

POINT of view

THE DAILY ASTORIAN // QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Should we close the southern border?

"No. Because there's no crisis, because it would adversely affect trade, and because it doesn't represent our values as a country."
Nadine Faith, Astoria

"No. I don't think so. It's nationalistic, and we're built on immigration."
Emily Geddes, Astoria

"No, I don't think so. Because we're a country entirely composed of immigrants. Humans are naturally nomadic, and we settle, but where are we all really from?"
Zelda English, Astoria

Portland considers helping tenants with criminal histories

By AMELIA TEMPLETON
 Oregon Public Broadcasting

PORTLAND — For Dana Schlappie, the worst part about having a criminal record is what it has meant for her 10-year-old son. Her family is homeless for the second time in the past few years.

"Right now we're sleeping at a friend's house who's letting him use his room. We're sleeping in a bed. But we've been sleeping on the floor, sleeping on a couch. We sleep wherever we can," she said.

Schlappie worries that her family is a burden on the friends she's staying with. So every few weeks, they move. That creates its own problems. She's driving 40 minutes to get her youngest son to school in the morning to try to maintain some normalcy for him. But she's struggling to manage his moods.

"Like, 'I hate school' one time, he said to the teacher,



A 17-year-old drug delivery charge has made it difficult for Dana Schlappie to get into rental housing.

and I'd never heard that from him," she said, her voice catching. "It's been really hard."

Schlappie says she's submitted eight applications for apartments to rent so far. Those applications have been denied, denied, denied, denied, denied, denied, denied and denied.

She's never been evicted or damaged an apartment, and she doesn't owe any

money to landlords. But 17 years ago, Schlappie pled guilty to serious felony charges.

"Schlappie household has been denied... Criminal history: manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance," her housing caseworker, Mary Babcock, reads from the latest email denial Schlappie has received.

They sit together in a small office at Portland Homeless Family Solutions, where Schlappie is a client, and Babcock talks about Schlappie's options for an appeal. This application was for a two-bedroom in a new subsidized affordable apartment building in the Pearl District, owned by the non-profit Innovative Housing Inc.

Schlappie's 17-year-old drug dealing charge — delivery of methamphetamine — triggers an automatic denial in the screening policies used by most landlords, rental companies and publicly funded housing.

This week, the Portland City Council is debating an ordinance that would change how landlords screen their tenants. One major component of the proposal is it makes it harder for landlords of a controlled substance,"

her housing caseworker, Mary Babcock, reads from the latest email denial Schlappie has received.

It's the latest effort to reduce the stigma for people who've been incarcerated, and it's controversial.

The proposal is from Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who was elected on a platform of advocating for tenant's rights.

It would create new limits on how landlords can use a wide range of criteria that they have historically relied on to estimate the risks associated with a prospective tenant, like a person's income, credit history and criminal background.

Advocates argue that these screening criteria, while appearing neutral, create barriers to housing, in particular for low-income tenants and people of color, who are more likely to have been involved with the criminal justice system.

"They use those mechanisms in order to filter people out, and the people they end up filtering out are mostly people of color," said Jamey Duhamel, Eudaly's policy advisor.

In Oregon, for example, African Americans are five times more likely than white people to have spent time in prison or in jail, according to The Sentencing Project.

State law prevents Portland from dictating specific

screening criteria to landlords, so Duhamel found a workaround.

"What our policy does is it sets up a two-track system," she said.

The ordinance creates "threshold criteria" for how far back landlords can consider a person's criminal history — seven years from sentencing for felonies and three years from sentencing for misdemeanors.

Landlords could adopt more restrictive policies that look further back. But if they do, the ordinance requires them to take a much

deeper look at each individual applicant's criminal history and consider mitigating factors.

Duhamel says there's research to support the idea that as time goes by, the risk that a person with a criminal history will re-offend drops.

"We feel very comfortable that we're not asking landlords to house anyone who is dangerous, or will present a risk to their properties," she said.

For example, a recent study of people arrested on federal charges found that

people were most likely to reoffend in the first two years after their release, and over time, the rates of recidivism dropped.

Deborah Imse, the executive director of Multifamily Northwest, an industry association that represents apartment and rental homeowners, agrees that people who've been incarcerated need better access to rental housing.

But she believes Eudaly's ordinance takes away too much discretion from landlords, who have an obligation to protect their tenants.

She points out Oregon has more than 400 different misdemeanors.

"That includes all kinds of sex offense, theft, arson," she said. "I believe that somebody, a senior citizen, of a vulnerable population are not going to think that somebody with some of those offenses are moving in next door to you."

Imse says the ordinance is so complex, most landlords will need to consult an attorney if they want to use screening criteria that are more restrictive than the seven- and three-year thresholds.

She said landlords are selling their properties in response to the increasing regulation of the rental market.

"If you begin to make things so complicated that somebody can't be a housing provider unless they hire a professional to do it, folks are going to leave," she said.

'IF YOU BEGIN TO MAKE THINGS SO COMPLICATED THAT SOMEBODY CAN'T BE A HOUSING PROVIDER UNLESS THEY HIRE A PROFESSIONAL TO DO IT, FOLKS ARE GOING TO LEAVE.'

Deborah Imse, executive director of Multifamily Northwest

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
39	60 / 43	56 / 43	55 / 46	57 / 40
Mostly cloudy	Cloudy with a couple of showers	Breezy with periods of rain	Breezy with occasional rain	Rain

ALMANAC
 Astoria through Tuesday.

Temperatures
 High/low 55°/50°
 Normal high/low 55°/40°
 Record high 70° in 1942
 Record low 29° in 2008

Precipitation
 Tuesday 0.18"
 Month to date 0.18"
 Normal month to date 0.42"
 Year to date 15.23"
 Normal year to date 25.26"

SUN AND MOON
 Sunset tonight 7:46 p.m.
 Sunrise Thursday 6:50 a.m.
 Moonrise today 6:40 a.m.
 Moonset today 6:13 p.m.

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

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019

UNDER THE SKY
 Tonight's Sky: Corvus is a small constellation in the southern sky, resting to the south of Virgo.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES
 Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
1:50 a.m.	8.2 ft.	7:59 a.m.	1.0 ft.
1:55 p.m.	8.0 ft.	8:07 p.m.	0.7 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi Lo	Thu. Hi Lo	W	W
Atlanta	72 51	74 57	s	pc
Boston	63 36	r	53 32	s
Chicago	59 41	pc	45 40	r
Denver	57 37	c	64 42	pc
Des Moines	54 42	r	54 43	c
Detroit	53 37	s	45 37	c
El Paso	80 52	s	79 54	s
Fairbanks	30 11	s	34 18	s
Honolulu	83 68	s	84 67	s
Indianapolis	60 45	s	60 50	r
Kansas City	63 50	c	61 45	c
Las Vegas	77 59	pc	80 57	pc
Los Angeles	67 54	pc	66 52	pc
Memphis	73 54	s	64 58	t
Miami	81 72	pc	81 73	pc
Nashville	74 50	s	67 56	sh
New Orleans	75 62	s	75 66	t
New York	64 41	s	58 38	pc
Oklahoma City	65 54	c	71 49	pc
Philadelphia	66 40	s	63 42	pc
St. Louis	67 50	pc	59 51	r
Salt Lake City	57 43	sh	66 50	c
San Francisco	64 52	pc	63 54	sh
Seattle	59 42	r	63 48	c
Washington, DC	69 44	s	67 50	pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi Lo	Thu. Hi Lo	W	W
Baker City	61 36	c	61 41	c
Bend	57 39	c	58 39	c
Brookings	58 49	sh	56 47	sh
Eugene	63 45	c	61 47	sh
Ilwaco	55 44	sh	58 47	sh
Klamath Falls	55 37	c	54 36	c
Medford	63 48	c	61 45	sh
Newberg	60 43	sh	59 47	sh
Newport	56 44	sh	56 47	sh
North Bend	57 47	sh	60 47	sh
Olympia	59 38	r	63 41	sh
Penikese	63 42	c	61 46	c
Portland	64 44	sh	65 48	c
Roseburg	64 49	c	64 48	sh
Salem	63 45	sh	62 48	sh
Seaside	56 42	sh	59 47	sh
Spokane	55 37	c	57 44	c
Springfield	60 47	c	59 46	sh
Vancouver	62 44	sh	62 48	c
Yakima	66 35	c	61 42	c

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

ON THE RECORD

DUI
 • Around 1 a.m. on Tuesday, Justin Outten, 25, of Milwaukie, was arrested by Seaside police at the intersection of Broadway Street and Roosevelt Drive for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and for driving while his license was suspended. His blood alcohol content was 0.17%.

MEMORIALS

Saturday, April 6
 DAVIES, Angela — Memorial at 11 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 120 Oceanway in Seaside. Reception to follow.

Sunday, April 7
 BUCKMAN, Vicki Ann — Celebration of life from noon to 5 p.m., at Shively Hall, 1530 Shively Park Road.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY
 Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

THURSDAY
 Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
 11-15-18-21-27-32
Tuesday's Pick 4: 1 p.m.: 9-6-7-7
 4 p.m.: 7-6-2-0
7 p.m.: 4-9-8-9
10 p.m.: 9-7-5-4
Tuesday's Lucky Lines: 3-6

WASHINGTON
 Estimated jackpot: \$29,000
Tuesday's Mega Millions: 33-47-58-59-64, Mega Ball: 25
 Estimated jackpot: \$104 million

Tuesday's Daily Game: 1-5-7
Tuesday's Keno: 03-06-08-10-11-17-18-20-35-36-39-42-44-48-50-51-54-63-67-79
Tuesday's Match 4: 05-08-12-14

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

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 DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at 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.

31st Annual DAILY ASTORIAN INVITATIONAL TRACK MEET

10 A.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019
 SEASIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Featuring boys and girls high school teams from throughout the Columbia-Pacific Region

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