



FREEDOM AND FUN

JUNETEENTH EVENTS: COMMUNITIES WILL MARK THE HOLIDAY WITH PARADES, PERFORMANCES, CULTURAL EVENTS AND GATHERINGS ACROSS OREGON. **D1**
HOLIDAY: WHAT'S OPEN AND CLOSED? A4

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Ocean-monitoring buoys off coast will stay after bipartisan backlash

The Trump administration's decision comes after objections from Oregon lawmakers from both parties and opposition in the U.S. Senate.

Griffin Uribe Brown
The Oregonian/OregonLive

The National Science Foundation is reversing a decision to shut down buoys and other maritime science equipment used to monitor weather and climate conditions along the Pacific Northwest coast and elsewhere.

Established in 2016, the Ocean Observatories Initiative maintains ocean monitoring instruments on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts to collect open-access data used for weather forecasts, and wave tracking and other research. The program's 900 ocean sensors, built for \$386 million, also detect marine heatwaves and El Niño-related anomalies.

Last month, the Ocean Observatories Initiative announced it was "descoping," a plan that involves removing in-water infrastructure by 2027. The National Science Foundation said the Coastal Endurance Array, previously deployed in the Northeast Pacific Ocean off the Oregon and Washington coasts, has already been removed from the water, but the agency is developing plans to redeploy it.

The government's reversal came the day after Sen. Jeff Merkley led a successful push in the U.S. Senate with Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, to advance their "Save Our Sensors" initiative. The bill, which would prohibit the National Science Foundation from using federal funds to decommission the maritime network, passed by unanimous consent.

"Dismantling the OOI was supreme stupidity, and we'll keep fighting to ensure scientists, fishermen, and coastal communities can continue to utilize the critical data the OOI provides," Merkley said in a statement. **SEE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, A2**



The National Science Foundation is reversing a decision to shut down maritime science equipment used to monitor weather and climate conditions. Established in 2016, the Ocean Observatories Initiative maintains instruments on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts to collect open-access data used for forecasts and research. *Darlene Trew Crist*

MENTAL HEALTH

State Hospital leaders struggle to explain failures but tout reforms

Oregon Health Authority's director described decisions by previous hospital leaders as "confusing to all of us."

Carlos Fuentes
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Leaders of the troubled Oregon State Hospital told state lawmakers on Wednesday that they can't fully explain why major, prolonged issues at the institution under its former leaders went overlooked or ignored for years.

Psychiatric hospital leaders appeared before lawmakers two weeks after the publication of an investigation by The Oregonian/OregonLive that documented the routine manner in which medical experts had confined many of their patients to locked rooms with alarming regularity.

The newsroom found that from 2023 through early 2025, there was a sharp increase in the hospital's use of seclusion. A 25-year-old man died last spring after spending seven months locked up alone, and hundreds of other patients were also subjected to lengthy seclusions. Federal policies describe 24 hours of seclusion as "an extreme measure with the potential for serious harm to the patient."

Sen. Sara Gelsler Blouin asked Oregon Health Authority director Sejal Hathi and hospital leaders how doctors and top hospital officials could have signed off on extended seclusions for patients, given that a doctor must issue new seclusion orders every four hours and any seclusion lasting longer than a day must undergo review by a senior hospital leader.

"How could that not be known to the medical director, the (Oregon Health Authority) director, the superintendent, the state hospital, since these are so far beyond what is medically appropriate or allowed under federal law?" Gelsler Blouin, a Corvallis Democrat, asked. **SEE MENTAL HEALTH, A2**

HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

Back in the black, OHSU workers say they're paying the price

Employees warn burnout and overcrowding are straining patient care as hospital leaders celebrate the turnaround.

Kristine de Leon
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Facing growing criticism over overcrowding in its neonatal intensive care unit, Oregon Health & Science University leaders have pledged to replace the aging facility but said they cannot afford to build it yet.

During Wednesday's board meeting,

OHSU President Dr. Shereef Elnahal called a new 60-bed NICU and expansion of Doernbecher Children's Hospital the university's top construction priority. But, he said, the project cannot move forward until OHSU strengthens its finances.

That tradeoff defined the meeting. OHSU leaders touted a dramatic financial turnaround driven by growth in specialty care, higher volumes of medically complex patients and aggressive cost controls before approving a budget that continues investing in that strategy. Union and faculty leaders painted a far different picture, saying overcrowded hospital units, staffing shortages and mounting workloads are leaving front-line workers stretched to their limits.

OHSU, which had lost \$89 million at this

time last year, has now swung to an \$89 million operating profit through the 10 months of the fiscal year. Leaders expect to finish the year about \$55 million in the black on nearly \$7 billion in revenue.

Even so, Elnahal said OHSU was not out of the woods. He said the expiration of enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies, looming Medicaid work requirements and other federal policy changes could leave more Oregonians uninsured, increasing the amount of uncompensated care hospitals would have to absorb.

Building a new neonatal intensive unit, he said, will require stronger finances to secure state funding, court big donors and borrow money for major construction projects. **SEE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY, A3**

SPORTS

Rivalry rekindled

Overcoming a double-digit deficit, the Portland Fire staged a thrilling comeback to defeat the rival Seattle Storm on Wednesday in the first game between the teams in decades. **C1**

LIFE

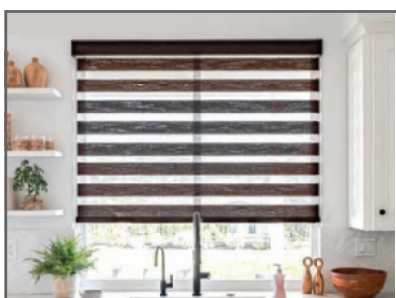
Dining for sunny days

With Sunday marking the official start of summer, it's time for our annual look at Portland's best restaurant and bar patios and other al fresco options. **D1**

Advice, B8 Classifieds, C7 Comics, B5 Life, D1 Obituaries, A8 Opinion, B4 Puzzles, B7 Sports, C1 Weather, C8
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