

# Oregon commits virtually all funds for emergency rental aid

By PETER WONG  
Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregon has now committed virtually all of the \$389 million in federal and state money to provide emergency rental assistance to more than 60,000 households.

The program had a target of June 30, but some applications are still being processed. Tenants who gave

proof of applications to their landlords — either to the state program or others in several Oregon counties — will still have state protections against evictions for nonpayment through Sept. 30 or until their applications are closed, whichever comes soonest.

The protections do not forgive any rent owed.

The state Department of Housing and Commu-

nity Services reported that the money distributed over the past year helped keep more than 100,000 people from losing their housing during the coronavirus pandemic. The size of the average household was 2.2 persons — and according to a May 31 report by the agency, the average payment per household was \$6,400, which went directly to landlords.

As of June 30, the agency reported that it had committed \$386.66 million to 60,166 households.

Of the total paid, 60% of the households were white, 12% Black, 2% Asian, and 5% two or more races. Hispanics, who can be of any race, accounted for 15% statewide. Some households chose not to state their race.

The agency distributed

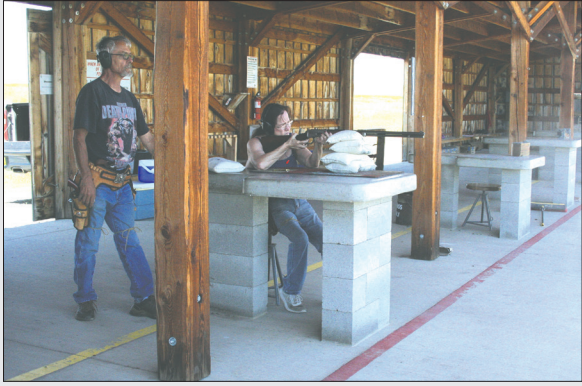
\$289 million in federal money, some if it from legislation that Donald Trump signed in the final weeks of his presidency, and the rest from the \$2.2 trillion American Rescue Plan Act that President Joe Biden signed in March 2021. The Oregon Legislature added \$100 million more from the 2021-23 state budget; another \$150 million in state funds were spent

before the current budget cycle started in mid-2021.

According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, Oregon now leads all states in the share of money paid out or obligated for emergency rental assistance.

Landlords can obtain state payment for some costs they incur from now through Sept. 30 through a separate guarantee fund.

## Fun shoot



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain  
**Kim Hutchison watches as wife, Holly, fires a Winchester '94 30-30 rifle Sunday, July 10, 2022, during the Cowboy Action Fun Shoot at the Eagle Cap Shooters' gun range north of Enterprise. Hutchison was wearing his "John Wayne" 45-caliber revolvers.**

# Joseph hires new administrator

Dan Larman has been here since March

By BILL BRADSHAW  
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The city of Joseph has a new administrator with the hiring of Dan Larman during the Thursday, July 7, City Council meeting.

Larman's hiring brings to a close a situation ongoing since April 2021 when former Administrator Larry Braden resigned citing claims of harassment that prevented him from doing his job.

Larman, who moved from Elgin in March, has been working with interim Administrator Brock Eckstein since then.

The hiring came after a recent interview of four applicants for the job. Eckstein said via Zoom that one of those applicants decided to take a job elsewhere and the council opted for Larman. He was voted in on a unanimous decision.

The council has yet to negotiate a permanent contract with Larman. In the meantime, Eckstein recommended Larman be compensated under the current provisions for a city administrator.

"I appreciate the chance to throw my hat in the ring and I'm looking forward to working with everybody and



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain  
**Dan Larman, the new administrator for the city of Joseph, thanks the City Council after it voted to hire him during its meeting Thursday, July 7, 2022.**

helping out where I can," he said to the council. "We've got a lot of projects on board and I'm ready to get going on this stuff."

In another position change, Public Works Director Levi Tickner is stepping into a role primarily as operator of the water and sewer plants while Michael Harshfield takes on the other duties Tickner has overseen.

Mayor Lisa Collier thanked Tickner for continuing the tradition of hanging posters of this year's high school graduates downtown. "I think that's so cool

and despite COVID, it's something we need to keep going," she said.

### Ordinances enforced

The council also heard a report from Douglas McKinnis, the city's ordinance enforcement officer, who said he has removed at least seven nonoperational vehicles from around town and he expects more to be removed in August.

He also has been contacting city residents who have not been keeping up their yards. He said some of the homes are those of deceased residents or part-time residents and the challenge has been finding out who is responsible for the homes. He also mentioned a couple houses that are damaged and have been condemned that need to be removed.

McKinnis also said a citywide cleanup day will be held probably in late August after the majority of tourists have left. Anyone interested can contact City Hall for more information.

### RV park

In another matter, the council held a public hearing on a request by John Zurita to change zoning at 709 N. Main St. from commercial to general residential. Zurita wants to locate a small RV park at the site, which is on the corner of Main Street and Russell Lane.

The council ended up tabling the matter after hearing several comments from the public in opposition to Zurita's plans. Opposition

was expressed based on the possibility of traffic congestion caused by residents turning into the RV park and the alteration of the downtown character by having such a park just as drivers enter the town.

Zurita was asked if the Oregon Department of Transportation had been asked if it could install a turn lane at the site of his planned park. He said he has discussed it with ODOT, but the agency wants to know what the city will do before sending anyone to look over the site.

That issue and others in which the city needs more information led to it being tabled.

### Transient license

The council also heard from Alicia Hayes, who owns and operates All-American Coffee, a mobile coffee vendor who is based in Enterprise but hopes to do business in Joseph. However, Hayes said, the cost of the city's transient business license fee is prohibitive. At \$475 a year for a business that doesn't maintain a year-round presence in Joseph, Hayes said she has done research into what other towns charge and found Joseph's fee considerably higher.

However, others who spoke said their brick-and-mortar permanent businesses pay taxes for city services and the transient fee is a way to tax transient businesses.

The council agreed this was another issue it needs to address in a work session.

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	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
THUR	9:00pm	Family Fun at the Thunder Room — DJ
	9:00am	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Walk
FRI	9:00am	Steer Tripping, Three Rounds
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	Tough Enough to Wear Pink — Wear Pink
	9:00pm	Fun at the Thunder Room after Rodeo — Stay Tuned!
	9:30pm	Live Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — Whiskey Creek
SAT	10:00am	Chief Joseph Junior Parade — Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:30pm	Live Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — Whiskey Creek
	After Rodeo	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 3:00am
SUN	6:00am	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 10:00am
	9:00am	Cowboy Church Service

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for participants under age 16, adult supervision required

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The evening session will include a short introduction to astronomical observation and guided help in using a telescope to view planets, star clusters, nebula, and galaxies.

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