

Portland restricts straws over environmental concerns

Customers have to ask for straws

By ERICKA CRUZ GUEVARRA
Oregon Public Broadcasting

You soon won't be able to expect a server to give you a straw for your drink in Portland — unless you ask for one first.

Portland City Councilors on Wednesday approved an ordinance that implements a by-request-only policy for plasticware for dine-in, delivery and takeout orders starting July.

That means what was once a given at restaurants and dining establishments now needs to be requested: Instead of sitting down and automatically getting a straw with your glass of water, for example, you'll need to ask your server for one.

And at the drive-thru, restaurant employees will need to ask customers if they need condiment packets,

utensils or plasticware like plastic straws and stirrers.

To be clear: it's not an outright ban on straws, though the city did consider that. The brains behind the legislation say they made a conscious effort not to do that after conversations with members of the community — namely, the disability rights community. The idea, though, is to get people to think twice about plastic consumption.

"These plastics are cheap and a lot of businesses have made it a point to just include them in whatever order is happening for food and drink — and that is the default," said Pete Chism-Winfield, program specialist with the city's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

"So what we're trying to do with this policy is reset the default that doesn't include all these different plastics that may or may not be needed, and give the consumer an opportunity to make that decision themselves."

The city is making it so

that all retail food and beverage establishments will only give customers plasticware after a customer asks for it. And for customers getting takeout, plasticware will only be provided after employees ask customers if they need it.

The city simply wants to get people to think twice about whether or not they need to use disposable plasticware when they order food.

"We want to really be able to break out of the status quo mold of automatically expecting to have plasticware or plastic straws every time we sit down at a restaurant and order a soft drink or order a cocktail," said Amy Rathfelder, an environmental and sustainability policy advisor to Mayor Ted Wheeler.

"We want to just sort of break out of that thinking and start to change the dynamic. Because ultimately, as we consider the larger impacts of climate change and the small steps we're going to need to take to reduce its effects, this is one of them."

Commercial crab season likely delayed until January

Chinook Observer

ILWACO, Wash. — The opening of commercial Dungeness crab season will likely be delayed until Jan. 1, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A decision won't be official until after a conference

call today at noon by tri-state managers. The mainland West Coast crab fishery is managed by a consortium of Washington state, Oregon and California officials.

The most recent round of testing found crab in Pacific and Clatsop counties either at or very near the minimum

23 percent meat requirement. However, crab in southern Oregon were still significantly under weight.

If the season opens Jan. 1, it will be two weeks earlier than the 2017-18 season — which didn't start until Jan. 15 — and on par with the 2016-17 season, which started Jan. 1, 2017.

Whale entanglements slightly up last year

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Federal officials say last year was slightly worse than average for the entanglement of large whales, which is a major threat to the animals' populations.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released a report

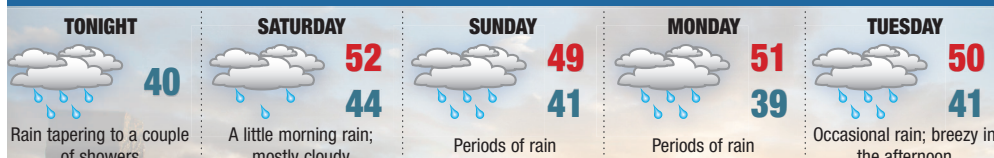
Thursday on the subject. The agency says the number of cases nationally was 76, and that 70 entanglements involved live animals, while the rest were dead. The 10-year average is closer to 70 entanglements.

The agency says about 70 percent of the confirmed cases were attributable to fishing gear, such as traps,

nets and fishing line.

NOAA says entanglements happened along all U.S. coasts except for the Gulf of Mexico. Entanglement is a major concern for jeopardized species such as the North Atlantic right whale. The North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium estimates that about 411 of the whales remain.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC	REGIONAL WEATHER
Astoria through Thursday. Temperatures High/low 47°/32° Normal high/low 49°/37° Record high 57° in 2015 Record low 16° in 1972 Precipitation Thursday 0.00" Month to date 0.32" Normal month to date 2.11" Year to date 53.71" Normal year to date 59.48"	Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

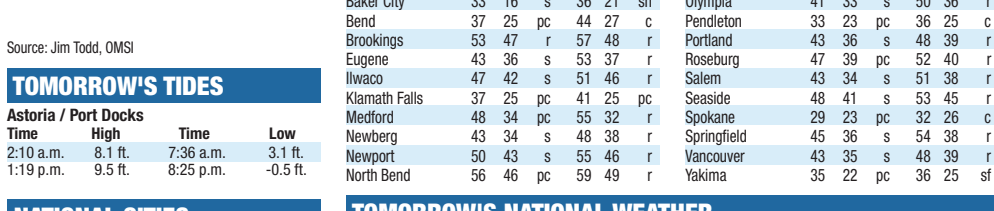
SUN AND MOON
Sunset tonight 4:30 p.m. Sunrise Saturday 7:45 a.m. Moonrise today 7:54 a.m. Moonset today 5:12 p.m. First Full Last New Dec 15 Dec 22 Dec 29 Jan 5

UNDER THE SKY
Tonight's Sky: The sun is passing through Ophiuchus, the serpent-bearer, the thirteenth constellation of the zodiac. Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES
Astoria / Port Docks Time Low 2:10 a.m. 8.1 ft. 7:36 a.m. 3.1 ft. 1:19 p.m. 9.5 ft. 8:25 p.m. -0.5 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES
City Today Hi Lo W Sat. Hi Lo W
Atlanta 48 40 pc 41 35 r
Boston 39 19 s 32 23 s
Chicago 27 18 s 31 20 s
Denver 38 21 pc 47 22 pc
Des Moines 27 17 s 30 17 pc
Detroit 33 21 c 33 20 s
El Paso 56 42 r 56 36 pc
Fairbanks 30 19 c 23 14 c
Honolulu 82 72 pc 80 71 pc
Indianapolis 33 19 s 31 21 pc
Kansas City 33 19 pc 36 18 pc
Las Vegas 60 43 pc 60 40 s
Los Angeles 68 50 s 70 51 s
Memphis 43 37 r 40 33 r
Miami 78 68 pc 80 73 pc
Nashville 44 34 c 41 33 c
New Orleans 69 60 c 67 47 r
New York 38 26 s 36 27 s
Oklahoma City 36 27 r 34 25 sn
Philadelphia 39 23 s 38 25 s
St. Louis 35 21 pc 35 20 pc
Salt Lake City 35 26 pc 36 24 pc
San Francisco 59 45 pc 59 48 s
Seattle 45 37 s 49 41 r
Washington, DC 43 28 s 40 29 pc

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER
Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Weather (W):	T-storms	Rain	Shower	Snow	Flurries	Ice	Cold Front	Warm Front	Stationary Front
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.									

Oregon task force backs controversial opioid plan

Associated Press

BEND — A proposal to expand alternative treatments for certain chronic pain conditions while limiting the use of opioids has moved forward with minimal changes, despite outcries from chronic pain patients and criticism from pain experts across the country.

The Bulletin reported that the state's Chronic Pain Task Force, an ad hoc committee providing recommendations on treatments for chronic pain under Oregon's Medicaid program, backed a proposal Wednesday to provide coverage for five chronic pain conditions currently not covered by the Oregon Health Plan.

That would allow patients to receive services such as physical therapy, acupuncture and other types of treatment. Opioids would be covered in limited doses for some of the chronic pain conditions, but not for fibromyalgia or centralized pain syndrome, a central pain processing disorder that can heighten the response to painful stimuli.

The task force concluded that opioids are not beneficial and can be harmful for those conditions.

Overprescribing of prescription opioids has been blamed for the ongoing overdose epidemic nationwide.

Patients who are already taking doses above the opioid limits would be required to begin a taper of their medications at a rate determined in conjunction with their doctor. Patients with fibromyalgia or centralized pain syndrome would be required to taper off opioids completely.

"This is basically more extreme and draconian than any approach in the country. It goes against all of the guidelines," said Kate Nicholson, a civil rights attorney from Colorado and a chronic pain advocate. "And importantly, it does so without regard for any attempt to measure potential harms or benefits to patients."

The proposal is the second try by the task force to craft the chronic pain coverage guidelines.

A previous proposal would have limited opioid cover-

age to 90 days and required patients to taper off painkillers within a year. After hearing from patients and providers, Oregon Health Authority staff reworked the proposal to soften the language and provide patients and their doctors more flexibility in the rate of tapering.

"We at OHA believe that health care delivery is really dependent on the trusting relationship between a patient and provider," Dr. Dana Hargunani, chief medical officer at the health authority, told the task force. "All of the proposal elements, particularly addressing the opioid tapers — including the timelines, the rates and the ultimate success in getting to zero, are intended to be flexible and to meet individual patient needs based on the patient and doctor relationship."

Oregon Health Authority officials estimated that about 67,400 people would gain coverage to alternative pain treatments under the proposal and that between 600 to 1,200 patients would need to have their opioid treatments re-evaluated by their providers.

OBITUARIES

Barbara June Wilson

Astoria

June 27, 1931 — Sept. 29, 2018



Barbara June Wilson left this mortal coil on Sept. 29, 2018, where she wished, at home with her cats at the age of 87. She was born on June 27, 1931 to William and Barbara Keehn in Marysville, Washington.

Surviving childhood disease for two years, she graduated from Everett High School in 1951, and then joined the Women in the Air Force (WAF), where she served as a dental technician tasked with X-raying the teeth of servicemen during the Korean War.

While in the service, she met her first husband, James Konyha. She chose to leave active service to start a family and raise two children, but remained the wife of a serviceman until 1966, when her husband retired from the Air Force and moved the family to Bellevue, Washington. She moved to Monroe, Washington, in 1995, and in 2001 she moved with her husband, Terry, and 11 rescued cats to Astoria, Oregon.

She was an outstanding cook and an exceptional seamstress, making most of her fami-

ly's clothing, among other items. She loved creative crafts and creative minds. She usually spoke her mind and questioned just about everything. She was a voracious reader, especially mystery novels (usually one a week), and she also loved crossword puzzles.

After her children were grown, she dedicated her life to animal welfare, especially cats. She was a former president of the Seattle area group that helped abandoned pets.

She is survived by her husband, Terry Wilson; son, David Konyha; grandson, Nicholas Konyha; daughter, Debra Nickel, and grandson, Keehnan Konyha; and her beloved cats, Charollette, Robby and Sweetie.

As she requested, her body was donated to medical research.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the River Song Foundation (riversongfoundation.org) in Hammond, Oregon.

She will be dearly missed and remembered always.



Barbara Wilson

DEATHS

Dec. 5, 2018

MAIZE, Patricia Ann, 82, of Long Beach, Washington, previously of Warrenton, Oregon, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary

in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 4, 2018

DOTY, Gilbert Bennett, 80, of The Dalles, previously

of Astoria and Hammond, died at the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• At 5:24 p.m. Thursday, Wayne Tagg, 61, of Warrenton, was cited by Warrenton police on the 690 block of Northwest Ninth Street for fourth-degree assault. Milton Scott Andros, 57, of Warrenton, was cited for harassment. Tagg allegedly punched Andros in the face while the men were engaged in a physical disturbance.

DUII

• At 5:49 a.m. Thursday, Kyna Lou Estes, 36, of Astoria, was arrested by Astoria police on the 800 block of Glasgow Avenue and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, sec-

ond-degree assault, hit-and-run, reckless endangerment, possession of methamphetamine, criminal mischief and reckless driving. After colliding with another car in the area, Estes allegedly told her two children in the car, ages 19 and 9, to run home. Estes allegedly then met them there before fleeing to an RV park a few blocks away, where she was arrested.

• At 12:57 a.m. Wednesday, David Derland Huff, 48, of Warrenton, was arrested by Astoria police on Columbia Avenue and West Marine Drive and charged with DUII. His blood alcohol content was 0.11 percent.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Thursday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 4-8-4-1
4 p.m.: 8-2-3-2
7 p.m.: 8-5-0-5
10 p.m.: 8-3-6-2

Thursday's Lucky Lines: 01-05-10-14-FREE-19-23-27-30
Estimated jackpot: \$29,000

7-9-8
Thursday's Keno: 01-02-07-10-17-22-24-26-31-34-37-38-40-45-48-56-57-66-68-74
Thursday's Match 4: 01-06-08-10

WASHINGTON
Thursday's Daily Game:

The Daily Astorian

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