

## States rated on family-friendly traits

Washington is the nation's 10th-best state to raise a family and Oregon is 27th, according to an analysis by WalletHub, a financial services website.

The rankings are based on a variety of economic and social criteria.

Washington was rated particularly high for overall affordability but was slightly below average in terms of health and safety.

Oregon did well in terms of "family fun," but was significantly below average in "education and childcare" and affordability.

The full report is available at <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-states-to-raise-a-family/31065/>.

## Home prices surge in Clatsop County

CLATSOP COUNTY — Shaking off a brief autumn lull, Clatsop County home prices rebounded in December 2019, with an increase to an average of \$465,000, 14.1% more than in December 2018, according to Flex Multiple Listing Service data.

The median sales price — meaning half of sales were for more and half less — hit \$389,000 in December, a gain of 9.6%.

Homeowners were more optimistic in what they think their homes are worth. The average list price increased to \$633,000, or 8.7% higher than a year earlier.

Houses also sold at a brisker pace in December, spending a median of 102 days on the market, 19% less time than a year before.

Looking at 2019 as a whole, there were 818 home sales, a decline of 4.6%. The average sale price was \$405,390, a decline of 2.9% from 2018. The annual average days on the market was 88, down from 89 in 2018.

## Active housing inventory tightens in Pacific

PACIFIC COUNTY — Potential home buyers in Pacific County continued to butt up against a tight inventory in December 2019. There were 127 active listings for single-family residences, down 26.6% from a year before, according to the Northwest Mul-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Linh DePledge is the new director of sales and marketing at Cannery Pier Hotel in Astoria.

iple Listing Service.

The number of pending sales totaled 33 in December, a 17.5% decline from December 2018.

Pacific's December median home sale price was \$205,000, down 9.7%.

## Remaining WA crabbing areas open Jan. 25

WASHINGTON COAST — The entire Washington coastline from Klipsan Beach in Pacific County to the U.S./Canada border (excluding Special Management Areas) will open to state crabbers on Jan. 25, shellfish managers announced Jan. 9.

Crabbing along the Olympic Peninsula is managed in consultation with local Indian tribes.

Quinalt and Washington Fish and Wildlife Department managers reviewed catch data from the first 31 days of the Quinalt fishery on Jan. 8. Per the terms of our co-management agreement, Quinalt fishers get a 45-day head start in the area from Point Chehalis north to Destruction Island, which results in the state season opening in the area north of Klipsan Beach on Jan. 25.

WDFW's co-management agreement with the Quileute Tribe

uses different criteria to open the state fishery between the Queets River and Destruction Island and for the area north of Destruction Island. Considering a low early-season catch for the Quileute, this area will also open Jan. 25.

Crabbing north of Destruction Island requires that the Quileutes get 20 "fishable" days between Dec. 1 and Jan. 15. As of Jan. 8, there had been 15 fishable days and five more were likely, so that area also can open Jan. 25.

## Clatsop residents rated good at budgeting

CLATSOP COUNTY — Looking at factors such as expense-to-income ratios, bankruptcy rates and comparing net worth to income, Clatsop County residents are ranked 10th best budgeters in Oregon by the financial services firm SmartAsset.

Clatsop residents do particularly well at keeping expenses in line with income and avoiding bankruptcy, according to the analysis. Overall, Clatsop earned an index rating of 50.78 on a zero to 100 nationwide scale.

Clackamas was rated first among the state's 36 counties and Columbia County was second.

Pacific County was ranked fifth among Washington's 39 counties. It gained a 60.57 rating on the 100-point scale. Pacific County was particularly strong in terms of its wealth-to-income ratio of 130.2%, compared to 75.2% in Clatsop.

San Juan County was rated first in Washington. Jefferson at second and Clallam at seventh were other outer coast counties high in the ratings.

## Need HAZMAT certification?

ABERDEEN — Grays Harbor College is offering a two-day class in Hazardous Materials Certification Jan. 17 and 18 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the college campus. Eligible students must have Commercial Learners Permit or Class A license to enroll; they must also be 18 years of age.

Cost of the 1.5 credit course is \$181.49, plus \$13 for a book available at the GHC Bookstore. The HAZMAT endorsement course provides instruction for any driver seeking to obtain, renew or transfer a hazardous materials endorsement on a Washington State-issued commercial driver's license.

For more information and to enroll in HAZ 101, contact Nancy Estergard at Grays Harbor College, 360-538-4012 or [nancy.estergard@ghc.edu](mailto:nancy.estergard@ghc.edu).

## DePledge hired at Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa

ASTORIA — The Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa, owned and managed by Vesta Hospitality, announced in December hiring Linh DePledge as the new director of sales and marketing. The iconic 46-room hotel rests on historic pier pilings 600 feet over the Columbia River.

DePledge will oversee all aspects of marketing, sales programs, public relations, and the annual budget in the hotel's continuing mission to deliver outstanding guest service and revenue growth. She joins the hotel's management team with more than 25 years of experience in brand development, product launch and sales and marketing for diverse businesses from internet start-ups to insurance. Most recently, DePledge was the director of operations and public relations for Adrift Hospitality, where she was responsible for managing four hotels in Oregon and Washington state.

"We are excited to have someone of her caliber and experience right here in Astoria join our team. DePledge has significant experience with her career concentration in sales and marketing and leading effective teams. Her leadership and creativity, combined with community involvement and her own-it and think-ahead values will be essential to the ongoing success of the Cannery Pier Hotel," said Don West, the hotel's general manager.

DePledge is involved in the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association and serves on its Business Development Committee. She lives in Astoria, and the Cannery Pier Hotel has always been an aspirational property with a special place in her heart.

"I've always loved the Cannery Pier Hotel from afar, and now I get to be a part of this distinctive property and the people who make it so beloved in our community and to our guests," DePledge said.