

State discontinues 'radar list' of youth homes after media reports

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon child welfare regulators decided to stop keeping a list of problematic state-licensed service providers after lawmakers and news reporters learned about the list last month.

In a letter to children's services providers last week, the state Department of Human Services apologized for releasing the list to reporters and legislators who filed public records requests without advance notice to the providers.

"I sincerely apologize for the concerns the release of this list has created with you, our partners, and wish we had the opportunity to provide you with advance notice of this release of records and likely media attention," P. Donna Keddy, director of the department's Office of Licensing and Regulatory Oversight, wrote in the email to providers. "I know we work closely with all of you in addressing issues and corrective actions, all with the goal of protecting children and youth. As a result, DHS has discontinued producing a 'radar list,' and in its place Interim DHS Director Clyde Saiki has convened a cross-agency management team that meets regularly to discuss current pending issues

with licensed child-caring facilities. This ensures that DHS can consistently and appropriately respond to concerns before a situation becomes a risk to the safety of children and youth in our licensed facilities."

Intent to revoke licenses

Last week, the agency sent letters of intent to revoke the licenses of two providers on the list, the Scotts Valley School therapeutic boarding school program south of Eugene and Youth Villages foster care programs which operates in Oregon City and Lake Oswego.

Top officials at the Department of Human Services created the "radar list" in 2012 to track state-licensed facilities with recurring problems. The department circulated the list internally and also shared it with the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Criteria for state-licensed facilities to get on the list ranged from high severity or number of complaints, to chronic non-compliance and potential for the situation to attract media attention.

State Sen. Sara Gelsler, D-Corvallis, said on Monday that she was surprised to hear of the department's decision to discontinue the list. Gelsler, who is chairwoman of the Senate Interim Committee On Human

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Gene Evans

Department of Human Services spokesman

Services and Early Childhood, has taken the agency to task for regulatory shortfalls in hearings this fall. Gelsler also proposed legislation to tighten licensing and financial regulations on providers and change how the state handles abuse and neglect allegations.

"It's contrary to what they said in our hearings, that the reason that kids were allowed to suffer for so long in these places was that they didn't have a method for collecting information into a central place, and for having leadership discuss it across multiple silos in the department," Gelsler said of the department's decision to scrap the list. "If you eliminate the list, it seems like it makes that problem worse, not better."

"I will be asking the department to explain what method

and did nothing. The Oregon Department of Justice had been investigating Give Us This Day since 2012, and the department stopped sending children to the program in September, The Oregonian reported.

The Department of Human Services is also working to find other placements for foster children at Youth Villages, which received a letter of intent to revoke its license last week based on allegations of lack of supervision of a suicidal child and repeated sexual intercourse between clients.

Scotts Valley School was on the "radar list" more than 30 of the last 36 months. On Friday, the department released a letter of intent to revoke the school's license and described a list of problems, from letting students go hungry, to forcing them to spend 12 hours at a time staring at a wall.

The agency has not suspended, revoked or even denied the renewal of licenses for any problematic service providers during the last 36 months.

Not a good way to track

Gene Evans, a spokesman for the department, said the radar list was not a good way to track the most problematic state-licensed programs, because it was informal and licensing officials never created a detailed protocol for when to add a program to the list.

"That had really just any facility that had come to somebody's attention," Evans said on Monday morning. "They could be put on the list to give a heads-up to DHS executives, rather than it being a more fully focused and vetted list of concerns ... It wasn't an accurate or a useful list."

As for why the department decided not to replace the radar list with a formal tracking list, Evans said that remains a possibility. "But the list in its current form just wasn't a useful or an accurate process," Evans said.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Student caught with pellet gun on bus

The Daily Astorian

An 8-year-old student from Lewis and Clark Elementary School was found with an unloaded pellet gun in his backpack while riding a school bus home Friday afternoon.

The Astoria School District's Transportation Director Ryan Hahn had the bus pull over near Tapiola Park after a student notified the driver of a weapon on board. When officers from the Astoria Police Department arrived, district employees were unloading students from the bus.

As students got back on, their backpacks were checked. The student with the pellet gun then told an officer he had a pellet gun in his backpack. Hahn took the student home, and the other students boarded the bus to go home.

"At no time were any students threatened or in danger," Superintendent Craig Hoppes wrote in a press release Monday. "The district is dedicated to providing a safe environment to students and staff at all times and in all places."

Hoppes said the district is still investigating the incident and will meet with the student and his mother this week. He said the student could face a range of consequences, from suspension to expulsion.

"We understand that the situation can be unsettling to students, but please note that once police are on the scene, they take control of the situation and their actions were within the law and protocol between the district and the police department given that this was an emergency situation," Hoppes wrote.

ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Tonight
Rather cloudy with a little rain
41°

Wednesday
Cloudy with a shower in the afternoon
50° 45°

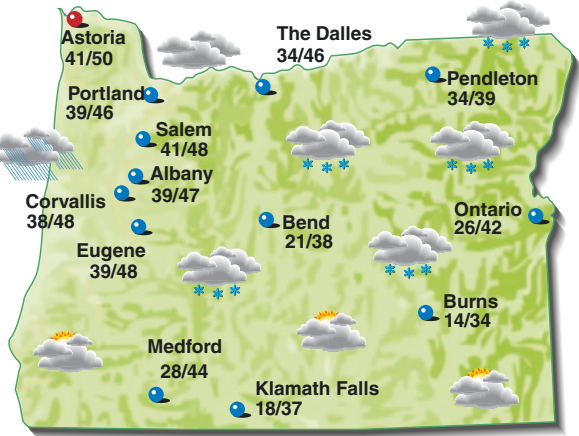
Friday
A little morning rain, then a few showers
51° 43°

Thursday
Rain
55° 44°

Saturday
Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers
50° 43°

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs

Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2015

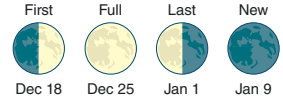
Almanac

Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures	
High	50°
Low	35°
Normal high	48°
Normal low	36°
Precipitation	
Yesterday	0.25"
Month to date	11.77"
Normal month to date	4.65"
Year to date	65.01"
Normal year to date	62.02"

Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	4:30 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday	7:52 a.m.
Moonrise today	10:47 a.m.
Moonset today	9:26 p.m.



AccuWeather.com

Regional Cities

City	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	36	21	pc	35	18	sn
Bend	36	21	pc	38	30	c
Brookings	48	37	pc	48	45	c
Eugene	45	39	pc	48	42	c
Ilwaco	50	45	c	49	46	r
Klamath Falls	34	18	s	37	30	c
Medford	42	28	pc	44	38	c
Newport	48	42	c	49	45	c
North Bend	50	42	pc	53	48	c

City	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Olympia	43	34	c	44	34	c
Pendleton	41	34	s	39	27	sn
Portland	43	39	pc	46	40	c
Roseburg	46	38	pc	48	44	c
Salem	45	41	pc	48	42	c
Seaside	50	45	c	50	46	c
Spokane	34	26	pc	33	18	sn
Vancouver	41	39	pc	45	39	c
Yakima	42	26	pc	42	28	c

Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: At magnitude 5, Comet Catalina is 16 degrees east of Spica before dawn.

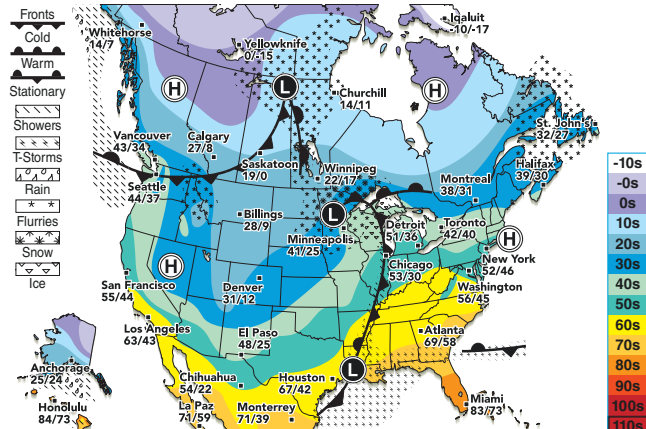
Tomorrow's Tides

Time	High	Time	Low
4:55 a.m.	8.3 ft.	10:40 a.m.	2.9 ft.
4:16 p.m.	8.5 ft.	10:59 p.m.	0.3 ft.

National Cities

City	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	69	45	s	69	58	pc
Boston	58	40	pc	45	37	s
Chicago	44	38	c	53	30	sh
Denver	27	15	sn	31	12	pc
Des Moines	44	38	c	39	27	pc
Detroit	48	40	c	51	36	sh
El Paso	49	25	c	48	25	s
Fairbanks	9	1	c	7	-4	pc
Honolulu	84	74	s	84	73	s
Indianapolis	49	40	c	56	33	sh
Kansas City	55	32	c	42	25	pc
Las Vegas	50	32	s	48	32	c
Los Angeles	61	38	s	63	43	s
Memphis	69	50	s	64	38	sh
Miami	84	72	pc	83	73	pc
Nashville	65	42	s	67	41	pc
New Orleans	74	61	s	77	58	t
New York	62	45	pc	52	46	s
Oklahoma City	62	30	c	52	26	s
Philadelphia	63	43	s	57	46	s
St. Louis	56	50	pc	58	32	pc
Salt Lake City	30	20	sf	32	25	sn
San Francisco	55	41	s	55	44	c
Seattle	45	38	c	44	37	c
Washington, DC	62	43	s	56	45	s

Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities. Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Volunteers needed to help with Lil' Sprouts

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Parks and Recreation Department is seeking volunteers Saturday afternoon to help to improve the facilities at Lil' Sprouts and Port of Play,

785 Alameda Ave.

The Citizens Helping Improve Parks, or CHIP-in, event is from 1 to 4 p.m.

Volunteers will be cleaning both the inside and outside of the facilities and helping with

various creative paint projects, putting in bark chips, vacuuming, and picking up trash. Volunteers and their children may utilize Port of Play for free during this event, and can choose a gift from the giving tree.

Deaths

Dec. 11, 2015

WILLIAMS, Robert Alexander, 71, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Lay-

ton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 12, 2015

LAYTON, Mildred La-

Vonne, 82, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

On the record

DUII arrest

At 1:10 a.m. Sunday, Oregon State Police arrested Brandon Phillip Novoselic, 26, of Naselle, for driving under the influence of intoxicants on U.S. Highway 30 milepost 98. Novoselic's blood alcohol content was measured at 0.11, according to police.

Public meetings

TUESDAY

Union Health District, 8 a.m., Providence Hospital, Education Room B, Seaside.

Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council, 4 to 5:30 p.m., 800 Exchange St., Room 430.

Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Knappa School Board,

5:30 p.m., Knappa High School library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin St.

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., executive session (closed to public), 6 p.m., old Port offices, 422 Gateway Ave.

Shoreline Sanitary Dis-

trict Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., work session, Seaside City Hall, 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY

Seaside Tourism Advisory Commission, 3 p.m., City Hall Conference Room, 989 Broadway.

Lotteries

OREGON

Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 8-4-4-5
4 p.m.: 8-4-4-7
7 p.m.: 3-4-9-6
10 p.m.: 4-0-6-9

Monday's Megabucks: 3-10-16-35-36-46

Estimated jackpot: \$3.6 million.

WASHINGTON

Monday's Daily Game: 1-6-3
Monday's Hit 5: 13-26-29-35-39

Monday's Keno: 05-09-19-

20-22-24-29-34-35-39-41-45-47-51-53-69-71-73-75-78

Monday's Lotto: 03-17-27-29-36-43

Estimated jackpot: \$3.5 million.

Monday's Match 4: 07-12-18-20

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