

# Access to cooling top priority for 2 Oregon lawmakers

By **KELCIE GREGA**  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Last summer's triple-digit temperatures proved to be one of the deadliest recorded natural disasters in Oregon's history.

At least 96 people died during the late June heat wave, when temperatures topped out at 116 degrees, according to data the Oregon Medical Examiner's Office released to Oregon Public Broadcasting. Most of the people who died lived alone and did not have access to air conditioning, according to the report. The total amount of heat-related deaths could be even higher, the New York Times reported.

This catastrophe has pushed some state lawmakers to get a head start on policy to address citizens' rights to "coolness."

Both Sen. Kayse Jama and Rep. Pam Marsh are working on two complementary bills to provide Oregonians better access to cooling during periods of extreme heat.

"We as lawmakers have a responsibility to carefully analyze how people are being impacted by extreme heat and take action to protect those who are least likely to survive," Jama told Pamplin Media Group.



**A motorcyclist rides along Airport Road in Pendleton on June 24, 2021, as heat waves shine across the surface. Two state lawmakers are working on bills to provide Oregonians better access to cooling during periods of extreme heat.**

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Jama's bill would tackle the barriers renters face in installing portable AC units in their homes.

Air conditioning units aren't commonplace in apartments in the Willamette Valley due to its historically mild climate.

While there is statutory language laying out what landlords are required to do to keep a property "habitable," there are no references

to keeping a dwelling "cool." Landlords are even allowed to prohibit tenants from installing their own portable AC units.

"If you're someone with a disability and you're asking for an accommodation, that's really the only way you could get air conditioning and many people don't understand their rights sufficiently to understand that they can make that kind of request,

said said Kim McCarty, executive director of the Community Alliance of Tenants. "So essentially the law does not allow it, and so most Oregonians at this point just don't have that as an option."

The issue came up last August when property owners in Beaverton told tenants to remove their portable AC units while a state of emergency of the heat was still in effect. That prompted

Mayor Lacey Beaty to step in and ask local landlords and property owners to ease up on AC restrictions.

Jama, a Northeast Portland Democrat who was appointed to a Senate seat representing a swath of outer east Portland and suburban Clackamas County in January, hopes his bill will ensure things don't have to go that far again.

"Everybody deserves to live in a healthy and safe home," he said. "Blanket prohibitions on lifesaving air conditioning should never be allowed, and the range of technology available means that there are safe options for different types of housing."

Barriers in affordability are something Jama hopes to address as well.

"Even if someone is allowed to install an air conditioning unit, demand spikes for them when the weather forecasts an extreme heat event and prices are prohibitive for some low-income families," Jama said. "That's why state action to ensure tenants' right to cooling pairs well with programs like the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund's rapid response program for delivering cooling units to those who cannot afford them."

Additionally, Jama's bill

would require landlords to maintain safe indoor air temperatures in at least one portion of the property. He said the details of that portion of the bill are still being worked out.

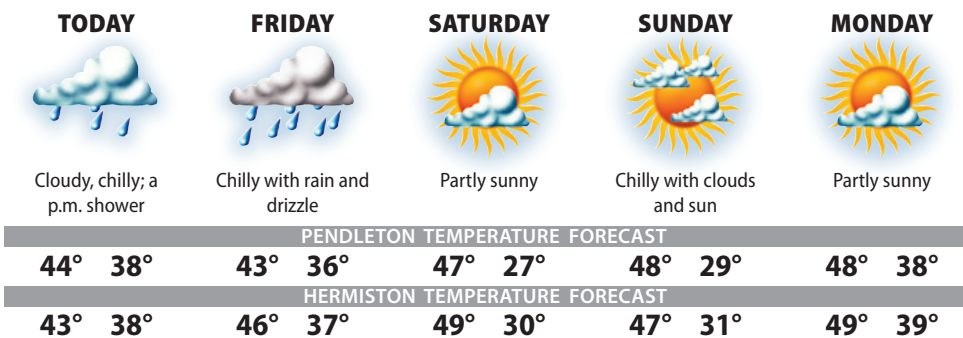
Meanwhile, Marsh — an Ashland Democrat — is working on a bill through the Committee on Environment Natural and Resources that would give citizens better access to cooling infrastructure.

"(The bills) are complementary but different approaches to the fact that we had a summer in which people died," said Marsh, who also saw wildfires fueled by unusually hot and dry conditions tear through communities in her district, like Phoenix and Talent, in September 2020. Thousands were displaced by those fires.

Marsh added, "As we see temperatures steadily increasing, we have an obligation to go out, probably for the first time in our state's history, and help people figure out the necessity of having cooling devices."

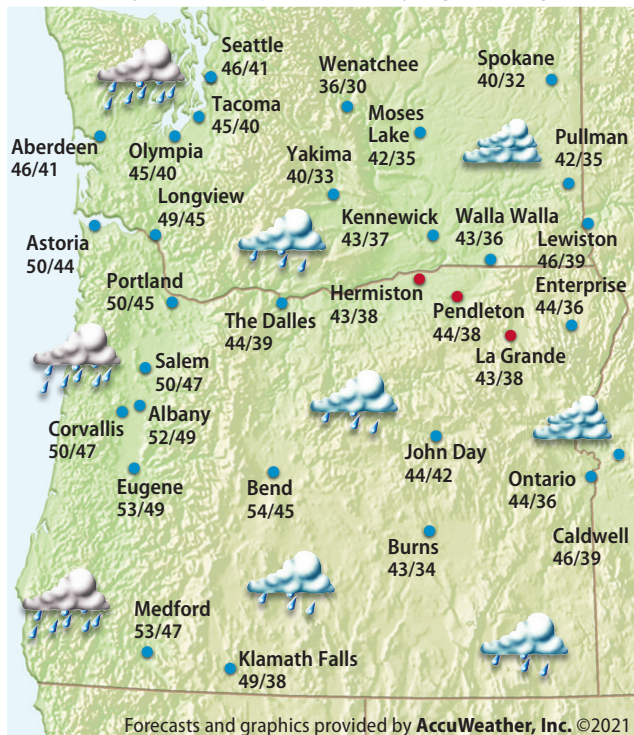
Marsh's bill focuses on both emergency air conditioning deployment in the short term, as well as establishing a heat pump deployment program through the Oregon Department of Energy.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



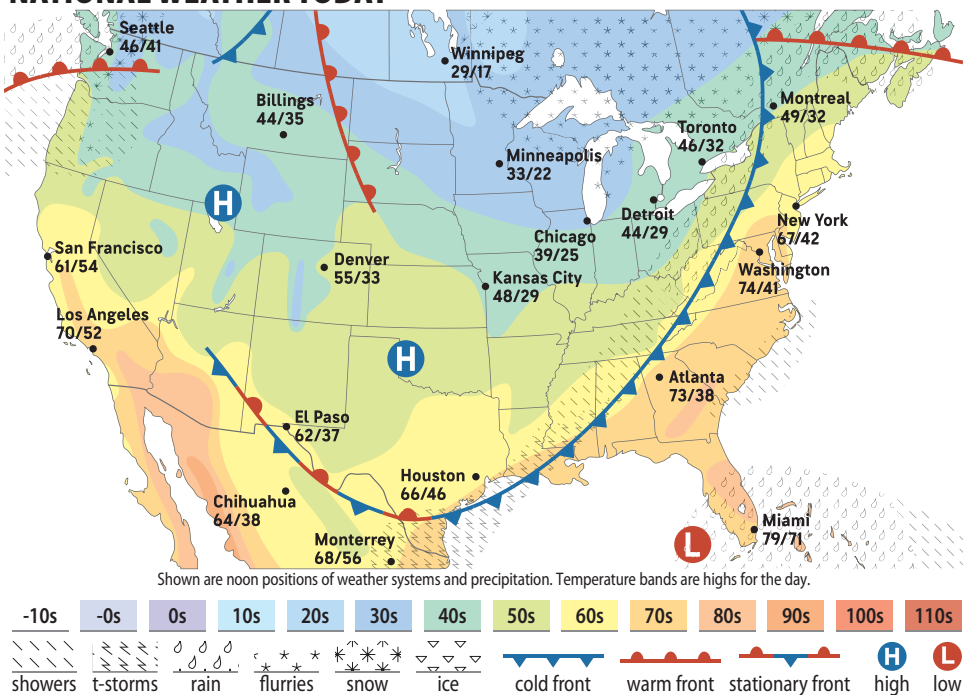
## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	47°	25°
Normals	49°	33°
Records	75° (1908)	4° (2014)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.96"	
Normal month to date	0.77"	
Year to date	6.99"	
Last year to date	12.11"	
Normal year to date	11.09"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	46°	24°
Normals	50°	32°
Records	73° (1932)	6° (1961)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.86"	
Normal month to date	0.61"	
Year to date	4.78"	
Last year to date	3.87"	
Normal year to date	7.08"	
WINDS (in mph)		
Today	Fri.	
Boardman	NE 4-8	NE 4-8
Pendleton	SSE 4-8	WNW 4-8
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	6:59 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	4:21 p.m.	
Moonrise today	4:09 p.m.	
Moonset today	6:14 a.m.	
Full	Last	New
Nov 19	Nov 27	Dec 3
		Dec 10

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 90° in Kingsville, Texas Low 2° in Butte, Mont.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# OSU researchers aim to turn seafood byproducts into source of nutrition

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
Capital Press

ASTORIA — A research project led by Oregon State University has the potential to reduce food waste by utilizing seafood byproducts as a cheap, high-quality source of protein.

OSU received a \$333,777 grant from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research to study whether protein from byproducts such as fish heads, bones and skin left over after processing can be recovered and used as an ingredient in food or dietary supplements.

The seafood industry uses just 30-40% of what it harvests for human consumption, while the rest is either made into fishmeal or discarded in landfills.

"This research exemplifies a 'no stone unturned' approach to increasing global food and nutritional security through limiting food waste," said Lucyna Kurtyka, senior scientific

program director with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, or FFAR.

Funding comes from the foundation's Seeding Solutions program, addressing challenges in food supply and agro-ecosystem management.

The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Pacific Seafood Group, Seafood Industry Research Fund, Trident Seafoods and West Coast Seafood Processors Association are project partners and provided matching funds.

Jung Kwon, an associate professor at OSU's Seafood Research and Education Center in Astoria, is heading up the multi-year project. The research will be broken into phases, she said.

First, researchers will determine the best and most efficient ways to extract protein from seafood byproducts, focusing specifically on two fisheries — Alaska pollock and Pacific whiting.

Pacific Seafood Group, based in Clackamas, and Trident Seafoods, based in Seattle, are providing samples.

After extracting the protein, Kwon said they will assess its nutritional content compared to other common supplements, such as whey. Then the project will pivot to developing prototype food products and supplements using the protein, based on feedback from consumer panels.

If successful, Kwon said the project will create a platform for solving global food insecurity in an environmentally sustainable way.

According to the FFAR, an additional 148 million people may be protein deficient by 2050 due to climate change.

"The success of the proposed project will push forward the notion of a sustainable food system to the next level," Kwon said.

Kwon said the project also could have a big impact on the seafood industry, giving processors a high-value market for what has been a low-value waste product.



Kwon

## IN BRIEF

### Five nonprofits receive grants from Oregon Humanities

PORTLAND — Five nonprofits — four in Wallowa County and one in Union County — were among 60 statewide to receive COVID-19 Emergency SHARP grants from Oregon Humanities, the organization recently announced.

In all, Oregon Humanities awarded more than \$700,000 in grants. The funding was part of more than \$51 million in emergency relief funding distributed to state and jurisdictional humanities councils, with the money's intent to "support local cultural groups and public and educational humanities programming adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic."

The funding was part of the American Rescue Plan Act.

The funding is intended to help the humanities community recover from the pandemic and enable reopening. Applicants were to share how they were adversely impacted by the pandemic, their need for funding and how funding would support their work.

Art Center East, La Grande, received \$19,800, the most of the five granted in the two counties. The organizations to receive funding in Wallowa County include the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center and the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, which were each granted \$15,000; the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, which was granted \$12,500; and Fishtrap, which was granted \$10,000.

—EO Media Group

**CORRECTIONS:** The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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