bill insurance or the Oregon Health Plan for most services. Reimbursement from

the state for reproductive health care plus student fees pay for the health center, said Anna D'Amato, executive director of the center.

La Clinica will be able to bill insurance and the Oregon Health Plan, which should bring in more revenue to cover rising costs, D'Amato said.

Current staff members are SOU employees. They can choose to continue working at the health center and become La Clinica employees, she said.

Some will earn more as La Clinica workers, some will earn less and some will make about the same, D'Amato said.

She said financial pressures led SOU to ask La Clinica to take over the student health center, located on the university's Ashland campus.

D'Amato said the center has devoted staff — some with

Turn to HEALTH, Page 7A

## Stubborn inflation will likely delay Fed rate cuts

By Christopher Rugaber  
Associated Press

Consumer inflation remained persistently high last month, boosted by gas, rents, auto insurance and other items, the government said this morning in a report that will likely give pause to the Federal Reserve as it considers how many — or even whether — to cut interest rates this

year.

Prices outside the volatile food and energy categories rose 0.4% from February to March, the same accelerated pace as in the previous month. Measured from a year earlier, these core prices were up 3.8%, unchanged from the year-over-year rise in February. The Fed closely tracks core prices because they tend to provide a good read of where

inflation is headed.

The March figures, the third straight month of inflation readings well above the Fed's 2% target, provide concerning evidence that inflation is stuck at an elevated level after having steadily dropped in the second half of 2023. The latest numbers threaten to torpedo the prospect of multiple rate cuts this year.

Fed officials have made clear that with the economy healthy, they're in no rush to cut their benchmark rate despite their earlier projections that they would do so three times this year.

Today's figures will disappoint the White House as well. Republican critics of President Joe Biden have

Turn to INFLATION, Page 6A



2 Sections, 16 Pages  
Volume CXIV  
No. 147 Issue 33958  
Grants Pass Daily Courier  
thedailycourier.com



Warm and breezy  
OVERNIGHT LOW 41°  
THURSDAY HIGH 73°  
5-day forecast on Page 2A

WHERE TO FIND IT  
Abby .....8A  
Classified .....5B  
Comics .....4B  
Entertainment .....8A

Obituaries .....3A  
Opinion .....4A  
Police .....3A  
Sports .....1B  
Stock markets .....6A

Independent and locally owned since 1885  
Circulation .....541-474-3702  
Classified Ads .....541-474-3711  
News Tips .....541-474-3716  
or email news@thedailycourier.com