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The Oregonian



Family trips: As off-peak travel surges, parents and educators clash over whether vacation is worth missing school. A16

OUTDOORS

A tiny new trail is a big connector in the Columbia River Gorge

The 1,150-foot paved path for cyclists and walkers connects the Sandy River Delta park to Troutdale and beyond.

Jamie Hale *The Oregonian/OregonLive*

State and federal agencies are celebrating the opening of a small, paved pathway that connects a few popular destinations in the Columbia River Gorge.

The new Jordan Road Multi-Use Path is only 1,150 feet long, but officials are heralding it as a big connector in the region, giving walkers and cyclists a safe pathway between Sandy River Delta park (also known as Thousand Acres), and two nearby destinations: Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site and downtown Troutdale.

The paved pathway replaces a dirt and gravel trail that previously led to Sandy River Delta alongside the onramp to the freeway.

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PROJECT

The project cost $2.7 million, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation. It received $2.3 million in federal funding, thanks to a massive omnibus appropriations package approved by Congress in 2022. The bill provided funding for 145 community projects across the state.

Representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Transportation, Metro and the city of Troutdale gathered for a ribbon cutting event Nov. 6 to open the new trail officially.

"This is a true multi-jurisdictional project, and a great example of a partnership," Rian Windsheimer, Region 1 manager for ODOT, said in a news release.

Officials highlighted several local connections made possible with the new pathway, as well as aspirational connections like the incomplete 40-Mile Loop greenway around Portland.

"This trail not only advances the vision of the 40-mile loop, but connects with recent investments like the Ch'ak Ch'ak Trail, the Sharon Nesbit Heritage Park and the Sandy River Delta," Metro Councilor Ashton Simpson said in the announcement.

SEE OUTDOORS, A2



A new 1,150-foot paved pathway connects Sandy River Delta park with Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site and a bike path to downtown Troutdale. *Photos by Jamie Hale, staff*



A Sandy River beach at Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site in the Columbia River Gorge.



The pathway runs alongside an onramp to Interstate 84, where drivers can access the entrance to Sandy River Delta park.

ECONOMY

Shoppers keep paying more. Paychecks aren't keeping up.

A new inflation report shows prices still climbing across the West. Here's a look at what's gotten pricier, what's gotten cheaper and where Oregonians might catch a break.

Kristine de Leon
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Just when Oregonians could use some relief, the latest inflation report shows prices are still climbing while wages struggle to keep up.

Consumer prices across the West rose 3.4% over the year ending in September, up slightly from 3.3% a year earlier, according to new data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Meanwhile, average hourly pay for private-sector workers in Oregon rose 3.1%, federal data show.

The figures cover 13 Western states, including Oregon, so prices here may tell a different story. September is the latest month with a full annual comparison because last year's government shutdown disrupted October price collection.

Here's what's gotten pricier, what's gotten cheaper and where Oregonians might catch a break.

Gas: Pain at the pump has been real, although there's been some recent relief. Across the West, gas prices jumped nearly 28% over the year ending in September, federal data show. In Oregon, regular gas averaged $4.58 a gallon Wednesday, up from $3.82 a year ago, according to AAA. That's about $11 more for a 15-gallon fill-up, even after prices fell 42 cents over the past month.

Groceries: The cost of food was up 2.4% in the year that ended in September, but it depends on what's in your cart. Fruits and vegetables, the stuff we're supposed to eat more of, jumped 7.3%, while cereals, baked goods, coffee, tea and soda also got pricier. There was some good news in the meat aisle, at least on paper. Prices for meat, poultry, fish and eggs fell 0.5%, though that doesn't mean everything got cheaper. Milk, cheese and other dairy prices barely budged. A recent poll by the Oregon Consumer Justice found that roughly 60% of Oregonians worried that the cost of groceries was becoming out of reach.

SEE ECONOMY, A2

OREGON LEGISLATURE

Lawmakers want ATMs used by Crypto scammers gone

Oregonians reported losing more than $5.2 million in scams involving the kiosks in 2025. The elderly are often targeted.

Carlos Fuentes
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Oregonians have lost millions of dollars through scams involving crypto kiosks, the ATM-like machines used to buy cryptocurrency that have popped up in convenience stores and large retailers.

State lawmakers say they've had enough.

Rep. Nathan Sosa, a Democrat from Hillsboro, and Rep. Dwayne Yunker, a Grants Pass Republican, plan to introduce a bill in next year's legislative session that would ban the operation of the machines, sometimes referred to as Bitcoin ATMs, both lawmakers confirmed Thursday.

Scammers using crypto kiosks in the United States have become increasingly common and caused more than $389 million in reported losses in 2025, according to the FBI. In Oregon, the FBI received 256 reports of scams involving crypto kiosks in 2025, totaling $5.2 million in losses.



A kiosk operated by cryptocurrency company RockItCoin sits in a convenience store in southwest Portland. Two Oregon lawmakers want to ban the machines statewide amid widespread reports of scams. *Carlos Fuentes, staff*

That figure is almost certainly an undercount, said Andrea Meyer, government relations director for AARP Oregon, which advocates for people older than 50 and supports a ban. The scams often target the elderly, FBI statistics show.

Scammers will commonly pose as an authority figure — such as a law enforcement officer, government official or company lawyer — over the phone and direct the target to purchase cryptocurrency at a kiosk for various reasons and send them the money. The scammers will often threaten serious consequences if a target doesn't quickly comply.

More than 200 crypto kiosks are currently operating across Oregon, according to online tracker Coin ATM Radar.

Law enforcement groups have supported proposed bans in other states because the decentralized nature of cryptocurrency and instantaneous transfers make it extremely difficult for victims to get their money back.

"These machines provide a unique getaway vehicle for the crime," Meyer said, "where there's little opportunity for anyone to stop the victim, and then the money is basically instantly gone and irretrievable."

SEE LEGISLATURE, A2

NATION & WORLD A8

Biden's unapologetic defense of his tenure

In "Promise Me, America," the former president uses his new memoir to push back on critics who questioned his age and ability to serve a second term. He also pulls no punches in his criticism of President Donald Trump.

SPORTS B1

Oregon State falls to red-hot Boise State

Boise State freshman phenom Rasean Jones outshined OSU's Jesse Legree with the most yards of his young career, with 11 catches for 230 yards and three touchdowns, leading the No. 24 Broncos in a 46-41 win over the Beavers.

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