

KFIR 3rd Quarter Public Issues and Programs

Prospective homebuyers are being pushed out of the housing markets. OregonLive reports numbers published by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis showed that surging mortgage rates and rapidly increasing home values have made homes unaffordable for a growing number. Josh Lehner, a state economist, estimated that at least 240,000 households around the state have been priced out of the market since December.

Since the end of 2021, 30-year mortgage rates have climbed from 3% to just over 6%. Combined with price increases, Lehner wrote, the cost of a mortgage payment has increased 40% to 50% in the past few months. As a result, less than 1 in 5 households in the Portland region, Eugene, Medford, and Salem that can afford to buy. And in Bend, it's worse with 1 in 10 households.

Aired on 7/5/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The Oregon Department of Ag reports they chose six Oregon meat processing businesses to receive a portion of a \$2 million dollar grant. The purpose is to expand meat processing capacity statewide.

ODA director, Alexis Taylor, said the small number of existing meat processors have long waitlists, making it difficult to get their product to market. In 2020 the Oregon Legislature allocated funding to start an Oregon State Meat Inspection Program launching July 2022.

ODA received 44 grant applications requesting a total of \$14 million dollars in upgrades and expansions. Six grants were awarded. ODA estimates that the combined increased meat processing capacity from the six grantees will make an additional 3 million pounds of local meat available or 68 thousand pounds per week annually.

Aired on 7/6/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

As Oregon experiences the disaster to legalizing street drugs such as marijuana, politicians are pushing to change federal banking regulations. Senators Ron Wyden, Cory Booker, and Chuck Schumer hope to have a cannabis reform bill in the works by the end of the Senate who goes on recess August 8th.

You have people walking around with wheelbarrows full of cash Wyden said, that's just a magnet for criminal activity. Willamette Week reported last year armed robbers

targeted cannabis dispensaries due to cash on hand, because federal laws deprived them of most banking services.

But Oregon has seen an outburst of cartels and an increase in drug usage and lawlessness after the legalizing of street drugs. So rather than admitting it was failure, politicians are attempting to add even more failure to the heap.

Aired on 7/6/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Six months after deciding to tax property owners for street upgrades, Philomath city officials have decided they will use grant funds instead. The Philomath City Council was working on a proposed taxing district, called a local improvement district, to cover the cost of street and sidewalk improvements.

Democrat Herald reports that after an April 25th public hearing, the council tabled its discussion on the matter for a later meeting. At the June 27th meeting several community members spoke against the improvements.

With the delay the 60-day window to act lapsed, and the council would have needed another public hearing before moving ahead. Instead, they voted 6-1 to abandon the street improvements and use \$140,000 dollar grant money from the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to build a sidewalk on Pioneer Street.

Aired on 7/6/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

An audit was released Wednesday of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which tracks prescriptions of controlled substances, including painkillers and tranquilizers. The report reviewed changes the state made since the Secretary of State's Office, Audits Division first audited the program in December 2018.

When the 2018 audit was released, Oregon had the highest rate of seniors hospitalized for opioid overdoses, abuse, and dependence. It had the sixth-highest percentage of teenage drug users. Today, Oregon moved up now having the highest rate of misuse of prescription opioids in the country, the Itemizer-Observer reports.

The audit found five program recommendations had not been implemented. OHA says they were outside their scope. The finger pointing continues but maybe OHA ought to drop masking issues and focus on this problem instead.

Aired on 7/8/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

In a press release, Linn County will continue a highly successful medical transportation program for veterans, even after a grant from the Oregon's VA, runs out next spring,

Commissioners Nyquist, Sprenger, and Tucker agreed this week. Nyquist said, these veterans gave us all the freedoms we have today.

Veterans Services Officer, Dee Baley-Hyder told the commissioners the grant is for \$11,000 thousand dollars and in this year's first two quarters, her department has expended over \$5,300 hundred. She said there is a little over \$6 thousand dollars left, which she hopes lasts until June 2023. Nyquist moved that the county use up to \$20,000 dollars in contingency funds to backfill it.

The program provides transportation anywhere in the state for local veterans who can no longer drive themselves to medical appointments

Aired on 7/8/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The State of Oregon is holding big game regulations meetings. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is hosting 19 annual big game regulation meetings in July. ODFW says they'll present proposed changes to the 2023 hunting seasons, answer questions, and ask for feedback.

Potential changes for 2023 big game seasons include a controlled youth archery elk hunt in all but five Wildlife Management Units. This hunt would provide youth with a tag the flexibility to join family or friends, archery hunting in general season units, and in most units that only offer controlled archery elk hunting.

Meetings for the mid-Willamette Valley will be in Springfield July 13th, at 6:30pm at the Sizzler Restaurant. And in Corvallis, July 14th at 7:00 pm in the Old Armory Building.

Aired on 7/11/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

This week the Oregon Department of Forestry announced that all the ODF districts are now in fire season. Officials say that public use restrictions may be in place where you live or where you plan on spending time outdoors this summer. The start of fire season was slightly delayed this year in part to heavy rains in May and June according to officials.

A spokesperson said July and August historically have higher fire activity, and ODF is ready to respond, but they need the cooperation of Oregonians so they don't strain their resources on fires that could have been avoided. ODF officials say they are worried about ground fuels, like grass, that grew with the spring rain, but will dry out quickly, becoming fuel and a greater risk for human-caused fires.

Aired on 7/13/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Keizer City Council will vote on whether to put on November's ballot to opt-out of psilocybin therapeutic treatment centers. Polk County is also considering a possible ban on psilocybin centers. Linn County is putting it on their Nov 8 ballot to let voters decide to opt out, who already said no on a statewide ballot. And according to the Statesman, several other mainly rural county commissioners, are deciding the same.

In 2020, Oregon became the first state in the nation to legalize the therapeutic, supervised use of psilocybin. Psilocybin is the active hallucinogenic ingredient in what are commonly referred to as magic mushrooms. On Jan. 2, the OHA is expected to begin accepting applications for licenses to manufacture, deliver, and administer psilocybin statewide.

Aired on 7/18/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

After nearly 36 years in Congress, Representative, Peter DeFazio announced last year he was not running for re-election in Oregon's fourth congressional district. In an interview with KATU News last week many of DeFazio's colleagues from both sides of the aisle gathered for the unveiling of his portrait symbolic of his time in Congress.

And this week in a press release Republican, Alec Skarlatos, running for CD4, announced he has over \$6 hundred sixty thousand dollars, cash on hand, which is double than his opponent Val Hoyle whose cash on hand is only \$3 hundred 18 thousand.

Skarlatos said he was thankful to have the support of so many Oregonians who believe in his vision of finding bipartisan solutions to fight inflation, lower gas prices, and reduce the cost of healthcare.

Aired on 7/19/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Initiative Petition 17, a measure that would ban the sale of high-capacity magazines that are over 10 rounds and require gun buyers to get a permit, formally qualified this week for the November ballot. Willamette Week reports that the Oregon Secretary of State's Office completed verification of the signatures gathered.

The effort was led by the interfaith group Lift Every Voice Oregon. The group filed the initiative with the Oregon Secretary of State in April, then relied on volunteer efforts to gather over the 160 thousand signatures, far surpassing the required number of 112 thousand it needed for the November ballot.

Rev. Mark Knutson of the Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland, the initiative's chief petitioner, said the measure's ballot qualification affirms the hard work done by the widespread base of volunteers.

Aired on 7/20/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Oregon's average gas price has fallen 12 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$5 dollars 26 cents a gallon, according to GasBuddy's survey of 13 hundred and seven stations in Oregon. Prices in Oregon are 26 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but stand a dollar 59 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

The national average price of diesel has declined nearly 11 cents in the last week and stands at \$5 dollars 54 cents per gallon. For gas prices according to GasBuddy, the cheapest station in Oregon was priced at \$4.55 a gallon Sunday while the most expensive was \$5.99 per gallon, which is a difference of \$1.44 a gallon just here in Oregon.

GasBuddy's survey updates 2 hundred 88 times every day, covering nearly 1 hundred 50 thousand stations nationwide.

Aired on 7/20/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

988 is a new number to call for mental health crisis. The Democrat Herald reports its designed to be an easy number to remember, and the 24/7 hotline will connect callers, or texters with crisis counselors and services.

Tanya Thompson, Linn County mental health program manager said 988 makes it simple. Because it's hard to remember certain numbers, certain acronyms for phone numbers, especially when you're in a stressful situation or crisis.

Going live last Saturday the 16th, 988 is distinct from 911 and will offer a more streamlined approach for getting mental health services as opposed to going through public safety dispatch. 988 is available through every landline, cellphone, and voice-over internet device in the country. It routes 988 callers by area code, as opposed to geolocation.

Aired on 7/26/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Oregonians can see and comment on the state's preliminary rate decisions for 2023 individual and small employer health insurance plans. The Division of Financial Regulation (DFR) has released the preliminary rate decisions and virtual public hearing schedule.

The preliminary decisions of rate increases, ranging from 2.3 percent to 12.6 percent, will be discussed during virtual public hearings, this week Wednesday and Thursday, July 27-28. At the hearings, each insurance company will provide a brief presentation about its rate requests, answer questions from the division, and hear public comment from Oregonians.

For virtual hearing schedule and contact information go to [dfr dot Oregon dot gov slash healthrates slash public-hearings](https://dfr.oregon.gov/healthrates/public-hearings).

Aired on 7/26/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

This week a man accused of setting several wildfires in Oregon was apprehended by locals, who then tied him to a tree, according to authorities. Witnesses spotted the suspected arsonist, 30-year-old Trennon Smith, strolling along a gravel road and igniting several fires in the forest about 25 miles northwest of Grants Pass. They recognized him from a posting earlier in the day by authorities providing a physical description of the alleged firebug.

Firefighters were able to quickly contain and extinguish the blazes, which had burned less than an acre, according to the Curry County Sheriff's Office. It was reported that the suspect became very combative with three residents and had to be tied to a tree to subdue him, Curry County Sheriff John Ward said. His injuries were from falling down.

Aired on 7/28/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Oregon Senators Kennemer and Thatcher, along with Representatives Hayden and Moore-Green launched a ballot measure, Initiative Petition 10. They're asking voters to sign the petition, for a constitutional amendment which provides a freeze of the property tax assessment of a primary residence in the tax year in which a senior homeowner reaches age 65. Oregon is one of the most expensive states in the nation for retirement, due to the high cost of housing and that Oregon taxes senior retirement and pension incomes.

Once achieving a ballot title, the measure will need about 1 hundred and 50 thousand valid signatures equaling eight percent of ballots cast in the 2022 gubernatorial election to qualify for 2024. In 2019, 79 percent of Oregonians said yes, they'd support it.

Aired on 8/2/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has fined the Port of Morrow \$2.1 million for repeatedly overapplying wastewater containing nitrogen to agricultural fields and failing to monitor those fields. The Statesman Journal reports, that DEQ

increased its original \$1.3 million fine, issued in January, after finding additional wastewater violations. DEQ found the port, located in Boardman, violated its permit 2 thousand 1 hundred 55 times.

According to the Statesman, this is the second-largest fine in DEQ history

Last month, Morrow County declared a state of emergency after testing showed private wells had high nitrate concentrations. The county is distributing bottled water to residents.

The port has appealed the penalty.

Aired on 8/2/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Disappointed by a lack of support from council members for hiring retirees, Corvallis City Manager Mark Shepard warned that staff has a breaking point. The city is short-staffed and looking for solutions. One of the solutions offered to council was return to work. It allows retired employees to continue to rejoin the public sector without compromising their pensions.

The Democrat Herald reported that Shepard told council that at some time, they will not be able to respond, to deliver basic services. Citing a community survey ranking safety as the top concern, Shepard had recommended return to work as council's Top 5 priorities, according to a city document. And with a tight labor market the city currently has 56 vacancies.

But there was no motion from the council regarding return to work.

Aired on 8/4/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Voters in unincorporated Linn County communities will see a measure on the General Election ballot Nov. 8 that proposes an all-out ban on the use and manufacture of therapeutic mushrooms. Democrat Herald reported that voters made Oregon the first to legalize psilocybin voting yes to its use in 2020 under state Ballot Measure 109. A pair of Portland-area therapists had argued the psychedelic compound produced in certain mushroom species can treat the effects of anxiety, depression, and trauma.

Counties and unincorporated cities can opt out with a vote in the Nov. 8 General Election. Linn County Commissioners Nyquist, Sprenger and Tucker approved the language for a permanent ban during the Tuesday's, Aug. 2 meeting. Sprenger noted it sometimes felt like local voices were not heard on a state or national level.

Aired on 8/4/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Oregon voters will decide on Measure 114, Nov. 8, requiring anyone buying a gun to apply for a permit first. KPTV reports that anyone applying for the permit has to: pay a fee; Submit a photo ID; Be fingerprinted; Complete an approved safety training; Pass a criminal background check; and Not be prohibited from possessing firearms.

Law enforcement would be able to deny a permit to anyone likely to be a danger to themselves or others. A denial would be appealable. This law would also prohibit the manufacture, or possession of ammunition magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds. Current Oregon law requires a background check before sale or transfer of a firearm, which would remain in place if Measure 114 fails.

Aired on 8/4/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Dentists and doctors are expanding their mobile services to underserved areas in the Willamette Valley.

OPB reports that two medical agencies — Kaiser Permanente Northwest and Medical Teams International — are partnering to provide mobile clinics in six Oregon counties and parts of Southwest Washington. Most of the medical and dental professionals at these clinics are volunteers.

They initially will offer 51 mobile clinics in Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Lane Counties, and Cowlitz and Clark counties in Washington. Those services may expand as the program gets underway.

The Care & Connect clinics will offer emergency dental services, including restorations and extractions, as well as referrals for other low-cost specialty services. Patients can also access medical screenings.

Aired on 8/9/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

NW Natural wants to produce hydrogen in Eugene and then blend it with existing natural gas in its pipelines, which the utility believes would modestly shrink emissions and offer insights into the viability of larger-scale hydrogen blending.

The Register Guard reported that NW Natural made preliminary regulatory filings for the hydrogen project with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon in July. The utility plans to file an application for approval of its Eugene hydrogen project with regulators this month.

About 2,300 residential, 160 commercial, and six industrial customers in west Eugene would get blended natural gas once the project is operational by early 2024, according

to NW Natural Business Development Segment Manager Chris Kroeker. This comes as Eugene explores electrification options, which may include a ban on new natural gas hookups.

Aired on 8/9/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

In a press release, the Republican candidate for governor in Oregon, Christine Drazan, has called for declaring a state of emergency on homelessness. The proposal topped her campaign's roadmap released this week.

Drazan is among three gubernatorial candidates. She is running against the Democrat Tina Kotek, and unaffiliated Betsy Johnson.

The number of people experiencing homelessness has soared in parts of Oregon by as much as 70% since 2020, fueled by a housing crisis and the covid pandemic. Drazan hopes her proposal will set her apart in a three-way race, aiming to become Oregon's first Republican governor in 35 years.

But in order to be effective when tackling homelessness, the candidate must look at Oregon's drug problems, with available funding but no actions are taking place to curb the problem.

Aired on 8/11/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Albany's July, Planning Commission signed off on a request to add 30 beds for the Helping Hands homeless shelter. The Democrat Herald reported that city planning rules say more beds, more parking spaces.

A proposal to vacate 150 square feet of Jefferson street for shelter parking was discussed at last week's city council. Resident Tina Vanderberg said, she's concerned about safety.

Councilor Matilda Novak said had she known in March the things she knows now, she would have voted otherwise. Novak told about her recent visit to the street, while trying to help an unhoused woman, she was told that the woman was turned away from the shelter because she had a positive drug test. With a second reading not passing City Council, will continue discussions at Wednesday's, Aug. 24th meeting.

Aired on 8/15/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Oregonians on Medicaid coverage who give birth and their children are now eligible for 12 months of medically necessary physical, dental, vision, and behavioral care through the state's health care plan.

The Statesman Journal reports that women who qualify for coverage through the Oregon Health Plan because of their pregnancy status had previously been limited to 60 days postpartum. The change took retroactive effect in April after the OHA received federal approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to extend benefits for 12 months after giving birth.

Just over 40 percent of births in the U.S. are under Medicaid. It's at least that high in Oregon, Patrick Allen, OHA Director said. There's no need to enroll since the Oregon Health Plan will automatically receive the extended coverage.

Aired on 8/17/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

In a press release, Linn County commissioners accepted a \$2 hundred 26 thousand dollar grant from the Oregon Health Authority. It provides local counseling programs for persons with mental illness who have been charged with a crime. Todd Noble said the funds reflect OHA's efforts, moving such programs to local jurisdictions.

The funds are part of a \$1.3 billion dollar package approved by Oregon's 2021 Legislature to provide treatment, housing, and other support for people who are not competent to face criminal proceedings. Nyquist said former Public Health Director Frank Moore predicted counties would see greater demands for services 15 years ago as the state began hospital closures. And Tucker said the state moving some drug use to misdemeanors, leaves counties with increased crime and mental health issues.

Aired on 8/18/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Lebanon's planning board will recommend or deny an annexation in September of land under Grandpa's Grocery, where the city wants to install a traffic signal at Stoltz Hill and Airport roads.

The Democrat Herald reports the property's owner, a mid-Willamette Valley-based commercial developer, wants to raze a house and bodega to make room for a new store and fuel station.

Grandpa's Grocery and the property opposite the store, on the east side of Stoltz Hill Road, are in Linn County. The city had sought pieces of both properties for ADA-compliant sidewalk cuts, part of a planned improvement to the intersection that also includes turn lanes and traffic lights. A commissioner said Linn County will pursue an eminent domain case to take .004 acres of the residential property of the intersection's southeast corner.

Aired on 8/22/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

People using natural gas in Oregon could see their rates increase by double digits—between 16 and 36 percent—if three private companies distributing their fuel receive approval from the Public Utility Commission, according to the Portland Business Journal. The investor-owned companies, citing higher wholesale prices for natural gas, want the residential and commercial rate increases to take effect by Nov. 1st.

NW Natural, which serves the majority of Oregon natural gas customers, increased rates last year by nearly 10 percent a year ago. The increase would also affect customers served by Cascade Natural Gas and Avista.

If the new increase is approved, NW Natural customers—with 80 percent of those living in Oregon—would see rates increase 42 percent since October 2021, according to Citizens' Utility Board, representing ratepayers.

Aired on 8/23/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Three key staff members at Albany's homeless shelter submitted their resignations this week. The Democrat Herald reported that the move comes in the middle of a controversial shelter expansion, however, those plans were not cited as motivation for the resignations, according to a statement from one of the staff that is leaving Albany Helping Hands, Executive Director Emma Deane.

Leaving with Deane are Program Manager Allison Bumgarner and Leigh Matthews Bock, who does marketing, human resources support, and serves as the grant manger. They all submitted their resignations on Monday, Aug. 22 to the Albany Helping Hands Board of Directors with two weeks' notices and with no secured positions elsewhere.

In a statement it read that each of them came to the decision to leave individually. But no reason was given.

Aired on 8/25/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Lebanon's Walmart store was evacuated Tuesday morning, after someone reportedly threatened to set off a bomb. Lebanon Fire District officials asked people to avoid the area while emergency personnel responded to suspicious activity, according to an 11:18 a.m. posting on their Facebook page.

Police and city employees blocked entrances to a parking lot at the store while officers searched Walmart. But Lebanon police Chief Frank Stevenson said he did not believe the bomb threat was credible.

The Democrat Herald reported that outside the store amid the search, Stevenson said someone called Walmart store and reportedly threatened to detonate a bomb. In a 12:48 p.m. Facebook update, the Lebanon Fire District said police had cleared the scene and that Walmart would soon resume operations.

Aired on 8/25/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office is investigating a vehicle-versus-bicyclist crash that killed an Albany woman. Deputies and medics from Albany Fire Department, responded to reports around 8:13 a.m., of the crash at Riverside Drive west of Albany on Tuesday, according to a news release from the Linn County Sheriff's Office.

Someone driving a blue 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche pickup hit a bicyclist, later identified as Kelli Lyn Kennedy, 52, the news release said. Kennedy was pronounced dead at the scene.

The investigation is ongoing, and the driver — who has not been identified at this time — is cooperating with detectives on the case. Impairment does not appear to be a factor in the crash, according to the news release.

Anyone with information can contact, Detective Matt Wilcox, of Linn County Sheriff's office.

Aired on 8/26/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The program of CASA-Voices for Children is combining with CASA of Lincoln County and will now serve both Benton and Lincoln. CASA supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy for children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect. Its mission is to ensure the best outcome and future for each abused and neglected child by training volunteers to provide advocacy and life skills and expanding services to help children thrive.

Across the two counties, approximately 300 children are placed in foster care each year. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for these children, ensuring they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system.

CASA-Voices for Children is seeking additional volunteers in both counties. Visit [casa dash vfc dot org](http://casa-dash.vfc.org).

Aired on 8/29/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

OregonLive reports that more than 70 people in Oregon jails who need mental health treatment were waiting for Oregon State Hospital beds. As the state's biggest disability advocacy group and public defenders called for a federal court to place strict limits on admissions, to free hospital beds faster and keep people accused of crimes but in need of help from languishing in jail.

Judge Mosman's ruling seeks to ease the psychiatric hospital's overcrowding, speed up patient admission and shortens wait time in jail. Effective immediately, the hospital must release aid-and-assist patients, who can't aid their own defense, accused of misdemeanors within 90 days, and accused of felonies within six months of admission.

The judge's decision overrules an Oregon law that says the hospital can hold patients for up to three years.

Aired on 8/29/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

In 2019, Oregon lawmakers created the Oregon Task Force on Universal Health Care, SB 770 to draft a plan for free health care for Oregonians. State government would replace all private insurers and abolish all company policies. Universal health care promises free health care, at no cost, to anyone — including non-citizens, homeless, and people moving into the state. To pay for the quote free care the task force proposes a new Oregon income tax as high as 15 percent.

Back in June, The Lund Report, criticized the task force for working quietly with scant attention for such an economic overhaul and tax increase. The Bulletin criticized the task force for hiding the tax. And very few Oregonians know that they've been meeting all summer.

Aired on 9/1/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Covered bridge and bike tours, and a cornhole tournament are just a few of the itinerary for the second annual Bridges, Bikes and Brews Festival, set for Saturday, Sept. 10, in downtown Scio, which is held at the Linn County Lamb and Wool Fairgrounds.

The Democrat Herald reports, Greg Schneider, event organizer and Scio Fairgrounds and Event Center chair, said he anticipates community members will flock to this year's event, attracted by the variety of activities, along with Bo Peep Lamb Burgers, and Scio's FFA Alumni BBQ Crew.

At the fairgrounds, there will be plenty of activities such as, at 11 a.m. the beer garden will open, featuring beverages and local brews from the Lebanon Growler Café. And

the Rock 'n' Roll Cowboys perform in the afternoon. Admission is free; donations are encouraged.

Aired on 9/1/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The Rum Creek Fire has grown to nearly 14 thousand acres and the Cedar Creek Fire, located east of Oakridge, has grown to 84 hundred acres as of Wednesday morning. The Statesman Journal reports at least 18 hundred personnel are battling the Rum Creek Fire in southern Oregon, according to their Facebook page. The Cedar Creek Fire is about 12 percent contained and 801 personnel are dealing with the blaze.

An air quality advisory is in effect for the central and south Willamette Valley by the Southwest Clean Air Agency and the DEQ.

The Wild section of the Rogue River below Grave Creek will remain open. No new boating permits will be issued. River status is updated daily on the Rum Creek Fire Facebook page. No Evacuations so far Cedar Creek.

Aired on 9/2/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

In a news release, Linn-Benton Community College will unveil three new sculptures led by the Benton Center Art Committee at Chinook Hall on Wednesday, September 7th at 4:00 pm. The sculptures were created by faculty members Renee McKitterick and Marc Rose.

The pandemic slowed the process. But gave them time to create, said Marc Rose, Welding Department Chair. The project was made possible by a \$2,000 dollar grant from the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and donations from community members. Three Emily Steele sculptures on permanent loan from The Arts Center, will also be on display.

The public unveiling and dedication will feature light refreshments and a tour of the recently opened Chinook Hall. The artists and faculty will be available to answer questions about the works of art.

Aired on 9/5/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

A recall effort against three members of the Salem-Keizer school board has been officially filed citing their votes for prohibiting concealed guns on school grounds and removing school resource officers from the district, according to petitions published by the Marion County Clerk's office last Friday.

The three prospective petitions were filed Aug. 25th by Casity Troutt to recall Chair Ashley Carson Cottingham, former Chair Osvaldo Avila, and Second Vice Chair Karina Guzmán Ortiz.

Cottingham, Avila, and Ortiz were all elected in the 2021 election, joining the seven-member school board that serves Salem-Keizer Public Schools, the second largest school district in Oregon. Troutt also criticized Cottingham and Avila's support of graphic books in district libraries.

Aired on 9/5/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Soldiers and airmen with the Oregon National Guard are lending a helping hand in battling the Rum Creek Fire burning in Southern Oregon. The AP reports that the wildfire, sparked by lightning on August 17th, and has since burned over 19 thousand acres and was 34 percent contained as of Monday afternoon.

A total of 51 Guardsmen are currently deployed on the Rum Creek Fire. Crews were working Monday night to gain more containment on the blaze before Tuesday's Fire Weather Watch.

The troops deployed late last month after the fire took off. Tyler Perry, a spokesman for the National Guard said he and the troops were thrilled to be able to come and support their communities. Perry said they received that call for assistance on August 27th and arrived the following day.

Aired on 9/7/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The Heart of the Valley Homebrewers' 15th annual Septemberfest, is back after a two-year hiatus during the covid shutdowns. Sip beers, ciders, or meads from noon to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at Avery Park, in Corvallis.

Patrick Gorman, Septemberfest festival coordinator, said this fall festival has grown steadily since its inception and has become an expected tradition of the Corvallis beer scene as we endeavor to highlight the best and most interesting beers and ciders produced.

The Democrat Herald reports that more than 70 beers, ciders, and meads from 25 independent craft brewers will be served. Along with live entertainment. Admission is \$25 dollars, which includes a tasting glass and eight beer tickets. Additional drink tokens are four for \$5 dollars.

Aired on 9/8/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

A new store, Better Beef Company, is having its soft opening in South Salem, this Saturday, September 10th. Selling 100 percent Oregon-raised, head-to-toe beef, Better Beef Company is encouraging shoppers to taste the difference between their product and that of big box stores. Owner Elwood Martin raises all the cattle sold in-store, from outside Salem to Central Oregon.

He said raising the cattle himself, he wants to develop a direct market. He feels South Salem is a great place to start, and there's a lot of people who live in the area without access to a lot of good quality meat stores. They have a great local product, and better to buy from then from big corporations.

Better Beef Company, his second store, with his first in Jefferson, Out West Cattle.

Aired on 9/8/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The landmark Hilton hotel in downtown Portland could be auctioned off on the steps of the Multnomah County Courthouse this month.

The owner of the Hilton and the nearby Duniway, also a Hilton hotel, defaulted on its \$2 hundred and 40 million dollar mortgage loan in May of 2021, the lender claims in property records filed with the Multnomah County recorder. The Hilton and Duniway, on the west side on 6th street together have 7 hundred and 82 rooms, making them the largest hotel property in the city.

Several blocks away from the Hilton, the Dossier hotel is in a similar jam. The owner was looking to sell it in public auction last fall but has reached a restructuring agreement.

Aired on 9/9/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

According to the Democrat Herald, decorum broke down last week, among Corvallis City Council members, as they deliberated home energy scores, the fate of which will now be settled by the voters.

At the heart of the matter was whether home energy scores should be a mandatory part of the homebuying process. Councilors have been divided on the issue since June. The council split again, voting 5 to 4 during its meeting last Tuesday, to put home energy scores on the 20 23 primary ballot. Tension reached new heights when Council President Hyatt Lytle stormed out after Mayor Biff Traber took issue with the council's decision.

Traber said he was extremely disappointed addressing the entire council. That it was council's responsibility to make decisions.

Aired on 9/12/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The Salem-Keizer Public Schools board will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Miller Elementary School in Salem. Members of the public will not be allowed to attend in person out of rising safety concerns. The Statesman reports the meeting is online on YouTube or on Capital Community Television channel 21.

On the agenda - the selection of the district's equity advisory committee. The district received 2 hundred 39 applications for the 20 to 25 member committee. According to the school district's webpage, the committee will advise the Superintendent and the Salem-Keizer School Board in matters relating to the equity impacts of policies, education, and student experiences.

In October 2021 the board passed a resolution, committed to routinely interrupt systems of oppression on behalf of the students.

Aired on 9/12/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

In a report commissioned by Douglas Timber Operators, fire historian Dr. Bob Zybach, analyzed historic fire behavior in western Oregon. In his report, "A Growing Sea of Snags," Zybach predicts that the massive amount of dead trees left after forest fires on federal lands will drastically alter both fire behavior and reduce options for fire managers.

Such as one finding states that the presence of snags across the landscape intensifies fire behavior and poses hazards to firefighters, reduces the ability to directly attack fires, and leads to more acres being burned

Without substantial changes in federal forest management, dead wood left after fires poses an increasing threat to firefighters, communities, wildlife, and other natural resources, said Matt Hill, executive director for Douglas Timber Operators.

Aired on 9/13/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The AP reports that the U.S. DHS announced Monday financial support for expansion of mobile mental-health crisis intervention units in Oregon, the first state to receive the aid. Which begs the question are Oregon's, 2022 midterms making Gov Kate and Pelosi nervous?

The new Medicaid-supported plan will allow Oregon to provide and expand community-based stabilization services to individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use crises throughout the state by connecting them to a behavioral health specialist, the federal health department said in a statement. As rampant drug use and mental health problems explodes in Oregon.

Aired on 9/14/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Beginning next year, workers and many companies will begin paying into a Paid Family Medical Leave fund, and workers who need time off with pay can begin applying for benefits under Paid Leave Oregon in September 2023.

Oregon lawmakers in 2019 passed the Paid Family Medical Leave Act, which lets workers apply for prorated paid time off to care for a newborn, recover from a health ailment, or deal with repercussions from domestic violence, sexual assault, or harassment, which is called safe leave, according to the Portland Business Journal. The law makes Oregon the nation's 11th state to provide paid family, medical, and safe leave.

Workers will pay 1 percent of their wages, providing 60 percent of the money in the fund, while employers will kick in 40 percent.

Aired on 9/15/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

With excruciating wait times and overcrowded conditions, The Oregon State Hospital has been cited for three workplace safety violations by OSHA.

OPB reports that officials have not released details of the violations. But OHA, which oversees the hospital, said in a press release that it has to do with the way the hospital has responded to workplace violence and injuries. Staff members at the state-run psychiatric facility have been repeatedly assaulted by patients.

OHA director Patrick Allen said in a statement that any violence towards employees is unacceptable, and that the agency is working hard to reduce rates of workplace violence.

Allen said staff and patients have had to cope with staffing shortages and COVID-related restrictions.

Aired on 9/15/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

In a Linn County press release The Linn County Law Library's Eviction Prevention Program has provided valuable information to about 75 people on the verge of eviction, Law Librarian Amber Boedigheimer told Linn County Commissioners.

Boedigheimer said that from August 2021 to 2022, more than 558 eviction cases occurred in circuit courts in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. Of these cases, 4 hundred and 10 were closed with 1 hundred 50 cases remain open.

She said the grant has been extended until December, allowing her time for further outreach. Boedigheimer emphasized that the program does not provide money to families facing eviction but can provide them with information about where they can possibly get assistance. The program also provides information to landlords, she said.

Aired on 9/16/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The first phase of the new computer system for the Oregon Employment Department has gotten off to a relatively smooth start. According to Pamplin Media acting Director David Gerstenfeld said that just under 1,000 employers set up accounts for payroll reports on the first day the system went live on Sept. 6th. He said that the total was up to 17 hundred and 50 when speaking with reporters on a video conference call Sept. 14th.

About 4 hundred 13 million pieces of data were transferred from the current mainframe system, which dates back to 1993. The new system will be paid for from \$90 million dollars that the U.S. Department of Labor granted to the state agency back in 2009.

Next phase, actual benefits being paid, starts in September 2023.

Aired on 9/19/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The Oregon Board of Education, this week voted unanimously to deny a petition that attempted to change a new law that provides tampons and sanitary pads for free in every student bathroom in public schools. Gov. Kate signed the Menstrual Dignity Act in 2021 and the state board adopted it in March 2022.

KOIN reported that June 2022, the director of the Eagle Point School Board, petitioned the new law, saying it was unnecessary and was a mismanagement of public finances. She said, males do not menstruate and should not be included in the definition for student bathroom inclusion and asked them to remove the requirement.

The Department of Ed received a 150 comments with the majority supporting the petition.

Aired on 9/19/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

For the second consecutive day, Central Oregon Daily reports, gas prices in Oregon have spiked more than 10 cents. The average price for regular unleaded is back above \$5 dollars per gallon in Bend. Triple AAA reports the average price of gas statewide is \$4 dollars 91 cents. That's up 11 cents since Friday and 22 cents since Thursday.

In Bend, it's also up more than 11 cents Saturday after going up 13 cents Friday. The average is now \$5 dollars 2 cents a gallon.

Triple AAA reported the West Coast has a perennially tight supply and that some refinery issues in California were a big reason for the spike. They also warned of a bumpy next 2 to 3 weeks.

Oregon diesel prices stayed steady at \$5 dollars 46 cents.

Aired on 9/26/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

In a press release, this summer, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) announced Greater Albany Public Schools or GAPS was one of 28 recipients of the Latino and Indigenous - Student Success Grant. In total, the district was awarded a little over \$2 hundred and four thousand dollars.

GAPS was the only school district to receive the grant in ODE's region 2, of nine counties that includes Benton, Marion, and Polk. Javier Cervantes, GAPS Executive Director of EDI said twenty-three percent of GAPS students identify as Latino. And he believes that the grant recognizes the rapid growth of the Latino population in their student body.

GAPS Superintendent Andy Gardner said he's excited about this grant and its support. Enabling them to create stronger student connections and greater success in their schools.

Aired on 9/27/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Oregon's Department of Forestry, OPB reports, will spend an extra year talking with the public about its controversial plan to create a wildfire risk map. The agency was overwhelmed by public outcry in June after releasing their wildfire risk levels map for every property in Oregon, receiving thousands of public comments and 16 hundred appeals from property owners. Property owners complained that the map could reduce property value and increase insurance costs.

The forestry department is now planning to spend the next five months talking with the public before releasing a new draft wildfire risk map in March. After that, officials will

spend another seven months gathering feedback about the protection plans that would add requirements for property owners.

Final risk map plan release, October 2023.

Aired on 9/28/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

After going dormant for two years because of covid restrictions, the organizers behind the Corvallis Community Christmas Parade are officially calling it quits. Sponsored by the Corvallis Lions Club since 1994, the Democrat Herald reports, the Christmas Parade reportedly drew a few thousand spectators on Black Friday, stimulating the local economy and holiday joy. The now-defunct Downtown Corvallis Association founded the parade in 1985.

Like other traditions, the long-standing kickoff to the Christmas season suffered from consecutive shutdowns in 2020 and 2021 because of covid concerns. With organizers occupied and volunteers drifting away, the Lions Club announced this week the parade was shutting down — though it could be revived by the right group.

Being a Christmas parade the club would consider passing it to a church or private organization.

Aired on 9/29/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

Oregon hit national news, again, when Newsweek reported this week that Oregon decriminalized all drugs by passing Measure 110 with the support of nearly 60 percent of voters in 2020. They asked how's it been going after almost two years? Funded by groups, including Zuckerberg's, who downplay the harms of substance use and aim to legalize all drugs, Measure 110 has been working exactly as intended. Hardly at all.

Proponents who said it would help with drug treatment see that less than 1 percent of Oregon residents who accessed drug-related services since 110 was passed, have entered treatment. In fact, Oregon's Measure 110, 21 member Oversight and Accountability Council that approves treatment program funding requests, has officials who say treatment deprives drug users of their autonomy.

Aired on 9/30/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.

The Oregon League of Cities that lobbies for Oregon cities, asked all city councils to select their top legislative priorities for next year. The Democrat Harold reports that small towns have felt unheard by the League, and at Brownsville City Council's, Tuesday meeting joined forces with Harrisburg and Halsey to be heard. As, Millersburg, Scio, and Philomath feel the same.

They say the League's legislative goals don't focus on towns with populations 5 thousand and under. They say what's relevant to them is the ability to repair and replace critical infrastructure; finding more resources, opportunities and support for rural entrepreneurs and small businesses; and provide citizens better quality services.

The league said they're committed to ensure their concerns are properly met. But Brownsville Councilor, Lynda Chambers is not impressed, at all.

Aired on 9/30/22 on various newscasts throughout the day 60 seconds.