

# Critics say Portland 'no-sit zone' unfairly punishes homeless

## Rule prevents people from blocking paths

By ERICKA CRUZ GUEVARRA  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Outside the Columbia Sportswear flagship store in downtown Portland Saturday, signs instructing pedestrians to keep the sidewalk clear were instead covered with posters that read "Mayor For Sale."

The covered signs designate sidewalks for pedestrian use only under city code. A product of the city's sidewalk management plan, the so-called "no-sit zone" prohibits people from blocking pedestrian traffic in busy downtown areas.

About 40 protesters sat anyway, opposing city policy they say criminalizes homelessness in favor of businesses like Columbia Sportswear. Cities across Oregon continue to grapple with the same

question of whether such policies actually criminalize homelessness.

"When you criminalize things that only homeless people have to do, you're criminalizing homelessness," said Portland Resistance organizer Gregory McKelvey. "Human beings need to sit and to rest, and to simply say that homeless people should not be around here is not as a solution."

Mayor Ted Wheeler instructed the Portland Police Bureau and the city's transportation agency to expand the no-sit zone downtown, the Portland Mercury reported Wednesday.

On Twitter, Wheeler — seemingly responding to criticism of the action — said it was "irresponsible" to conflate homelessness with crime.

"We can address safety issues with common sense enforcement," Wheeler tweeted. "We can address homelessness with compassion. That's our plan."



Ericka Cruz Guevarra/OPB

**Protesters gathered Saturday outside of Columbia Sportswear in Portland.**

PPB Sgt. Ryan Bren said the bureau had not instructed its officers to enforce the signs.

"The Police Bureau is taking no action currently with respect to the signs that have been put up," Bren said. "The Police Bureau has not been given any specific direction to enforce it and that is not our intention."

Protesters saw the move as suspect in timing. About two weeks prior to the mayor's announcement, Columbia Sportswear CEO Tim Boyle wrote a guest column in The Oregonian urging city leaders to address safety downtown. Boyle said his employees have reported being harassed and threatened by people near the downtown office.

"We are so concerned that we brought together senior management this week to talk through the challenges and options for addressing it, including a review of whether to stay downtown," Boyle wrote.

In March, the Eugene City Council launched a pilot program that restricted dogs on public property in specific areas of the city's downtown. The Register-Guard reported the majority of people cited in the first six months of the program were homeless.

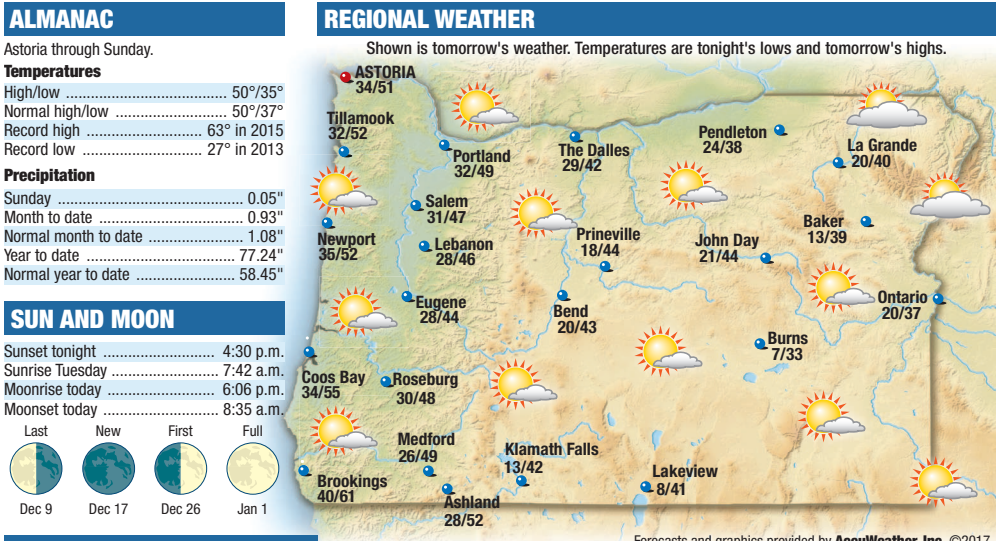
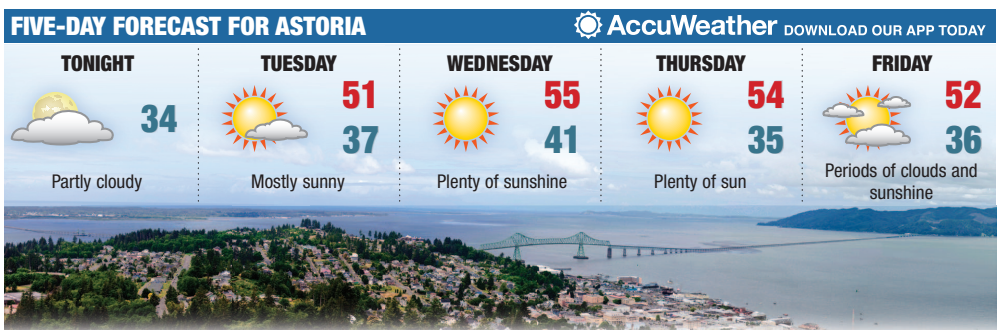
Last month, a proposal to expand Medford's downtown "exclusion zone" failed in a City Council meeting. The zone is off-limits for 90 days to people cited for civil offenses like possession of a controlled substance or failure to control dangerous dogs.

The expansion sought to include buildings such as the Jackson County Courthouse and the District Attorney's Office.

At the November council meeting, Medford Mayor Gary Wheeler said the zone was not intended to criminalize homelessness but to discourage bad behavior in the city's downtown corridor and to encourage thriving businesses, an idea mirrored in Boyle's op-ed.

"I love Portland," Boyle wrote in his op-ed. "But as the chief executive officer of a company based here, I am concerned I may have made a mistake when we recently relocated one of our brand headquarters downtown."

Medford council members who voted against the expansion of the exclusion zone worried the plan would not address homelessness head-on. "I mean maybe it will come to what council member Kay Brooks suggested: that we'll just squeeze (homeless people) out of town," council member Clay Bearson said at the meeting. "I just don't know if that's very effective or if that's a good way to spend tax dollars."



**UNDER THE SKY**  
Tonight's Sky: Although the winter solstice, is almost three weeks away, will see the earliest sunsets (4:27 p.m.) of the year over the next few days.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**TOMORROW'S TIDES**  
Astoria / Port Docks

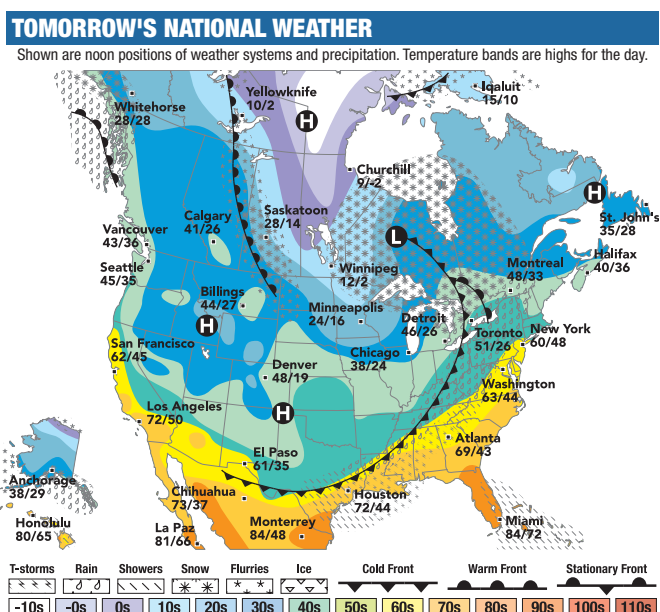
Time	High	Time	Low
2:37 a.m.	8.6 ft.	8:07 a.m.	2.6 ft.
1:53 p.m.	10.4 ft.	9:00 p.m.	-1.4 ft.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Hi	Lo	W	Tues.	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	65	53	pc	69	43	c	
Boston	45	37	s	51	49	r	
Chicago	63	36	t	38	24	pc	
Denver	42	17	c	48	19	s	
Des Moines	66	26	c	39	22	pc	
Detroit	54	45	c	46	26	c	
El Paso	73	45	pc	61	35	pc	
Fairbanks	31	18	pc	29	21	pc	
Honolulu	80	70	s	80	65	c	
Indianapolis	63	39	c	43	26	pc	
Kansas City	68	27	c	47	30	pc	
Las Vegas	57	39	s	58	38	s	
Los Angeles	70	50	s	72	50	s	
Memphis	70	51	c	51	36	r	
Miami	83	72	pc	84	72	s	
Nashville	69	57	pc	57	33	c	
New Orleans	78	65	pc	78	46	t	
New York	52	46	pc	60	48	r	
Oklahoma City	72	35	pc	52	30	pc	
Philadelphia	54	46	pc	63	48	r	
St. Louis	70	34	c	47	30	pc	
Salt Lake City	36	20	sf	35	20	s	
San Francisco	60	47	s	62	45	s	
Seattle	45	34	pc	45	35	s	
Washington, DC	57	47	pc	63	44	r	

**REGIONAL CITIES**

City	Hi	Lo	W	Tues.	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	40	13	s	39	12	pc	
Bend	41	20	s	43	18	s	
Brookings	54	39	s	59	42	s	
Eugene	46	28	pc	44	27	s	
Ilwaco	48	36	pc	50	40	s	
Klamath Falls	37	13	s	42	14	s	
Medford	44	26	s	49	28	s	
Newberg	46	32	pc	49	35	s	
Newport	50	35	pc	52	39	s	
North Bend	51	34	pc	55	38	s	
Olympia	44	29	pc	44	29	s	
Pendleton	42	24	s	38	23	pc	
Portland	47	32	pc	49	35	s	
Roseburg	47	30	s	48	31	s	
Salem	48	31	pc	47	31	s	
Seaside	48	33	pc	51	40	s	
Spokane	33	23	pc	33	21	pc	
Springfield	45	27	pc	45	28	s	
Vancouver	46	32	pc	49	35	s	
Yakima	44	25	pc	40	23	pc	



## 76th anniversary of Pearl Harbor observed

The Daily Astorian of the U.S. into World War II. The memorial begins at 9 a.m. Thursday in the Seaside Civic and Convention Center lobby, then moves outside to the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge, located adjacent to the convention center, for a wreath-laying ceremony. Refreshments will be served after the service. This event is sponsored by Seaside American Legion Post 99. For information, call Eric Beal at 503-470-0776.

## Fair Board seeking applicants for two open seats

The Clatsop County Fair Board is seeking applications for two open seats. Residents can apply to serve three-year terms that would run through 2020. Board members manage the Clatsop County Fair and Expo Center and organize the annual county fair. The board meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Applications can be found at the county manager's office — at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410 — or on the county website. Applications must be submitted to the office by Dec. 29, and the county Board of Commissioners will make final appointments.

## ON THE RECORD

- DUI**
- At 7:21 p.m. Friday, Christopher Michael Peterson, 24, of Warrenton, was arrested by the Warrenton Police Department on the 650 block of N. Main Avenue and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants. Police stopped him after he allegedly ran a stop sign.
  - At 6:36 p.m. Sunday, Levi P. Pattison, 23, of Vernonia, was arrested by the Oregon State Police on Oregon Highway 103 in
- Jewell and charged with DUI. Police originally responded to a report of a truck in a ditch on the side of the road. No injuries were reported, but Pattison's blood alcohol content was 0.08 percent.
- Assault**
- At 8:38 p.m. Friday, Brenda K. Auran, 50, of Gearhart, was arrested by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office on the 88860 block of Blue Heron Road and charged with fourth-degree assault and harassment.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

- MONDAY**  
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
- TUESDAY**  
Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., 1225 Avenue A., Seaside.  
Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway, Seaside.  
Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
- Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.**  
**Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.**

## LOTTERIES

- OREGON**
- Sunday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 6-5-3-5  
4 p.m.: 6-8-8-8  
7 p.m.: 9-1-0-2  
10 p.m.: 9-9-4-2
- Sunday's Lucky Lines:** 03-05-10-13-19-21-25-32  
Estimated jackpot: \$13,000
- Saturday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 6-5-8-9  
4 p.m.: 7-6-2-0  
7 p.m.: 1-6-1-3  
10 p.m.: 0-0-0-1
- Saturday's Lucky Lines:** 03-08-11-13-19-22-28-29  
Estimated jackpot: \$11,000
- Saturday's Megabucks:** 23-26-28-30-33-35
- WASHINGTON**
- Sunday's Daily Game:** 6-6-1  
**Sunday's Keno:** 02-04-06-22-25-27-29-31-35-36-46-49-56
- Estimated jackpot: \$4.2 million  
**Saturday's Powerball:** 28-30-32-36-58, Powerball: 6  
Estimated jackpot: \$193 million
- Friday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 2-5-0-0  
4 p.m.: 2-7-2-7  
7 p.m.: 7-0-6-6  
10 p.m.: 6-9-3-3
- Friday's Lucky Lines:** 01-07-10-14-19-23-25-31  
Estimated jackpot: \$10,000
- Friday's Mega Millions:** 16-22-40-41-59, Mega Ball: 8  
Estimated jackpot: \$160 million
- 59-63-65-66-75-78-79  
**Sunday's Match 4:** 11-16-21-23  
**Saturday's Daily Game:** 0-1-6  
**Saturday's Hit 5:** 02-04-15-23-33  
Estimated jackpot: \$130,000  
**Saturday's Keno:** 02-04-08-10-14-18-21-25-26-32-40-47-48-50-53-56-64-66-72-80  
**Saturday's Lotto:** 02-10-13-27-40-47  
Estimated jackpot: \$3.7 million  
**Saturday's Match 4:** 07-10-12-21  
**Friday's Daily Game:** 7-3-4  
**Friday's Keno:** 11-16-18-23-24-26-29-31-34-35-46-49-51-53-55-59-60-65-74-79  
**Friday's Match 4:** 02-07-17-24

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Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits](http://www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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