

# Northwest braces for hottest day of intense heat wave

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — With an unprecedented and dangerous heat wave gripping the Pacific Northwest, officials in Portland shut down light rail and street cars due to high temperatures, districts halted summer school bus service and people braced for possibly the hottest day of the scorcher.

Seattle, Portland and other cities broke all-time heat records over the weekend, with temperatures soaring well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Forecasters said Monday, June 28, would be worse, with the mercury possibly hitting 110 in Seattle and 115 in the Portland area before it begins to cool June 29.

In Eugene, the U.S. track and field trials were halted the afternoon of June 27 and fans were asked to evacuate the stadium due to extreme heat. The National Weather Service said it hit 110 in Eugene, breaking the all-time record of 108.

Portland on June 27 reached 112 degrees, breaking the all-time temperature record of 108, which was set just a day earlier.

The temperature hit 104 in Seattle. The weather service said that was an all-time record for the city better known for rain than heat and was the first time the area recorded two consecutive triple-digit days since records began being kept in 1894.

The heat wave stretched into British Columbia, with the temperature in Lytton, a village in the Canadian province, reaching 115 on June 27, marking a new all-time high recorded in Canada.

The heat wave also moved into Idaho, where temperatures above 100 are forecast in Boise for at least seven days starting June 28.

Cities were reminding residents where pools, splash pads and cooling centers were available and urging people to stay hydrated, check on their neighbors and avoid strenuous activities.

The National Weather Service in Coeur d'Alene said this week's weather "will likely be one of the most extreme and prolonged heat waves in the recorded history of the Inland Northwest."

An extended "heat dome" parked over the Pacific Northwest is causing the extreme weather. Kristie Ebi, a professor at the University of Washington who studies global warming and its effects on public health, said the heat wave was a taste of the future as climate change reshapes global weather patterns.

In Portland, authorities said the high heat was straining the power grid and overhead wires that propel the MAX trains, so service was being suspended through the morning of June 29.

"The MAX system is designed to operate in conditions up to 110 degrees. Forecasts show it will likely only get hotter," the agency said in a statement.

In Eastern Washington, the Richland and Kennewick school districts halted bus service for summer school because the vehicles aren't air-conditioned, making it unsafe for students.

Cooling centers were opened across the region and people flocked to them in Seattle, where only about 44% of households have air conditioning, according to U.S. census figures.

In Issaquah, Washington, an outage June 27 left thousands without power, and some went to a community center cooling station.

Donna Meade told The Seattle Times that going forward: "I will get air conditioning. I thought I could live through the heat, but nope. We still have July, August and the smoke to get through."

# Lawmakers wrap up session with drama-free day

By CHRIS LEHMAN  
The Oregonian

SALEM — The last day of the 2021 Oregon legislative session was largely free of drama or surprises. But by the time the final gavel dropped at 5:37 p.m. Saturday, June 26, lawmakers had approved billions of dollars in spending that will touch nearly every corner of the state.

"This is truly historic," said Rep. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene, as he urged the House to approve a bill that would fund more than \$2 billion in construction projects at universities, National Guard armories, and a slew of other state

government buildings. "Take note of that. You won't see that very often," he said, referring to the overall amount contained in the bill.

That sounded good to Holvey's colleagues, who approved the measure 56-0 without debate.

All told, the House approved 18 bills and the Senate 46 on the final day of what turned out to be a 159-day session — one day short of the maximum allowed length for odd-numbered years under the Oregon Constitution.

The closing hours featured breezy approvals of agency budgets, a bill to extend health insurance

coverage to low-income Oregonians regardless of immigration status, a measure that would regulate kratom and a bill to require public schools to provide free feminine hygiene products to students.

The Senate gave final passage to the final eight bills in a package of 22 designed to improve law enforcement officers' training, regulate officers' conduct and increase their accountability for misconduct. The eight included bills to limit use of tear gas and rubber bullets, require large law enforcement agencies to gain national accreditation and create model training for workers across

the criminal justice system to help them better interact with people who have experienced trauma.

Most passed easily with bipartisan support. But a bill to require state licensing of private security guards and a linchpin bill to create a statewide commission to set conduct and discipline standards for law enforcement officers and disallow police unions from negotiating a local discipline matrix as part of the union contract both passed more narrowly, on an 18-10 vote. Bills need 16 yes votes to pass the Senate.

In the House, the only bill that sparked any significant debate was a measure

that would direct utilities to develop wildfire mitigation plans, bolster state firefighting capacity and require some property owners to establish buffers around homes and other buildings. The bill will also make a down payment on the vast backlog of forest restoration work that many fire, forestry and environmental officials believe will be critical to restoring forest health and reducing wildfire severity.

The bill was on life support in the final week until a special joint committee was created to allow the chambers and parties to hash out their differences. In the end, it passed with minimal opposition.

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