



Salem-Keizer area kickers and punters to watch

SPORTS, 1B

Statesman Journal

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Staying cool on the North Santiam



A kayaker paddles upstream through the North Santiam River during high heat on Aug. 12 in Mill City. After a string of days that saw temperatures reach 100 degrees in some parts of northwest Oregon, temperatures are forecast to cool to the upper 70s on Aug. 14 with rain set to fall Aug. 15-16.

KEVIN NERI/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Window for EV rebates closes next month

Dianne Lugo
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will suspend its Standard Electric Vehicle Rebate Sept. 9 because of limited funding. Buyers will have until 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 8 to purchase or lease a new, eligible electric vehicle and get a rebate from the state. The agency expects the Charge Ahead Rebate for low and moderate-income households to stay open.

Oregon Standard Electric Vehicle Rebate offers up to \$2,500 for eligible new battery-electric or plug-in hybrid cars

The standard rebate offers up to \$2,500 for eligible new battery-electric or plug-in hybrid cars and new zero-emission motorcycles. The program is popular and receives at least \$12 million annually, or 45% of the state's Vehicle Privilege Tax (0.5% of the vehicle's retail price collected by Oregon dealerships and paid quarterly to the state). In 2025, new, eligible electric vehicles bought or leased from May 22 to Sept. 9 qualify for the rebate. Buyers have six months from the date of purchase or lease to apply. DEQ was encouraging Oregonians with eligible purchases to apply early and track funding online. If funding is depleted, applications from the eligible timeframe that have been approved will be placed on a waitlist to be paid in spring 2026 when the next funding window opens. As of Aug. 6, the standard rebate program had \$512,500 in funding remaining. There were \$2.16 million in applications in the queue. "The Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program continues to exceed all expectations and remains extremely popular with people across the state," said DEQ Air Quality Transportation Strategies Section Manager Rachel Sakata. "It is a great way for families and individuals to save money while choosing cleaner transportation and improving air quality."

See EVS, Page 2A

Scenic Fire, new blazes ignite amid hot weather

Mariah Johnston
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oregon's hot weather has sparked new flames across the state. Here's a look at the newest fires burning in Oregon.

Scenic Fire grows to 83 acres, could bring delay on Highway 230 on Upper Rogue River

The 83-acre Scenic Fire is burning along the Upper Rogue River and could bring delays to Highway 230 north of Union Creek and south of Diamond Lake. The fire was first reported Aug. 12 and has grown slowly in a popular recreation corridor within Rogue

River-Siskiyou National Forest, although no homes are threatened. The fire was burning near National Creek and was 5% contained as of Aug. 13. Fire crews are working the blaze "to establish line and hose lays along the west flank of the fire," but given the hot and dry weather, "fire activity remained high overnight, with spot fires up to a half mile east of the fire. Dozers are working to construct line in challenging terrain with dense vegetation and very soft ground," an Aug. 13 report said. "Expect travel delays and smoke impacts along Highway 230 and watch for fire crews working in the area," the report added.

See FIRES, Page 2A



An aerial view of the Scenic Fire on Aug. 12. PROVIDED BY U.S. FOREST SERVICE - ROGUE RIVER-SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

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