

IN BRIEF

County unemployment rate at 6.8% in June

Clatsop County's unemployment rate was 6.8% in June.

The seasonally adjusted rate was down from a revised 7.2% in May and from 13.4% in June 2020.

The statewide rate was 5.6% in June, according to the Oregon Employment Department, compared to 5.9% nationwide.

— *The Astorian*

Former Rep. Nearman pleads guilty to official misconduct in Capitol incursion

Former state Rep. Mike Nearman illegally allowed armed demonstrators into the locked Oregon Capitol last year. Now he's banned from the building himself.

On Tuesday morning, Nearman pleaded guilty to a charge of first-degree official misconduct in connection with the Dec. 21 incident. In exchange for prosecutors dropping a second charge of criminal trespassing, Nearman accepted a sentence that includes an 18-month ban from Capitol grounds, 80 hours of community service and \$2,900 in fines and restitution for damage to the Capitol.

Appearing before Marion County Circuit Judge Cheryl Pellegrini, Nearman acknowledged that he performed an illegal act "which constituted an unauthorized exercise of his official duties with intent to obtain a benefit or to harm another."

But his path to that admission was somewhat rocky, as Nearman maintained some of the defiance he's shown since his role in the incursion was revealed in January.

Asked by Pellegrini to explain his actions, Nearman replied that he "opened a door in the Capitol. I went out. And that allowed people, citizens, to enter the Capitol."

But when Pellegrini pressed on the specifics of the crime he was confessing to, which includes intent to harm others or benefit himself, Nearman balked. "I had no intention of harming anyone," he said. "I suppose that the benefit would have been that I think the citizens were allowed to be in the Capitol, so I was letting them in."

An Astoria man is facing numerous felony charges, including assaulting a public safety officer, in connection with the Capitol breach.

— *Oregon Public Broadcasting*

DEATHS

July 27, 2021

POWELL, Carol Elaine, 75, of Warrenton, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

July 26, 2021

BAILEY, John Elmer, 86, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's

Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

July 24, 2021

STAFFORD, Margie Nell, 88, of Clatskanie, died in Clatskanie. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Saturday, July 31

SHELLABARGER, Steve and Joyce — Celebration of life and potluck from 12:30 to 4 p.m., Big Creek Lodge, 92878 Waterhouse Road in Knappa.

ON THE RECORD

Harassment

• **Allianna Christine Bruton,** 24, was indicted July 20 for two counts of aggravated harassment, resisting arrest, attempted assault of a public safety officer and disorderly conduct in the second degree.

Criminal trespass

• **Miles Joseph Hunsinger,** 56, of Astoria, was arrested at Safeway early Tuesday for criminal trespass in the second degree.

DUII

• **Zachary Entz,** 32, of Astoria, was arrested Tuesday morning at

Ninth and Commercial streets in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• **Angela Tangen,** 55, of Astoria, was arrested Monday afternoon at Fourth Avenue and King Salmon Street in Hammond for DUII and failing to install an interlock device.

• **Stephen Craig Johnson,** 73, of Aloha, was arrested July 22 on U.S. Highway 101 for DUII.

• **Kilie Donovan,** 23, of Seaside, was arrested July 22 for DUII and reckless driving.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Astoria City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

the Astorian

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TUMBLE



Jack Nelson rolls down the sand dunes at Fort Stevens State Park.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Brown signs ambitious clean energy legislation

By SARA CLINE
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon's clean energy bill, which sets one of the most ambitious timelines in the country for moving to 100% clean electricity sources, was signed by Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday.

The legislation lays out a timetable for the state's two major power companies — Portland General Electric and Pacific Power — to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity sold to Oregon consumers. Additionally, it bans the expansion or new construction of power plants that burn fossil fuels and allocates \$50 million in grants for community-based energy projects, among other measures.

"With these policies, we will create jobs in a 21st Century, clean energy economy," Brown said. "We will reduce carbon emissions. And, we will make sure the economic, environmental and health benefits of our clean energy economy reach all Oregonians, especially those who have been disproportionately impacted by climate change and pollution."

The bill requires Portland General Electric and Pacific Power to submit plans to reduce emissions by 80% from a baseline amount by 2030, 90% by 2035 and 100% by 2040.

Dave Robertson, vice president of Public Affairs at Portland General Electric, says the timeline is an "important step toward the clean energy future."

"It provides a clear path for this critical transition while protecting the affordability and reliability of electricity, and it establishes greenhouse gas reduction targets that are in line with the climate goals we set for ourselves late last year," Robertson said.

At least 17 other states and the District of Columbia have already adopted similar goals, according to the Clean Energy States Alliance.

But officials say Oregon's timeline is the "strongest electricity emissions reduction timeline in the country." The deadline is nearer than nearly every



Dave Killen/The Oregonian

Gov. Kate Brown signed a clean energy bill that puts Oregon on an ambitious timeline to move to 100% clean electricity sources.

other state that has adopted a clean power plan, including Washington state and California.

Oregon would measure its progress in an atypical way, too.

Most states have opted to ratchet down greenhouse gas emissions by requiring utilities to gradually increase the amount of power they get from renewable energy sources like wind and solar. Oregon, which has already had such a "renewable portfolio standard" since 2007, is taking a more straightforward approach: requiring Portland General Electric and Pacific Power to reduce their overall carbon emissions, which are tracked by the state's Department of Environmental Quality.

"Already, we are seeing the devastating impacts of climate change, from more frequent drought to more severe wildfire seasons that put our homes and our families in jeopardy," said Rep. Jason Kropf, a sponsor of the bill and a Bend Democrat. "This bill will put Oregon on a pathway for a more environmentally sound future and create economic opportunity and jobs for our working families."

Environmental activists have called the bill's passage a huge victory, especially as the state and country continue to see the worsening effects of climate change. But the bill, which passed in Oregon's Senate 16-12 and in the House 35-20, has also

been criticized.

"Hiking Oregonians' energy costs during an economic recovery is one of the dumbest ideas I have ever heard of," said Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod. "This bill just adds insult to injury to the countless Oregonians who have endured massive hardship over the last year and a half."

Opponents of the bill say the policy will increase electric prices for Oregonians, cause business energy costs to skyrocket and put strain on the power grid — possibly leading to rolling blackouts.

"This bill accomplishes nothing for our environment," Girod said. "It is simply a bill to virtue signal to extreme environmentalist groups that will cause Oregonians to pay more for less

reliable energy."

Whether or not the timeline is attainable is also uncertain.

"If you go out to 2030, we think we can hit that," PacifiCorp Senior Vice President Scott Bolton told The Oregonian last month. "We were pretty clear though, beyond that we don't have a plan that shows we can get there."

Likewise, Brett Sims, a vice president at Portland General Electric, told The Oregonian the company can meet the 2030 target by eliminating coal, operating its natural gas fired plants to serve peaks rather than base load demand, and adding substantial wind, solar, storage and demand reduction strategies to its resource mix. However, the 2040 target, he said, remains aspirational.

2021

12th Annual

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FRIDAY JULY 30
4:00 - 7:00PM

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