



INSIDE

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## Survey shows mixed feelings about tourism

Traffic is among the concerns

By SUZANNE ROIG  
*The Bulletin*

Oregon's natural beauty is the No.1 draw for visitors, but breweries, restaurants and shopping rank second, according to a survey by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

But with that attraction comes angst from residents who feel tourism makes biking, hiking, fishing and camping more difficult to enjoy, according to the May 6 to May 12 survey of 1,674 residents 18 and older.

"More people are moving here, and there are already too many people," said Daniel Olson, a Deschutes County resident.

"Ultimately, it increases traffic and drives up costs, especially housing."

Olson's comments mirror the survey, where 61% of the respondents believe that tourism causes traffic in their community.

But two-thirds of those surveyed believed that tourism brings benefits, particularly economic ones, which is the same as when surveyed in 2021, according to the center.

"This is a most important industry in our area, but (we) can be overrun with tourists at times, making it difficult to move around the area and conduct necessary business, especially for people my age," Bob Finch, a Deschutes County man, wrote in the open-ended questions. "We love

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Gregory Bull/AP Photo

The rapid growth of electric scooter rentals caught many cities by surprise.

## Cannon Beach to ban electric scooter rentals

Latest city to embrace restrictions

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

CANNON BEACH — In an attempt to get ahead of electric scooter rental companies, the City Council agreed Tuesday night to pursue an ordinance prohibiting scooters on city streets.

The City Council is expected to review an ordinance in early July. People would still be allowed

to ride personal motorized vehicles.

Some city leaders and residents raised concerns about the possibility of electric scooter rentals while drafting the city's transportation system plan. Project leaders recommended the City Council consider a prohibition, noting that the city is limited in preventing companies from coming.

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# TIRED, WORRIED, FRUSTRATED

## County residents share views on pandemic

Mary Altaffer/AP Photo

By ERICK BENDEL  
*The Astorian*

More than 75% of the respondents to a county survey said the pandemic had a negative effect on their mental health.

How do Clatsop County residents feel about the coronavirus pandemic? Tired. ■ That was the most common answer given by participants in an anonymous county Public Health Department survey. Of 421 people who answered the question, 182 — 43% — felt that way. ■ The second-most common feeling, shared by 38% of respondents, was worry and concern. Frustration came in third at 30%.

The survey results arrived as virus cases in the county began to spike after steadily climbing since mid-April. Dozens of new virus cases have appeared over the last week, according to the county.

The health department decided to conduct a survey gauging public attitudes toward the virus, and the response to it, when the county's booster rate failed to track with the county's vaccination rate, which at more than 74% is among the highest in Oregon.

Margo Lalich, the county's interim public health director, said the survey results confirm this trend.

The survey, which opened in April and ended May 30, was not designed to be scientific. The results are also skewed by self-selection bias: The people most likely to participate are also more likely to be engaged in the issues and have strong feelings about them that may not reflect those of the larger community.

But the survey results did have information the Public Health

Department can use, Lalich said.

One thing the department learned: While respondents overwhelmingly said they had enough information on vaccines, the county may need to do a better job of providing info on how to get treatment for COVID-19.

A question asked respondents about the impact of the pandemic on their lives.

More than 75% said the pandemic had a negative effect on their mental health, and just over 51% said it was bad for their physical health. Thirty-four percent said the pandemic hurt their financial situation, and almost 38% said it had a negative effect on their family relationships. About two-thirds of respondents said the pandemic had no effect on their employment.

"We haven't had time to fully process the impact of the pandemic on our lives because we've been in a status of uncertainty, and we've been coping," Lalich said.

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Margo Lalich | the county's interim public health director

## State screens newborns for rare disease

A local family helped lead the campaign

By ABBEY McDONALD  
*The Astorian*

Following several years of advocacy work, new parents will have answers to the questions Trudy and Djordje Citovic did not know to ask.

Starting at age 2, their daughter, Alina, began showing signs of issues completing some movements, like running or jumping on two feet at once. As first-time parents, her mom said they struggled

to determine the severity of the issue.

At 5, Alina was diagnosed with a milder form of spinal muscular atrophy, a genetic neurological disease that weakens muscles and progresses over time. It impacts 1 in 10,000 infants and is the leading genetic cause of infant death.

In June, the Oregon Health Authority started screening newborns for the disease, a precaution that can catch the problem early and prevent major progression.

The Citovic's were among a group of families who helped to make it happen, which Trudy Citovic said feels surreal.

"I am so thrilled for babies," she said. "Actually, a friend of mine had a baby over the weekend and that means that his samples are in there getting screened for spi-

nal muscular atrophy; and I hope it comes back negative, but the fact that it's getting tested is huge."

Forty-five other states screen for spinal muscular atrophy at birth, according to the advocacy group Cure SMA.

Citovic said that working through the legislative process was eye-opening. Though the bill the group introduced didn't make it through the committee, she said she worked with former state Sen. Betsy Johnson to get funding allocated to the Oregon Health Authority for it.

"I got a petition with hundreds of signatures on it sent to the Legislature. None of that made a difference," Citovic said. "In the end it was Betsy Johnson saying, 'I'm



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Alina Citovic takes Evrysdi to treat spinal muscular atrophy.

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