

Unpaid Rents Grow during COVID-19

Mayor calls for more housing relief

Unpaid rents are growing in Portland during the COVID-19 pandemic and Mayor Ted Wheeler announced last week he will bring forward local housing relief measures to help stabilize households facing evictions and foreclosures.

Wheeler proposed an emergency amendment to the city's mandatory relocation ordinance so that any rent increases would trigger a

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A protest against evictions in San Francisco is captured in this AP photo. Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced last week he is bringing forward local housing relief measures to stabilize households facing evictions and foreclosures due to COVID-19.



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The Week in Review



Officer Hurt by Laser

Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt Tuesday announced the indictment against a Portland man for shining a dangerous high-powered laser into the eye of a Portland Police Bureau sergeant during a protest and causing an injury. Law enforcement said the laser was so powerful that it would burn through paper and cause dry material to catch fire.

Suspect Killed by Police

Michael Reinoehl, the Portland man suspected of fatally shooting Aaron "Jay" Danielson, a right-wing supporter during in a confrontation downtown last Aug. 28, was shot and killed on Sept. 3 as law enforcement moved into to arrest him in Lacey, Wash. Authorities say he was armed and an investigation was underway.



Police Misconduct Investigated

At least three Portland police officers have been removed from patrol and protest duties while investigations proceed into whether they engaged in misconduct against protesters, officials confirmed last week. One of the officers was seen on video tackling and repeatedly punching a protester in the face.

Man Starts Six Fires

A man arrested Sunday for using a Molotov Cocktail to start a small brush fire along the I-205 freeway, was arrested again and held for a mental evaluation after he started 6 more small fires during the predawn hours early Monday morning. Portland Fire and Rescue extinguished three of the fires while passing community members put out the other three, officials said.



COVID Positive Rate Slows

The Oregon Health Authority says the positivity rate for people tested for COVID-19 was 4.3 percent for the week ending Sept. 5, considerably lower than the national average of 8 percent. A declining positive test rate shows that Oregonians' efforts to use face coverings, physically distance, and avoid gatherings is helping to slow the spread of the disease.

Singer, Producer Remembered

Ronald "Khalis" Bell, a co-founder, singer and producer of the group Kool & the Gang, died Wednesday at his home in the U.S. Virgin Islands. He was 68. The band was one of the major groups of the 1970s, blending jazz, funk, R&B and pop.

Wrongful Death Settlement

The estate of Lane Christopher Martin, a 31 year old white Portland man who was shot to death by police last summer during a mental health crisis will receive nearly \$1 million in a wrongful death settlement from the City of Portland, officials reported last week. A grand jury had found no criminal wrongdoing on the part of police.

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