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# The Portland Observer

Volume XLV • Number 13



www.portlandobserver.com  
 Wednesday • July 7, 2021

Committed to Cultural Diversity

## ‘We Had no Choice but to Jump’

### Predawn fire kills 2, others injured

A horrifying fire erupted at a multi-unit apartment in the Sullivan Gulch neighborhood of northeast Portland during the predawn hours of July 4, killing at least two people and leaving several others injured.

“We had no choice but to jump,” survivors said. Other neighbors described seeing people trapped by flames.

The use of fireworks was suspected as the cause of the fire, but no conclusion had been drawn after two days of investigation. Officials said some neighbors reported hearing fireworks in the vicinity of the building.

The apartments at 2226 N.E. Weidler St., named Heidi Manor, were constructed in 1972, according to Multnomah County tax records. Its multiple structures were fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived on



A fire quickly sweeps through a multi-unit apartment complex at 2226 N.E. Wilder around 3:30 a.m. on July 4, killing at least two people and leaving several others injured. (KGW-TV photo)

the scene at 3:30 a.m., officials said.

“The magnitude of this fire moved so quick that people had little time to escape

and many did not,” said Fire Chief Sara Boone.

She said there were power lines coming down while crews worked to extinguish

the flames and at the peak, there were about 120 fire personnel at the scene.

Boone said the apartment complex did not have

a sprinkler system. She said it was an older complex and that older complexes often do not have as many exits as newer complexes.

## Relief for Families

### Visits Albina Head Start to promote expanded child tax credits

Expanded Child Tax Credits are going out for the first time on July 15 to qualifying working families and U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, during a Portland visit, expressed his support for the relief and proposed that it become a long term benefit.

During Wyden’s stop at the Albina Head Start in north Portland last Tuesday, he met with Portland area parents and Head Start staff to talk about the first child tax credit payments going out under the American Rescue Plan and to show support for expanding the credits to future years.

Adopted by Democrats earlier this year in response to the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus, the legislation provides the largest

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U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden visits Albina Head Start in north Portland to support the expanded child tax credits going out to qualifying parents on July 15 under the American Rescue Plan and to call on making the credits a long-term solution for working families. Also pictured are Carole Carmichael and Keri Truehler of Albina Head Start.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORLAND OBSERVER PUBLISHER