



INSIDE

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## Seaside focuses on homeless solutions

Forums end with a plea for help

By R.J. MARX  
*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — Using city-owned lots or buildings for shelters and overnight parking. A resource center. Showers and port-a-potties. A warming center and improved access to mental health and drug treatment services.

These options were among the proposed solutions at Seaside's fifth forum on homelessness held on Wednesday at City Hall.

"You lose your self-esteem when you are homeless," Michaela, who chose to only use her first name, told the audience.

Michaela, 55, said she was four days away from being homeless and living in Mill Ponds, a natural history park where some homeless people have chosen to stay.

"These people have been out there so long, they get so down," she said. "You can't get off the streets when you're there at ground zero with nothing. You're so broken. You're sleeping on the sidewalk. And it's hard, and it's cold."

"You wake up in the morning and you've got to go to the toilet. Where do you go? The bushes. There's nowhere to go. It's gross. Nobody wants to live like that. None of these people want to be like that."

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## State helps with job searches

Extended federal benefits to end in September

By PETER WONG  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

Weeks before the end of federal unemployment benefit programs, Oregon Employment Department officials have shifted their efforts toward helping recipients get jobs — and not necessarily the jobs they had prior to the economic downturn from the coronavirus pandemic.

"We want to make sure that people looking for work get the services they need, so they can be back at work before those important safety-net programs end," David Gerstenfeld, the department's acting director, said.

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## RECORD HEAT SCORCHED TREES

Heat wave struck when trees were putting out a lot of new growth

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Astorian*

Julia Wentzel has fielded numerous calls about damage to fruit — on trees, on bushes, on vines, but especially on apple trees.

People call thinking there's some sort of pathogen at work. When the fruit is examined more closely, though, all the damage is at the top.

"Basically: apples getting a sunburn," said Wentzel, the master gardener and small farms coordinator at the Oregon State University Extension Service for Clatsop County.

The historic heat wave that struck the Pacific Northwest at the end of June only touched the North Coast for several days, but certain effects have lingered or only become more apparent in the past few weeks.

In some cases, the full extent of the damage to trees and some plants won't be known for months or even until next year. What is clear is that the heat wave created more dry materials to add to already worryingly dry conditions.

"We're definitely at an elevated (fire) risk," said Ty Williams, the district operations coordinator for

The dry spring paired with the sudden heat wave damaged trees around Clatsop County.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

the Oregon Department of Forestry's Astoria District.

The heat wave followed on the heels of a record-dry spring, the time when the real damage was done, said Dan Goody, the Astoria District forester.

As temperatures briefly inched over 100 degrees in Astoria, the heat hit trees that had already limped through multiple seasons of drought conditions and a region that is more than a month ahead of schedule in terms of how dry it is in the woods.

Along the coast-facing portions of the county, hillsides of spruce, hemlock and other evergreen conifers look strangely autumnal now, the trees' needles scorched brown and red.

"In June we were in late August conditions," Goody said. "Then you couple that with a historic heat wave and that fried the young growth, particularly on the coastal strip."

It was in this area that the worst heat wave-related browning seems to have happened. Places like Jewell regularly see 90-degree days during the summer, but vegetation on the coastal strip rarely endures such intense temperatures.

Unfortunate time

The heat wave also hit at an unfortunate time, when trees were putting out a lot of new growth.

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## Oregon Liquor Control Commission to change name

Move reflects scope of regulation over cannabis

By JAELEN OGADHOH  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission will officially change its name to the Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission in August to reflect its new regulatory responsibilities while retaining its previous acronym.

House Bill 3000 directs the commission to work in tandem with the state Department of Agriculture and other state and local agencies to further regulate illegal cannabis growth and add restrictions on the sale of cannabis extractions such as THC.

This includes preventing the sale of THC products to children, such as the unregulated psychoactive Delta-8 THC, which can be sold to minors in convenience stores.

"Delta-9 THC is the intoxicating THC

*'WHAT'S GOING ON IN SOUTHERN OREGON WITH THE CARTEL TAKEOVER OF CANNABIS GROWING THROUGH THE GUISE OF HEMP AND OUR ROLE IN BEING ABLE TO ENFORCE THAT IS ALL INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT.'*

Steve Marks | executive director of the commission

that's found in marijuana, which our agency regulates," said a commission spokesperson, adding that Delta-8 THC is among the other chemical conversions of hemp plants.

"What this bill does, and what our rules address, are getting those products out of the general market and getting them to a place where they can be sold within the regulated market, because of the fact that Delta-8 THC is an intoxicant," the spokesperson added.

On Monday, the commission approved

temporary rules allowing it to test hemp fields across Oregon for illegal grows. The temporary rules establish limits upon the legal level of THC allowed in hemp

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Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

The state will change the name of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to add cannabis.

