

# Oregon’s retirement-age population growing fast

By ELLIOT NJUS  
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — The retirement-age boom is well underway in Oregon. Oregon’s 65-and-older population grew by 18 percent between July 2010 and July 2014, according to newly released population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. That outpaces the country as a whole, which saw its senior

population grow by 14.2 percent in the same time period. Most Oregon counties saw their 65-and-older population grow by more than 10 percent in the same time period. No county saw a decrease. It’s the leading edge of the baby boomer generation, born between 1946 and 1964. The first boomers reached 65 in 2011. In the first couple of

years after 2010, “we probably had kind of slow going compared to what we’re going to have over the next 15 years or so,” said Charles Rynerson of the Population Research Center at Portland State University. “It’s just going to keep growing and growing.” Deschutes County saw the biggest increase. Its 65-and-over population grew 31 percent between 2010 and 2014, followed by Washing-

ton County (24.2 percent) and Clackamas County (23.2 percent). Oregon has received some national attention as a retirement destination, but much of the explosion in the retirement-age population comes from people who were already here. In 2010, the Portland area was notable for its disproportionately high population of people in their 50s and 60s — the people who

are beginning to turn 65 today. And much of that population comes from a torrent of young and well-educated people who moved to Oregon in the 1970s. Sound familiar? “There’s a lot of young, well-educated people who have been coming here since the ‘90s, but they were coming here in the ‘70s, too,” Rynerson said. The Census Bureau also

found that the millennial generation, born between 1982 and 2000, has grown to 83.1 million and now outnumber baby boomers. And 44.2 percent of U.S. millennials are part of a minority race or ethnic group, making them more diverse group than any previous generation. The youngest Americans are even more diverse yet, with a majority belonging to a minority race or ethnic group.

## RELIGION BRIEFS

### Grace Community Baptist

Grace Community Baptist Church, 1195 Irving Ave., invites children entering preschool (4 years old) to sixth grade to take the Thailand Trek, a vacation Bible school, from Monday through Thursday. Dinner is at 5 p.m., and the Thailand Adventure, with crafts, games, and music, is from 6 to 8 p.m. To register, stop by the church to pick up a registration form, or fill out a form online at [www.gracechurchastoria.org](http://www.gracechurchastoria.org). For information, call the church office at 503-325-2263.

### Beit Salmon

Congregation Beit Salmon, led by Rabbi Abram Goodstein, is holding several events in the coming week. • Today: A Shabbat potluck dinner at 6 p.m. at the home of Moria Golub, 1804 Jerome Ave. Call 503-791-3173 for directions. • Saturday: Shabbat services are at 11 a.m. in the Peace Lutheran Fellowship

Hall basement, 565 12th St., which is wheelchair accessible. Music is being provided by Shelley Loring. Bring a potluck dish to share.

- Tuesday: A Jewish 101 discussion group takes place at 3 p.m. in the Desdemona Room at the Clatsop Community College Library. The topic is “Rabbinic Literature.”
- Wednesday: A Torah study is at 6 p.m. July 8 at 1804 Jerome Ave.
- July 11: At 11 a.m. there is a Shabbat walk of under two miles, starting at the Netul Trail Head off Fort Clatsop Road. On entering the parking area, find the other Shabbat walkers at the first picnic tables, under the awning. Members should consider carpooling, and bring water and a picnic item to share.

### Grace Episcopal

The July Labyrinth is available for walking 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Ave. A labyrinth introduction is offered at 3 p.m., upon request. It takes an average of

30 minutes to complete the walk.

Grace Church is offering an ecumenical Taizé Prayer & Song service at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The service consists of simple repeated chants, periods of silence, prayers individual and communal, and the lighting of candles. Grace conducts this evening prayer service on a second Wednesday of each month. All are welcome. For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or go to [www.graceastoria.org](http://www.graceastoria.org)

### Community sing

SEASIDE — A Seaside Community HU Sing takes place at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Regardless of one’s beliefs or religion, anyone can sing HU (pronounced hue), an ancient name for God; it is for the spiritual upliftment of those who come, and is not directed to any other purpose. For information, call Seann Valen at 503-717-5485, email [access49@gmail.com](mailto:access49@gmail.com)

gmail.com or go to [www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org)

### Society of Friends

SEAVIEW, Wash. — The Lower Columbia Worship Group of the Society of Friends (Quaker) meets at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Peninsula Church Center Fireside Room (south building), 5000 N Place, in Seaview. This is a “silent” (unprogrammed) worship group. All are welcome to visit and participate. For information, call 503-895-7474.

### Cannon Beach Community

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 E. Washington St., holds an Evensong service at 6 p.m. the first and third Sunday of the month. All are welcome. Evensong features Wes Warhmund (guitar, flute and clarinet) and meditative songs, Psalms, readings, candlelight and time for quiet reflection. For information, call the church at 503-436-1222.

### Bethany Free Lutheran

Bethany Free Lutheran Church, 451 34th St., is holding a vacation Bible school from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, July 10, featuring puppets, singing, crafts, Bible stories and games. All children ages 3 years old to sixth grade are welcome. There is no cost. For information, call 503-325-2925.

### First Lutheran

Two new Christian education opportunities begin at 9:45 a.m. Sunday at First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. The children are involved in a new program called Summer Fun, led by children’s ministry director, Wende Larsen. The program includes children of all ages in activities both inside and outside the church. Adults begin a six-week course on Liberation Theology, led by the seminary intern, Brach Jennings. Using multiple sources, including James Cone’s book “A Black Theology of Liberation,” this course offers an overview of

the theology that has been so influential in Central and South America.

All are welcome to come and participate. For questions, call the church at 503-325-6252.

### Star of the Sea

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church monthly Knights of Columbus breakfast, following both Sunday morning Masses on the first Sunday of each month, is canceled for the month of July due to the Fourth of July holiday weekend. It will resume the first Sunday in August.

The following parish volunteer opportunities are open for the religious education program beginning again in September: A teacher for grades K-2 on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (flexible); assistant position from 1-3:30 p.m. Thursdays; and assistant for Middle School Youth Group on Sundays from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Those who are interested in volunteering can call the parish office at 503-325-3671.

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**46 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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