

## IN BRIEF

## Temperatures peaked at 100 degrees in Astoria

The North Coast experienced a heat wave over the weekend.

Temperatures peaked at 100 degrees on Sunday afternoon in Astoria, according to the National Weather Service.

An excessive heat warning remained in effect until Monday night for the eastern part of Clatsop County, where temperatures were expected to remain dangerously hot.

## One person taken to hospital after crash on Highway 30

One person was taken to a hospital Sunday after a two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 30 in Astoria.

Police say a vehicle was heading eastbound when the driver came to a stop near an unmarked dirt road. The vehicle reportedly did not have a turn signal so the driver stuck his arm outside of the window to indicate he was turning left.

Another driver headed eastbound crashed into the vehicle and was taken to the hospital.

## Man arrested after disturbance and high-speed chase in Warrenton

A man was arrested in Warrenton last week following a disturbance that led to a high-speed chase.

Charles Seeling, 33, was arrested on June 22 for burglary in the second degree, unlawful use of a weapon, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, attempted assault on a public safety officer, reckless driving and menacing.

Police were dispatched to a home on E. Harbor Drive on June 20 following a 911 hang-up call. When officers arrived, a woman wanted Seeling to leave the home. Police could not find Seeling, but he spoke to officers through security cameras in the house.

Seeling reportedly made threats that officers would have to kill him or he would kill the officers. He later exited the house through a window and climbed onto the roof where officers found him holding a large knife, continuing to make threats.

Seeling entered a pickup truck and fled the scene, leading officers on a high speed chase on U.S. Highway 101. He reportedly exited the highway before reaching the U.S. Highway 26 junction. Seeling was not located.

Later that day, the woman, who was staying somewhere else, told police she saw Seeling on the security cameras back at her home. Police could not confirm he was there because the cameras had been covered or disabled.

Officers chose to monitor the home instead of entering and possibly escalating the situation. A Warrenton police officer made contact with Seeling on June 22 and negotiated with him to turn himself in. He was then taken to the Clatsop County Jail.

— *The Astorian*

## Lawmakers delay Oregon paid family leave program

SALEM — Oregon's new program of paid family leave would be delayed under a bill that is headed to Gov. Kate Brown.

A final 34-21 vote by the Oregon House on Friday moved House Bill 3398 to the governor. Democrats supplied all the votes for it. One Democrat, Paul Evans of Monmouth, joined 20 Republicans in opposition.

The Senate approved the amended version, largely to resolve conflicts, on a 21-7 vote the previous day.

The starting date for contributions by employers and employees would be put off by one year, from Jan. 1, 2022, to Jan. 1, 2023. The starting date for benefit payments would be Sept. 3, 2023, instead of Jan. 1.

Startup costs will be drawn from the tax-supported general fund, but will be repaid from contributions by employers and employees into the program.

— *Oregon Capital Bureau*

## DEATH

June 26, 2021

BAY, JoAnne Hendrickson, 90, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## ON THE RECORD

## Burglary

Jennifer Lynn Thornburg, 47, of Cannon Beach, was arraigned Friday on charges of burglary in the first degree, criminal mischief in the second degree and harassment.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

**Gearhart City Council**, 6:30 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

## THURSDAY

**Astoria Design Review Commission**, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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## Lawmakers approve carbon-reduction goals

## Ambitious plan to reduce emissions

By DIRK  
VANDERHART  
*Oregon Public Broadcasting*

Oregon's power grid will largely eliminate carbon emissions by 2040 under a bill that got final approval by state lawmakers on Saturday, setting one of the nation's most ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector.

House Bill 2021 passed the Senate on a 16-12 vote after passing the House the day before and heads to Gov. Kate Brown.

The vote granted passage to one of several major bills lawmakers had yet to take up on the Legislature's final day of action. It came as Oregonians braced for a record-breaking heat wave that had officials scrambling to open cooling centers and issue urgent warnings about wildfire danger.

"Look at the temperatures expected this weekend, and ongoing and prolonged drought," state Rep. Pam Marsh, D-Ashland, one of the bill's chief proponents, said on the House floor on Friday. "What I know when I look at that is if we fail to address the underlying conditions, we are just going to be back in this Capitol, year after year, trying to help communities out of disastrous situations."

HB 2021 sets a timetable by which Oregon's two major power companies, Portland General Electric and Pacific Power, must eliminate emissions associated with the electricity they provide. Five electricity service suppliers in the state also would face regulation, though their emissions are tiny compared to the big



Amelia Templeton/Oregon Public Broadcasting

**Under House Bill 2021, the state's two largest power providers will need to transition from fossil fuels to more renewable energy sources.**

utilities.

While at least 17 other states have similar goals, Oregon's timeline of getting power suppliers to zero emissions by 2040 is more ambitious than nearly all. In addition to that end date, regulated entities would be required to submit plans to reduce emissions by 80% from a baseline amount by 2030 and 90% by 2035.

The bill also:

- bans expansion or new construction of power plants that burn natural gas or other fossil fuels,
- sets labor standards for any large-scale renewable energy projects built in the state,
- includes \$50 million in grants for community renewable energy projects in cities other than Portland, which has its own fund for such projects,
- allows cities in Oregon to create so-called "green tariffs," where they agree to pay utilities more money for power from a cleaner mix of sources in order to meet

their own climate goals,

• requires power companies to consider input from low-income ratepayers, environmental justice communities, federally recognized tribes and others as they develop strategies for reducing emissions.

While heralded by environmental groups, advocacy organizations and organized labor, HB 2021 is less sweeping than proposals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that Democrats had pushed in recent sessions.

Bills to create a cap-and-trade system in Oregon would have mandated reductions in not just the power sector, but also in manufacturing and transportation. But those bills, introduced in the 2019 and 2020 sessions, led Republicans to walk away from the Capitol, effectively killing the proposal. Brown subsequently signed an executive order aiming to reduce emissions in many areas, but with little impact on electricity.

According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, emissions from electricity accounted for 30% of the state's greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. The entities regulated under HB 2021 are responsible for the vast majority of that, but some providers are left untouched.

State Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, and Rep. Suzanne Weber, R-Tillamook, voted against the bill.

Republican lawmakers voted almost universally against HB 2021, arguing that it did not do enough to ensure renewable energy products are built in Oregon and suggesting that eliminating carbon emissions could leave the state's power grid vulnerable.

"It sounds good on the 5 o'clock news, but it will not help on the ground," said Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, who argued that land use regulations would block renewable energy projects in his Eastern Oregon district.

## Professor drowns while surfing on Oregon Coast

By GARY ALLEN  
*Portland Tribune*

The George Fox University community is mourning the loss of one of its own after Javier Garcia's sudden death on the Oregon Coast.

Garcia died June 19 in a surfing accident at Short Sand Beach, a popular spot for surfers adjacent to Oswald West State Park north of Manzanita.

A wake and vigil were held June 22 in Bauman Auditorium. A memorial service followed Wednesday in the auditorium.

The 34-year-old native of Cincinnati joined the faculty in 2016 after earning his doctorate in theology from the University of Cambridge in England. At George Fox, he was named director of the school's honor program and became an associate professor of religious studies earlier this year.

"As director, I really appreciate building relationships



Javier Garcia died last week while surfing on the Oregon Coast.

with prospective and current students in the program," he said prior to his death. "I am humbled by the opportunity to teach such bright students who are eager to learn and grow in their faith."

Garcia graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University, majoring in French and philosophy. He penned his first book,

"Recovering the Ecumenical Bonhoeffer: Thinking After the Tradition," in 2019.

Praise, prayers and condolences poured into the university at the news of his death.

"Javier Garcia had a face that radiated light," Brian Doak, the associate provost, said in a release. "His smile could turn your day around. His laughter, listening ear and

friendship changed my life — and those of us who loved him will be spending the rest of our lives wondering why this happened.

"Javier was an adventurer. He lived in at least six or seven countries, spoke four languages and traveled broadly across North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa in his 34 years on Earth."

Doak recounted how earlier this month Garcia had traveled to Costa Rica to practice a sport in which he had become proficient.

"Earlier this June he spent a week at a surfing camp in Costa Rica, where he honed his skills in the ocean doing what he loved," Doak said. "He was a strong swimmer and an experienced surfer. Whether on land or sea or mountain, Javier was up for almost anything."

Garcia is survived by his parents, a brother and two sisters.

## All about the story for new librarian in Seaside

## Griffith returns to her hometown

By R.J. MARX  
*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — After 27 years, Leah Griffith retired from her role as Newberg library director in 2019 and returned to Seaside, her hometown. She hopes to breathe new life into the Seaside Museum & Historical Society's library collection.

Griffith has begun with revisions to the collection, getting rid of out-of-area materials readily available on the internet or through library loan. She and Steve Wright, the museum's board

president and a city councilor, plan on meeting with members of the Clatsop County Historical Society to discuss digital preservation of much of the museum's archives, including years of city directories.

Once the paper versions are gone, she said, they cannot be replaced.

Griffith's roots in Seaside go back more than a century. "My family's been here since about 1910," Griffith said during a recent museum tour. "My grandfather was the police chief in 1933 to 1953, and dad was on City Council. He was a firefighter. I have two chairs from the lounge area of the fire department on Broadway. They're



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

**Leah Griffith is the new librarian for the Seaside Museum & Historical Society.**

now in my living room."

Griffith is a Rotarian and chairwoman of the board of directors for the Seaside Public Library Foundation. "We've got a good base," Griffith said of the museum's library collection. "It's had a lot of support over the

years and we're now ready to work on some new exhibits. We've developed a committee that's going to plan out our exhibits into the future so that we know the story that we want to tell. That's what it's all about — the story."

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