

IN BRIEF

Four people taken to hospital after crash on Highway 30

Four people were taken to the hospital Monday afternoon following a crash on U.S. Highway 30 in Astoria.

Police say a vehicle crossed into the eastbound lane and struck another vehicle head-on before rolling onto its top, blocking both eastbound lanes.

Both drivers and two passengers in the vehicle that was hit were taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria.

Razor clamming conservation closure to begin

An annual conservation closure for razor clams begins July 15 on Clatsop County beaches.

With the closure, the popular stretch of beach between Seaside and Hammond that yields more than 90% of the state's razor clam harvest will have been closed to diggers since October.

The annual conservation closure, established in 1967, runs through Sept. 30. It is intended to give young, newly set clams time to establish themselves on the beach.

Last fall, the state had predicted a good harvest season following that year's conservation closure. But razor clamming was shut down because of high levels of domoic acid. Clatsop beaches remained closed into 2021 due to high toxin levels.

Razor clamming remains open from Cape Lookout, south of Netarts Bay near Tillamook, to the California border.

— *The Astorian*

Oregon heat death toll hits 116

New state figures show at least 116 people succumbed to the harsh heat and sun that bore down on the Pacific Northwest from June 25 to June 28.

At its peak, temperatures reached a record-shattering 116 degrees in the Portland metro area.

The new tally provided by the Oregon State Police on Wednesday provides no identifying details beyond the age, gender and county of residence of those who died — a stark listing of demographics that offers few hints of the human tragedy that unfolded.

A majority of the deaths occurred in Multnomah County.

"Last week's record-breaking heatwave is a harbinger of things to come," Gov. Kate Brown said. "Climate change is real, and it is here. We've been working to make sure Oregonians are prepared for these types of emergencies — and we'll keep at it, centering the voices of those most impacted in our efforts."

— *Oregon Capital Bureau*

DEATHS

July 6, 2021

DAHLEN, Marvel, 101, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

HARWELL, Linda C., 72, of Ocean Park, Washington, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

July 2, 2021

KROTZER, Keith Merle, 47, of Westport, died near Knappa. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

July 1, 2021

HARRINGTON, Sandra Lee, 68, of Gearhart, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Thursday, July 8

HARRINGTON, Sandra Lee — Celebration of life at 2 p.m., Haystack Gardens, 148 E. Gower Ave. in Cannon Beach.

ON THE RECORD

DUII

• Shirley Kathleen Butler, 49, of Vancouver, Washington, was arrested Monday at Warrenton High School for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Bill D. Demoss, 84, of Seaside, was arrested Saturday on N. Main Avenue in Warrenton for DUII.

• Catherine Nicole Neil, 40, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on W. Marine Drive in Astoria for DUII and reckless driving.

• Michael Jason Ehrlund, 43, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on the Astoria Bridge for DUII, reckless driving and reckless endangerment.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

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Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Revelers ignited fireworks on Long Beach in Washington state on the Fourth of July.

Lawmakers OK more than \$700M for housing

Moves made to increase supply

By PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon lawmakers have approved more than \$700 million for housing needs that go beyond the emergency prompted by the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to avoiding evictions and foreclosures, the Legislature aimed at increasing the supply of lower-cost housing, helping people without permanent shelter and reducing housing disparities faced by racial and ethnic minorities.

Lawmakers went well beyond what they did in 2019, when they barred no-cause evictions of renters and required cities of 10,000 or more — plus all cities within the Portland metro boundary — to allow for duplexes or other multifamily dwellings on land zoned for single-family homes.

"We ... have gone to great lengths to keep Oregonians housed through a combination of compassionate policy and sound investments," state House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, said in a statement summarizing housing legislation. "While the work we've done has provided more stability for Oregonians, we'll need to maintain a crisis mindset going forward as we continue to work to solve the state's housing crisis."

The moratorium on evictions ended in June, though the grace period for payments of past-due rent from the pandemic is extended by Senate Bill 282 to Feb. 28. Prompted by the slowness in state and federal funds for rental assistance reaching landlords, lawmakers gave tenants a 60-day safe harbor from evictions under SB 278 if they show proof they have applied for assistance.

"Evictions and foreclosures can have a generational devastating impact on families," Rep. Julie Fahey, a Democrat from Eugene, said. She worked with Rep. Jack Zika, a Republican from Redmond, to craft both the state's original assistance of \$200 million to landlords and tenants during the special session in December — a month before the 2021 session got down to business — and the safe-harbor provision that passed in the session's final days. Federal aid boosted the available amount for rental assistance to around \$500 million.

Lawmakers reinstated a separate moratorium on residential foreclosures in House Bill 2009, which runs through September. Gov. Kate Brown can extend it by executive order once more through December if she



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Lawmakers made a substantial investment in housing during the legislative session that ended in June.

gives advance notice.

Below is a list of some of the key housing legislation that passed during the session:

Homelessness

- \$47 million for increasing emergency shelter capacity and navigation centers for the next cold-weather season, including \$26.5 million for low-barrier emergency shelters in eight cities, \$10.5 million for shelters in Salem and \$9.7 million for additional motel-to-shelter Project Turnkey sites. One of those will be in Multnomah County.
- \$25 million to assist communities with shelter operations and provide technical assistance.
- \$20 million for the Behavioral Health Housing Incentive Fund.
- \$12 million for rental assistance and service supports for permanent supportive housing.
- \$10 million to Multnomah County for the construction of a behavioral health resource center in downtown Portland.
- \$3.6 million for providers serving unaccompanied unhoused youth (HB 2544).
- \$1.2 million to improve the statewide data system on homelessness and service outcomes.

- Expediting emergency shelter siting by temporarily giving local governments more flexibility in siting shelters (HB 2006).
- Modernizing the statewide housing and homeless assistance system and ensuring access to culturally specific and culturally responsive organizations (HB 2100).
- Protecting unsheltered Oregonians from fines or arrest for sleeping or camping on public property when there are no other options (HB 3115).

Tenant support

- \$5 million for housing assistance for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.
- \$4.8 million for fair housing enforcement and education to the Fair Housing Council of Oregon, Ore-

gon Department of Justice and the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.

- \$4.5 million to establish a long-term rent assistance fund for young adults under 25 who have been recently homeless or exiting foster care or juvenile corrections.
- \$3 million to support community organizations that are distributing rent assistance or educating tenants.
- \$1 million to the Oregon Law Center for legal assistance to renters and residents of manufactured home parks.
- Requiring landlords to conduct individualized assessments and consider supplemental evidence from applicants before denying an application for housing because of criminal history (SB 291).

Homeownership

- \$20 million for down payment assistance, half to a revolving loan fund to help homebuyers with secondary loans and half to community culturally responsive organizations to increase homeownership opportunities.
- \$20 million to provide flexible funding for affordable single-family construction and alternative ownership models such as co-ops.
- \$10 million to create the Healthy Homes Program to provide grants for the repair and rehabilitation of homes of low-income households and communities disproportionately affected by environmental pollution or other hazards (HB 2842).
- \$7 million to support manufactured home park residents with park acquisition loans and home decommissioning grants and replacement loans.
- \$3 million for foreclosure avoidance counseling services to homeowners.
- \$2 million to provide technical assistance and outreach to culturally specific organizations to reduce barriers to homeownership.
- \$2 million to Square-One for a shared-equity homeownership pilot with tiny homes.
- \$1 million for a community pilot program that develops accessory dwelling units for income-eligible homeowners (HB 3335).
- Protecting homeowners from foreclosure during the pandemic (HB 2009).
- Addressing racial disparities in homeownership by requiring additional edu-

- \$4.5 million for housing construction through the Local Innovation Fast Track and Permanent Supportive Housing programs.
- \$100 million to preserve existing affordable housing.
- \$30 million for affordable housing or land acquisition revolving loan funds.
- \$10 million for gap financing for affordable rental housing projects that are co-located with child care or early learning centers.
- \$5 million for gap financing to affordable housing projects already approved that have experienced unexpected increases in construction costs during the pandemic.
- \$4.5 million for grants and technical assistance to local governments for community planning and development code updates.
- \$1.3 million to study the incorporation of regional housing needs analysis into state and local planning programs.
- \$900,000 to study local system development charges and their impact on the cost of market-rate housing development (HB 3040).
- Increasing the limit for the state's agricultural housing tax credit from \$7.25 million to \$16.75 million per biennium to increase the construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of agriculture workforce housing (HB 2433).
- Requiring local governments to allow the development of affordable housing projects on land within an urban growth boundary not zoned for residential use (SB 8).
- Reducing red tape for religious organizations to develop their properties for low-income housing and allowing the continuation of their property tax exemption (HB 2008).
- Establishing conditions under which local governments must allow land divisions for new middle housing development (SB 458).
- Requiring local governments to submit inventories to an online inventory of surplus public lands (HB 2918).
- Allowing counties to authorize owners of lots in rural residential zones to construct one accessory dwelling unit (SB 391).

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