

Carlton

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The journey from a youth in search of adventure to the “Deadliest Catch” all started in the 1970s when Carlton, who is truly a ski bum at heart, wanted to drive race cars in Europe. That’s when he caught wind of Alaska, the fishing industry, and the big payouts that come with a hefty haul.

“I didn’t know anything about fishing, and I mean anything,” Carlton said. “I knew nothing.”

When Carlton got his start, he was doing factory work in Alaska while he searched for a job on a boat. He wound up unloading shrimp, and going out on king crab fishing trips. Eventually he got on to a Norwegian fishing vessel, which took him back to Seattle. After two months working on the boat in Seattle, he took his paycheck from the Norwegians and bought a one-way ticket back to Alaska.

“I had a backpack, a sleeping bag, a loaf of bread, and peanut butter and jelly,” Carlton said. “Because there were no restaurants. There was nowhere to stay up there at the time, and I lived on the beach for four weeks, in an abandoned barracks from World War II.”

He pitched his tent inside the barracks and used a rock and some rusty nails to hammer plastic over a window that overlooked Dutch Harbor. When it got really cold, he burned things in a 55-gallon drum.

Once he got back on a boat, he couldn’t get enough of the adventure, and the paychecks.

While the job is lucrative, and exciting, it comes with an element of danger. Carlton said he and his crew fish in harsh conditions roughly 200 to 600 miles away from the nearest town.

“You are working on the



Discovery Channel

The crew of the fishing vessel Patricia Lee move pots on deck. The ship, whose captain, Rip Carlton, lives in Bend, will be featured in the new season of “Deadliest Catch.”

“You are working on the ocean in the winter, right in the middle of the Bering Sea, which that in itself is dangerous, We get huge currents. We get even more wind. And where we fish around these islands is all rocky, craggy...It’s just unbelievable the weather we work in and what we do to get the job done.”

— Capt. Rip Carlton

ocean in the winter, right in the middle of the Bering Sea, which that in itself is dangerous,” Carlton said. “We get huge currents. We get even more wind. And where we fish around these islands is all rocky, craggy...It’s just unbelievable the weather we work in and what we do to get the job done.”

Carlton told of one close call while out on the sea fishing.

“I was driving a 165-foot boat and the wheel house was three stories up,” Carlton said. “And we took such a big wave, the wave came through the wheelhouse windows, came through with so much force it was like a bomb blowing up.

“Then the back door got blown off the door hinges, the whole boat flooded up to the wheel house. The guys were three stories down eating breakfast when it happened, and they thought I was dead because the boat just blew up...” Carlton said. “But I ducked, I saw the wave coming and I ducked down and it went right over my head through the windows and out the back windows and out the back door.”

The monstrous wave knocked out most of the equipment on board, Carlton said. Carlton and his crew set up the plexiglass storm windows kept on board for exactly this kind of scenario. While not entirely

ideal conditions, the storm windows gave Carlton a chance to check the steering and lights on the ship, which were still intact. He also fetched his emergency radio from his stateroom.

The voice on the other end of the radio asked Carlton if everything was OK, and what he and his crew needed after a close call with the giant wave.

“Do you have any more bait?” Carlton asked over the radio. “Bait?” the voice on the other end responded in confusion.

Carlton said he and his crew needed the bait to keep fishing despite almost becoming fish food themselves.

Situations like these are common in the fishing industry, Carlton said, and the upcoming season of “Deadliest Catch” is a chance to catch a glimpse of what goes into getting the king crab legs from the sea to the buffet table.

“When you see the show, you won’t even believe it,” Carlton said.

Carlton and his family plan to invite their friends over to their home in Bend to celebrate and watch the season premier on April 19. To keep an eye on Carlton while he’s out at sea, follow him on Instagram, rip_carlton.

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Report

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Stakeholders said it’s the state, not the community council, that’s to blame for the holdup, with the most prolonged delay occurring after the Oregon Health Authority took over the grant application evaluation process. Meanwhile, the state said the unprecedented number of applications require careful review. But with more than 100 staff assigned to the project over the past month, those interviewed for this story said the state should have made more progress.

The delays pose challenges for many small providers that were counting on the money to sustain their services as they struggle amid behavioral health workforce shortages and a statewide addiction crisis.

With nearly 650,000 Oregonians aged 18 and older estimated to struggle with addiction, the state ranked second worst for its rate of substance use disorder and dead last in the nation for its access to drug and alcohol treatment, according to data from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Meanwhile, the rise of fentanyl across the state is making addiction deadlier. Overdose deaths in Oregon rose 41% last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, compared with a nationwide increase of 16%.

“People are dying every day, and we just can’t wait any longer to get this money out,” said Tera Hurst, executive director of Health Justice Recovery Alliance. The alliance is a statewide coalition of social service, health care and social justice nonprofits advocating for a timely and successful implementation of Measure 110.

Small providers struggle amid the delays

After Oregon’s drug decriminalization law went into effect in February 2021, the volunteer Measure 110 Oversight and Accountability Council oversaw the speedy distribution of \$31.4 million in initial grant funding.

But for much of the past 12 months, the council has met on Zoom weekly, sometimes more, to create a more involved grant program from scratch that’s designed to follow through with the law’s call for coordinated treatment and recovery networks in each region of



123RF

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the state.

Some providers began expanding when they received funds last year, expecting that money to sustain that growth would be available much sooner.

Steve Allen, OHA behavioral health director, explained in February — when The Lund Report first reported on the delays and dysfunction undermining Measure 110 efforts, that the program is transformational, and thus takes thought and time. But, he said, the goal is to get money in the hands of community providers.

Following the initial round of grants last year, Max’s Mission in Southern Oregon attributed the reversals of more than 100 overdoses to the grant funds that allowed for the distribution of naloxone, which reverses opioid overdose. Now, Hurst said, some providers are running low on the life-saving drug.

Fingers point at the state

Measure 110 gave people from communities harmed most by the war on drugs control over the law’s grant program and the distribution of the more than \$300 million in marijuana tax dollars that flows through it every two years. The 18 voting members of the Measure 110 Oversight and Accountability Council include people experienced in drug and alcohol treatment services, drug policy research, advocacy and other related areas. They are diverse and representative of impacted communities. Most members are in recovery from substance use disorder themselves, and many have been incarcerated. But they lack experience operating grant programs like the one they’re

designing and executing.

Hurst said that’s why the council was paired with Oregon Health Authority, which is experienced in grant making.

But the health authority, Hurst said, “in our view, and from watching this as close as we watch, it has not staffed this council and has not given this council the tools that they need to be able to get through this process.”

Most recently, problems arose when the agency repeatedly sent grant application evaluations back to council members, saying they were incomplete. Eventually the work became too burdensome for some of the volunteer council members, many of whom have full-time jobs and other obligations.

The Oregon Health Authority took over the grant evaluation process, assigning 138 staff members to the project, according to agency spokesperson Aria Seligmann.

That was a month ago, and since then, 11 council meetings have been canceled because evaluations were not complete.

This has caused confusion and frustration among council members, who are eager to get the funds to providers.

“A hundred (staff), and they can’t get them done in 30 days. That’s real embarrassing,” council member Morgan Godvin said. “I do not understand why so many meetings have been canceled, and the answers presented to us were not satisfactory.”

There are 333 entities that applied and about 281 applications seeking more than \$400 million in funds, and each one needs two reviews. Just over half the application

evaluations still need to be completed, according to data shared during the council meeting Friday morning.

The many meeting cancellations and the holdup with evaluations, said the health authority’s Seligmann, have been “due to the unprecedented number of applications received and the amount of time it has taken to evaluate each application in a deliberate, careful way to ensure the (Oversight and Accountability Council’s) values are maintained.”

Award notices to providers in Morrow and Baker counties were expected to be sent out by the end of this week. The next counties to be voted on are Umatilla, Union, Harney, Gilliam and Grant.

Polk, Klamath, Lake and Jefferson counties are each one review away from being completed. Portland metro counties will be reviewed last.

‘Ready to move forward’

As the council discussed the best pathway forward Friday morning, Godvin expressed concerns about Multnomah County applications being nowhere near completion.

Allen of the OHA said the state was evaluating the largest counties, including Multnomah, last because those counties had the most applications.

“Could I get OHA to accept a little responsibility?” Godvin asked. “I know harm reduction and drugs. That is my wheelhouse. That is why I was appointed to the council. I don’t know grant making. That was OHA’s duty, but you did not fulfill it, and the goalpost just keeps moving. And I have whiplash trying to keep up with this. But at no point, do I hear an acceptance of responsibility from OHA.”

“I hold myself accountable,” said Allen. “In terms of lessons learned and mistakes made, we certainly have made our share of those,” he said of the agency. “After we get through this next phase, I think there’s lots of opportunity to kind of look back and take a look at lessons learned, what we as an agency could have done differently to support you better along the way.”

The council ultimately voted to move forward with an option for completion that Oregon Health Authority estimated will get the funds out quickest. While it’s estimated money will get into the hands of providers from June to October, the timeline is not fixed.

OREGON

Gas prices dip, but remain above \$4 a gallon

BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

The Oregonian

Oregon’s gas prices continued to fall last week, but remained near a record high set last month.

The state average on Tuesday was \$4.65 per gallon for regular, a dip of about 3 cents from last week, according to AAA. Oregon’s prices remain well above the national average, which was at \$4.09 Tuesday. That price fell 8 cents from last week.

And Portland’s prices dipped 2 cents this week to \$4.74, just below the all-time high of \$4.79, which Oregon’s largest city reached on March 27.

Oregon and the nation both hit record high gas prices on March 11, with the state peaking at \$4.74, and the national price cresting at \$4.33 per gallon.

In Bend, the average price for a gallon of regular was \$4.67, according to AAA, about 4 cents less than a week ago.

The average price per gallon in Deschutes County was the same as in Bend. Crook County reported an average of \$4.65, according to AAA, while in Jefferson County, the average was \$4.46.

Southern Oregon continues to see the highest gas prices in the state, with Curry County holding at about \$4.91 per gallon and Josephine County about 3 cents below. Multnomah County’s prices remain the third-highest in the state.

Oregon’s gas prices remain sixth-highest in the nation, behind California, Hawaii, Nevada, Washington and Alaska.

Funding

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State campaign finance records show that Sierra Pacific began making campaign contributions in February with the donation to the Bring Balance Back to Salem PAC. Johnson received the second largest amount — \$200,000 — on April 4. Both campaigns aim at curbing Democratic control over Oregon State government.

Democrats currently control the governorship, both chambers of the Legislature, secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general, both U.S. senators and four of five seats in Oregon’s delegation to the U.S. House. Johnson is seeking to become the first non-Democrat elected governor since Vic Atiyeh in 1982.

Bring Balance to Salem has only spent just over \$15,000 so far — with \$10,000 going to Hood River-based Walden Consulting. The firm was created in December 2021 by Walden and his wife, Mylene Simons-Walden, according to business records filed with the Oregon Secretary of State.

The former congressman’s sister-in-law, Marta Simons, also of Hood River, is listed as the group’s treasurer. She earlier served as treasurer for Walden’s Victory Fund PAC during his time in Congress.

The PAC lists its address as 25 NW 23rd Place, Suite 6 Box 133 in Portland. The address is for Postal Annex+, an outlet of the commercial maildrop chain.

Sierra Pacific is moving into its third generation of family ownership. Red Emmerson’s sons George and Mark, serve as company president and chief financial officer. Emmerson’s daughter, Carolyn Dietz, is president of the company’s philanthropic Sierra Pacific Foundation.

The company’s PAC has also contributed \$15,000 to Eugene-based Community Action Network PAC, which backs conservative candidates. It’s treasurer is former Oregon Republican Party Treasurer Dennis Morgan.

Sierra Pacific also gave \$2,500 each to the campaigns of Tim Freeman and Tom Kress, who are running for different seats on the nonpartisan Douglas County Commission. Eugene city council candidate Jennifer Soloman received \$1,500.

Last month, Sierra Pacific lost a six-year court battle over its proposed Martis Valley West project on 670-acres on north Lake Tahoe in California, according to the Sierra Sun newspaper. Conservationists had sought to block plans for a gated community that would have included 760 vacation homes, malls and new roads.

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