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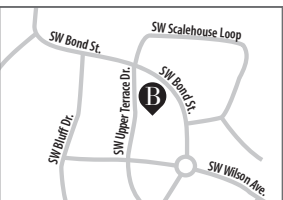
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Report: Health care costs in Oregon rose 49% from 2013-19

Rising prescription drug prices drove much of the increase

BY HILLARY BORRUD
The Oregonian

Oregonians' health care costs rose 49% over a six-year period, with the increase largely driven by a huge jump in drug prices, according to a new state report.

Prescription pharmaceutical costs "grew the most of any service category from 2013 to 2019, driven by a 20% annual growth in Medicare" drug costs, according to the report issued by the Oregon Health

Authority.

Prescription drug costs rose 185% over the six-year period for patients on Medicare to more than \$2,200 per person, annually. Prescription drug costs rose 92.8% for people with commercial insurance and 79.4% for those on Medicaid, according to the state.

Inpatient care remained the most expensive category of health care in Oregon, but prescription drug costs surpassed per-person outpatient care costs in 2018 to become the third-most costly service, according to the state.

Last year, lawmakers in the Democratically controlled Or-

egon Legislature considered a proposal to set upper limits on how much companies could charge for prescription drugs, but ultimately gutted the plan after the pharmaceutical industry spent nearly \$2 million lobbying against it. Lawmakers did pass a bipartisan law to limit patients' copays for insulin to \$900 a year.

After prescription drug costs, the category of professional services, which covers primary care visits and medical procedures at doctors' offices, was the second major driver of increasing health care costs, according to the state. Those costs increased 75.9% for people with com-

mercial insurance, 56.7% for patients on Medicare and 41.8% for people with Medicaid.

Oregon is tracking health care costs by sector as part of an effort to rein in the growth of health care expenses to a sustainable level. Although the report did not identify a sustainable rate of health care cost increases, the authors noted that health care costs have outpaced growth of wages and the overall economy in Oregon. In 2019, Oregon families with commercial health insurance paid an average of \$9,038 for their insurance premium shares and deductibles.

Portland settles excessive force suit

Associated Press

The city of Portland has paid \$55,000 to two independent journalists who alleged excessive force by Portland police during a 2020 Black Lives Matter demonstration.

An investigation after their lawsuit was filed determined the city risked being found liable, so the City Council opted for an emergency ordinance to avoid a jury trial, The Oregonian reported. The money for the settlement, which compensates the reporters for injuries, will come from the city's Insurance and Claims Fund.

Cory Elia and Lesley McLam were contributing to Village Portland and KBOO Community Radio when they were arrested while live-streaming a protest.

After police deployed tear gas into the crowd, Elia was forced to the ground by at least four officers and McLam, who was trying to take Elia's phone and press pass for him, was tackled by police, according to the lawsuit.

In the suit, Elia said he suffered breathing difficulty from heightened asthma symptoms because of tear gas, a head injury and other maladies.

Elia said in a statement that he filed the lawsuit "because the suppressive tactics used by the police to silence journalists is not only a violation of the First Amendment, but an attack on the public's right to be informed of the injustices happening in their own community at the hands of those who are sworn to 'protect and serve.'"

The lawsuit filed in July 2020 demanded \$1 million from the city. It named two "John Doe" officers as defendants, as well as officers John Bartlett and Michelle Petty.

Portland paid \$335,000 in 2021 to settle protest-related lawsuits involving police, according to city records.

CREWS STOP BRUSH FIRE AT CROOKED RIVER RANCH



Photo courtesy Crooked River Ranch Fire and Rescue

The fire destroyed a lumber pile located near a residence on SW Peninsula Drive in Crooked River Ranch.

Bulletin staff report

Fire crews stopped a brush fire Tuesday afternoon that threatened numerous homes in Crooked River Ranch near the intersection of SW Cinder and SW Peninsula drives.

According to Crooked River Ranch Fire and Rescue, the blaze was burning in grass, brush and juniper trees near sev-

eral residences, eventually reaching several stacks of lumber and a horse trailer outside a home in the 12600 block of SW Cinder. The fire, which was first reported about 3:20 p.m. on Tuesday, was declared contained at about one-third of an acre about 30 minutes later. Crews remained on-scene mopping up and building fire lines around hot spots until nearly 6 p.m.,

according to the fire department.

Six engines and 17 firefighters responded, including mutual aid from Redmond Fire & Rescue, the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Tigard man dies after being shot in road-rage incident

Father of 3 was driving home from trip to Oregon Coast

BY ZAEEM SHAIKH
The Oregonian

A Tigard man died Wednesday after being shot and killed on state Highway 18 northeast of Otis in a suspected road-rage incident.

Dennis Anderson, 45, was with his partner of 18 years, Brandy Goldsbury, on a day trip to Lincoln City after a week of COVID-19 quarantine. They were headed back to their Tigard home around 8:30 p.m. on July 13 when they noticed a driver in a car trying to pass them, said Goldsbury, 46.

Goldsbury, who has worked as a medical assistant at Oregon Health & Science University, said Anderson sprayed wiper fluid on his windshield while driving and some of the fluid may have gotten on the other driver's car.

"I was just like 'ignore him, he's having a bad day,'" she

said.

The car — which police identified Tuesday as a BMW 3 Series — eventually passed, Goldsbury said, and she believed it was gone. A few miles later, however, they arrived at a rest area northeast of Otis where Goldsbury said they saw the same car parked on the side of the road.

"We drove by it, and then it got behind us," Goldsbury said. "And then when the lanes started to turn to one again, the car started driving really close to the back of us almost like it was going to hit us. And then it would go into oncoming traffic and kind of swerve towards us, like trying to push us to the side of the forest."

She told Anderson to pull over and call 911. He did. He also got out of the car while Goldsbury dialed, she said.

That's when the driver of the other car stopped parallel to them and started shooting into the car, she said. "The last thing that he said was, 'Oh my god, they shot me.'" Goldsbury said.

After several shots, Golds-

bury unbuckled her seat belt and flagged down passing cars for help.

Police, as of Tuesday, have not made any arrests. They said the driver fled.

Oregon State Police de-

scribed the suspect as a short, less-than-25-year-old man with dark hair.

Anderson had two teenage daughters and an adult stepson.

"He's one of those pushover

dads," Goldsbury said. "They would ask for something absolutely outrageous, and he would be like 'no' and then I would turn around and he'd be doing it, making it happen for them."

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THIS WEEKEND'S

ISSUE

Parade

Check out the game that's all the rage across America!

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