

ICE: 'We always stand by the law'

Continued from Page A1

The detention was one of several in Oregon cited by civil liberties advocates at a rally in August in Washington County calling for the end of ICE enforcement at courthouses.

"I think it recognizes that there are times when it's appropriate to take someone into custody in the courthouse and there are times when it is not appropriate," said Judge Dawn McIntosh, who became presiding judge of the Clatsop County Circuit Court after Brownhill's retirement. "I think the chief justice struck a good balance on this one in terms of keeping our courthouses safe ... and to use them and not interfering with the federal laws that are out there."

Following Zamora-Rodriguez's detention in July, Sheriff Tom Bergin called for more support of ICE's efforts to detain people who are in the country illegally.

"If that's what the judge wants and that's what the judge orders than that's what we'll do. We always stand by the law," Bergin said of the rule change. "We work within the confines of the legal system and that's how we're going to continue to do it."

'Sensitive locations'

Some in Congress, including U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici of Oregon, want to codify an

ICE policy that limits arrests at "sensitive locations" like schools and hospitals into federal law. They also want to expand it to include courthouses.

About 300 clergy leaders with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice signed a letter in August asking Walters to issue an emergency rule prohibiting ICE arrests at or near courthouses.

According to the Oregon Judicial Department, Walters and the chief justice of the Washington Supreme Court met with ICE representatives and the U.S. attorneys for Oregon and Washington state in October to discuss the reasons for immigration detentions in courthouses and potential court rules.

ICE declined to add courthouses to their list of sensitive locations.

In a statement, Tanya Roman, an ICE spokeswoman, said, "ICE ERO officers have been provided broad at-large arrest authority by Congress and may lawfully arrest removable aliens in courthouses, which is often necessitated by local policies that prevent law enforcement from cooperating with ICE efforts to arrange for safe and orderly transfer of custody in the setting of a state or county prison or jail and put political rhetoric before public safety."

ICE has said that enforcement actions inside courthouses can reduce safety risks to the public.

"It is ironic that elected officials want to see policies

in place to keep ICE out of courthouses, while caring little for laws enacted by Congress to keep criminal aliens out of our country," Roman said. "Despite any attempts to prevent ICE officers from doing their jobs, ICE will continue to carry out its mission to uphold public safety and enforce immigration law, and consider carefully whether to refer those who obstruct our lawful enforcement efforts for criminal prosecution."

'Simply a figment'

Roman said in an email that "Congress has established no process, requirement, or expectation directing ICE to seek a judicial warrant from already overburdened federal courts before taking custody of an alien on civil immigration violations."

"This idea is simply a figment created by those who wish to undermine immigration enforcement and excuse the ill-conceived practices of sanctuary jurisdictions that put politics before public safety."

Katherine McDowell, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, said in a statement that "legal observers have repeatedly witnessed ICE officers profile, stalk and violently arrest community members in Oregon courthouses."

"The courthouse rule stops these frightening practices and ensures that everyone can seek justice in our courts."



A worker walks past a pile of recycling trash at the Pride Disposal dump site in Sherwood.

Oregonians are recycling less while generating more waste, report says

By KALE WILLIAMS
The Oregonian

The amount of trash Oregonians produce is going up, the rate of recycling is going down and the number of places willing to take our refuse is dwindling, according to a new report.

All of that amounts to a worrying trend in the wrong direction, said Celeste Meifren-Swango, state director for Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center, which released "The State of Recycling In Oregon" report Thursday.

"The reality is plastics are so hard to recycle and so low value that we could only consistently afford to collect and recycle it when China was willing to buy it," she said in a statement. "Now we are left to deal with it ourselves, and plastic is choking our recycling system."

In 2017, the last year for which data was available, Oregon residents recycled just over 27% their waste and composted a little more than 9%. The combined rate of 36.6% seems good, more than a third of all waste being diverted from a landfill, but that number represents a 5% decrease

from 2014, according to the report.

The lone standout from the dropping statistics is for containers covered by Oregon's bottle bill, which increased the deposit for those containers from 5 cents to 10 cents in 2017. The report said recycling rates for those specific types of containers "increased significantly."

While our recycling rates have been decreasing, the amount of refuse we produce has been going up. In 2017, Oregon created more than 5.5 million tons of municipal waste, more than 7 pounds of trash per person per day, according to the report. That marks a 5% increase from 2016.

And fewer places are willing to take on the burden of sorting through our recyclables, which are often commingled with materials that can't be recycled. For years, countries in east Asia were willing to take huge shipments of waste from the United States. Once there is sorted, and the unusable portion was often incinerated or ended up in a landfill, the report says.

"Starting in early 2018, east Asian governments began banning, limiting or more heavily regulating

U.S. recyclable exports," the report says. "The era of globalized waste trade came to a sudden end and the U.S. was left to deal with its flawed recycling system."

Since then, municipal governments have tried to make clear exactly what can and cannot be recycled, but, between September 2017 and May 2019, the state has approved 26 requests to dispose of recyclable materials that recycling facilities didn't have the capacity to handle, according to the report.

The report did come with a number of recommendations to fix the downward slide, however, including expanding curbside recycling efforts, reducing the use of single-use plastics like bags and straws, and banning food waste from landfills to encourage composting.

"It's entirely within our power to fix the system, but what is missing is the necessary sense of urgency," said Alex Truelove, a co-author of the report. "Recycling, composting and waste reduction efforts will need to play an important role in the fight against microplastic pollution, climate change and other environmental challenges."

Phillips: Invested in the community

Continued from Page A1

and said he is the most qualified person to oversee the project as sheriff.

Spence called the new jail the county's "crown project."

"Lt. Phillips has the character, the experience, to be qualified as your next sheriff," Spence said. "I unequivocally endorse him to be your next sheriff and be elected next fall."

Raichl said he has known Phillips since he was a teenager when he came to work at the sheriff's office as a cadet.

"I can't say enough good about him," Raichl said. "He's been an outstanding deputy and an outstanding lieutenant jail commander."

Phillips said the support from Raichl was especially meaningful.

"It is the way he ran business at the sheriff's office ... I respect it so much it made me think that maybe that's something I would want to do one day," Phillips said.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2746 and Bergin had also encouraged commissioners to appoint Phillips to interim sheriff.

Commissioners interviewed Phillips during a work session on Nov. 7.

He told commissioners the biggest challenge for



Nicole Bales/The Astorian

Lt. Matt Phillips with his wife, Bree, and their children.

law enforcement locally is the complexity of issues.

"They're social issues that are interwoven with other intersects in the community," he said. "For example, I don't believe all law enforcement issues are only handled through enforcement of laws. Some are public health issues that we need to work with those partners to address before they become legal issues."

He said it will require teamwork with all stakeholders involved. He told commissioners they can help by supporting programs and efforts that require state-level funding like justice reinvestment grants, which fund the pretrial release program.

Judge Paula Brownhill ordered the pretrial release policy in 2017 to reduce overcrowding in the jail and the number of defen-

dants locked up before trial.

Phillips said the program has been wildly successful and "probably one of the most meaningful projects I've ever worked on."

Phillips began his career as a deputy sheriff in 2001 and married his wife, Bree, the following year. He was promoted to sergeant in the criminal division in 2011 and became the jail commander in 2016.

Phillips was born and raised in Clatsop County. His mother, Marcy Phillips, was a local councilor. His father, David Phillips, who died in September, was the vice president at Clatsop Community College and served on the Columbia Memorial Hospital board of trustees for 38 years.

Phillips said he was proud of his father and like him, is invested in and believes in the community.



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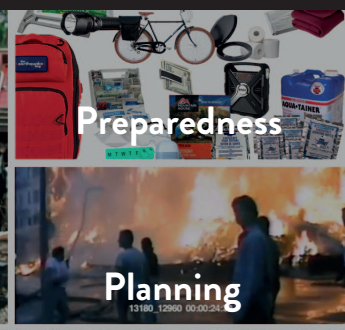
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