

# AP Briefs

## Count finds more than 1,200 homeless in Salem area

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — An annual tally of homeless people in the Salem area found 1,218 — nearly 6 percent more than last year.

The count in Marion and Polk counties was conducted Jan. 31. Volunteers surveyed homeless people they found on streets, in camps, living in their cars and in other areas without adequate shelter. People living in emergency shelters and transitional housing were also included.

The Statesman Journal reports that beyond the overall number, the count provides a snapshot of who's homeless and why. The survey found that 37 percent of those counted were chronically homeless. About a quarter of those surveyed had a serious mental illness and a similar total had problems with substance abuse.

Males outnumbered females 60 percent to 40 percent, and children comprised 13 percent of the tally.

Information from: Statesman Journal, <http://www.statesmanjournal.com>

## Calls for Democratic candidate for state House to quit

By ANDREW SELSKY, Associated Press  
SALEM, Ore. (AP) — An attempt by Democrats to flip a seat in the Oregon Legislature has been thrown into disarray, with the party's nominee accused of groping a woman in a bar and him firing back by impugning his accuser's character.

Calls grew louder Monday for Nathan Boddie, a doctor and member of the Bend City

Council, to quit the race for a House seat being vacated by a Republican who is the GOP's gubernatorial candidate in the November election.

Bend council member and mayor pro tem Sally Russell said Boddie should not only abandon the statehouse race, but resign from the council.

"The allegations against Dr. Boddie, and his failure to address these issues, are highly disturbing," Russell said.

The campaign arm of Oregon House Democrats earlier withdrew its support of Boddie, saying it received a complaint that he engaged in sexist behavior and used anti-gay language.

Boddie, who did not respond Monday to a request for comment, cannot be forced out of running for the House seat, and instead could only go if he withdraws voluntarily, said Molly Woon, spokeswoman for the Democratic Party of Oregon.

If Boddie does quit the race, a Democratic convention in Deschutes County, which forms the House district he's running for, would select a candidate to run as the Democratic nominee on the November ballot, Woon said.

Vague accusations against Boddie became specific when Moey Newbold, a local community activist, said Boddie had slid his hand into her pants while they were at a bar in December 2012, when she was 23, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported on Friday. She told friends and colleagues about the disturbing incident at the time.

Boddie has denied Newbold's allegation. On Saturday, he said in a statement that Newbold had "suffered from problems related to substance use," had been intoxicated in public and that he had found her unconscious at times, according to The Source, a weekly newspaper in Bend.

Newbold told The Source that Boddie's

statement about her is false and amounts to "character assassination."

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel said he previously backed Boddie's campaign to win a seat in the Oregon House, but due to Boddie's public statements about Newbold and uncertainty about his past conduct, Hummel was withdrawing his support.

"I know Moey Newbold and find her to be credible and ethical," Hummel said. "Boddie's public response to Newbold's allegation was reprehensible and beneath the dignity of a sitting city councilor and candidate for future office."

Democrats need just one more seat in the House and one in the Senate to reach a three-fifths supermajority in both chambers. That would give them the ability to increase state revenue without Republican support, and a better shot at increasing corporate taxes in a state where corporations pay one of the lowest rates in the nation.

## Oregon hires Oklahoma assistant Lombardi as head coach

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Oregon has hired Oklahoma associate head softball coach Melyssa Lombardi as head coach.

Oklahoma made the announcement in a news release on Monday.

Lombardi guided Oklahoma's pitchers and catchers for the past 21 years and helped the Sooners win four national titles. She coached the Oklahoma battery to a combined 20 All-America honors, 37 All-Region accolades and 77 All-Big 12

honors.

Lombardi has huge shoes to fill. She'll replace Mike White, who left Oregon for Texas. White led the Ducks to five Women's College World Series trips in nine seasons. The Ducks earned the overall No. 1 seed this past season before being eliminated by eventual national champion Florida State. White went 435-111-1 at Oregon with five Pac-12 titles the past six years.

## Harvest time for Hermiston watermelons

PENDLETON, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's famous Hermiston watermelons are back in season.

The East Oregonian reports that growers anticipate they will start picking in earnest this week.

Watermelons are an iconic crop for Hermiston, thriving in the region's sandy soils and desert climate. Driving north into town on Highway 395, the Hermiston logo emblazoned on the water tower features a watermelon backdrop along with the slogan, "Where Life is Sweet."

Precision agriculture and modern technology have led to increased yields, which has helped to expand markets. Firmly entrenched in the Northwest, Hermiston watermelons can also be found across the West Coast and have been shipped as far as Texas and Georgia.

Information from: East Oregonian, <http://>

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