

No survivors found in crash between military helicopter and jet over Potomac River near DC

Oregon Capital Chronicle

An American Airlines regional jet carrying 64 people collided with a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter late Wednesday near Reagan National Airport in Virginia just across from the District of Columbia, plunging both aircraft into the Potomac River.

"Unfortunately we were not able to rescue anyone," Jack Potter, head of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, said during a Thursday morning press conference.

American Eagle flight 5342 had originated in Wichita, Kansas. Those aboard included U.S. figure skaters traveling from Kansas as well as from Russia, according to the U.S. Figure Skating association and the [Kremlin](#).

[American Airlines confirmed](#) there were 60 passengers on board and four flight crew and that the flight was landing at DCA, the National Airport call letters. The crash occurred around 9 p.m. Eastern Wednesday, [according to the Federal Aviation Administration](#).

John Donnelly, D.C. fire chief, said about 300 emergency responders were searching the Potomac. Donnelly noted in a Thursday morning press conference at the airport that they were pivoting from rescue operations to recovery.

He said 27 bodies had been recovered from the plane and one from the helicopter.

President Donald Trump [said](#) at a Thursday morning press briefing from the White House, "We do not know what led to this crash, but we have some very strong opinions."

Minutes later he added, "This has been a terrible very short period of time. We'll get to the bottom of it."

Oregon News

POLITICS

Peter Courtney, longest serving legislator, memorialized by colleagues, friends at Oregon Capitol

Oregon Live

Oregon bade farewell to the state's longest-serving legislator in the Senate chamber that [the late Peter Michael Coleman Courtney](#) presided over for 20 years and loved more than anything but his family. About 200 dignitaries, former colleagues, friends and family who crowded into the Senate chamber on Wednesday cried a little and laughed a lot as a host of speakers described the compassionate, cantankerous man who dedicated his life to serving his adopted state. Many wore vintage campaign buttons from Courtney's first legislative run in 1980, with the words "here to serve" and "nobody works harder" around a sketch of a floppy-eared rabbit.

New Oregon bill would repeal law blocking benefits to workers on strike

KDVR

A new state bill (HB 3434) would ensure employees involved in an active labor dispute keep their unemployment insurance benefits.

Senate Bill 748 sparks debate over drug testing for unemployment benefits

KATU

On Tuesday, the Oregon Senate Committee on Labor and Business heard public testimony regarding the controversial Senate Bill 748. The bill would permit the Employment Department to test individuals filing for unemployment benefits who were terminated for drug use or whose available work regularly requires drug testing, such as truck drivers or pilots.

Sen. David Brock Smith highlighted the ongoing issues between employers and employees concerning drug use. Brock Smith says these issues are well-known and are not being dealt with.

"This is a way that looks to address it, but not aggressively," said Brock Smith.

Sen. Cedric Hayden questioned whether the department's drug tests could be a prescreening tool to expedite job placements. Leahy clarified that the results are confidential.

"So under the way that the bill is written, it wouldn't be utilized that way. Unemployment insurance has strict confidentiality laws, so we wouldn't be able to just provide the information that is associated with a claim to any employer as a potential vehicle for hiring," said Leahy.

Brock Smith suggested that the legislation allows employees to become drug-free, undergo drug screening within the department, and subsequently regain employment. However, opponents of the bill, such as Tan Perkins from the Oregon AFL-CIO, argue that the policy could be detrimental.

[Portland reaches contract agreement with its largest labor union, cooling off strike threat](#)

OPB

The looming threat of more than 1,000 city of Portland workers going on strike lessened early Thursday morning when their union reached an agreement with city management.

The announcement came a day after nearly 90% of city AFSCME members [voted to authorize a strike](#), giving union leaders the ability to call a strike at any time.

The deal isn't final. An AFSCME representative told OPB that the union will need its members to vote on the agreement before it's official.

AFSCME is the city's largest public union, representing more than 1,000 workers across nearly every city department. It's been in contract negotiations with the city since April, yet talks broke down last month over the union's requests for higher wages.

The city, which is facing a \$100 million budget deficit, argued it had little money to put toward raises.

AFSCME said it simply wants its lower-paid workers to earn a living wage, which the union characterized as just over \$27 hourly. According to the city's current compensation plan, under a dozen AFSCME Local 189 members collect earnings below that rate.

[Lawmakers think this should be Oregon's 'official state steak'](#)

Oregon Live

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 13](#), sponsored by **Senator Todd Nash**, a Republican from Enterprise and Representative Bobby Levy, a Republican from Echo, "Designates the T-bone as the official state steak."

"I was down here when they unveiled the baked vegetable," said Nash on a call from the capital on Wednesday, "and, you know, one thought crossed my mind: This potato needs a steak."

So Nash, who is himself a cattle rancher, put forth the resolution earlier this month.

Actually, he said, his first idea was to name the ribeye the state steak. But, it turns out the ribeye is the state steak of Oklahoma, the only state that currently appears to have a state steak.

"We didn't want to be copycats," he said.

For Homer and Nash, the T-bone isn't just dinner or a [product from one of Oregon's major agricultural exports](#), it's a metaphor.

"It represents the state of Oregon to us," Homer said. "There are two parts to it. Both are beautiful."

"In the end, when you're done with dinner and you have that bone laying on your plate there, it isn't like a chicken," Nash added. "It isn't like a wishbone where you pull it apart and there's a winner and a loser. Both sides are winners in this case."

[In Oregon, Trump's Base Would Suffer Most From Medicaid Cuts](#)

Willamette Week

On [Jan. 28](#), officials in Oregon and across the country reacted with alarm after being shut out of the reimbursement system for Medicaid, the federal and state health care program for low-income Americans. (The federal government contributes about 70%; states pay the other 30%.)

Meanwhile, the Trump administration said [Jan. 29](#) it would rescind its order freezing federal payments.

But the matter is far from settled. Trump and congressional Republicans have been clear about their interest in cutting federal spending. Health and human services constitute [the largest share of the budget](#), so Medicaid programs are vulnerable.

Oregon established itself long ago as one of the states most aggressive in seeking Medicaid benefits for its residents. Today, [state figures show](#) 33.5% of Oregonians are on the Oregon Health Plan, the state's Medicaid program.

But within the state, the numbers vary widely by county, from a high of 51.1% in Malheur County to a low of 22.2% in Benton County.

One reason Trump might be cautious about cutting too heavily into Medicaid: In Oregon, at least, rates of Medicaid enrollment are highest in Trump strongholds.

Here are the counties with the 10 highest rates of Medicaid enrollment, along with the share of votes that went for Trump in November (Kamala Harris defeated him 55% to 41% in Oregon). Just two of the top 10 Medicaid counties voted for Harris, so it's not just Democrats like Wyden, Kotek and Rayfield who have an interest in the issue.

[What Trump's federal funding freeze means for Oregon: Officials warn of far-reaching impact](#)

Oregon Live

The White House moved Monday night to pause federal grants and loans as [President Donald Trump's](#) administration begins an across-the-board ideological review of its spending, causing confusion and panic among organizations that rely on Washington for their financial lifeline.

Administration officials said the decision was necessary to ensure that all funding complies with Trump's executive orders, which are intended to undo progressive steps on transgender rights, environmental justice and diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, efforts. In a second directive, the Office of Management and Budget clarified that the action was meant only to bring spending in line with those executive orders.

It also said that federal assistance to individuals would not be affected, including Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, student loans and financial aid, and scholarships.

However, the order created confusion and concern across Oregon and the nation. The funding freeze could affect trillions of dollars, at least temporarily, and cause widespread disruption in health care research, education programs and other initiatives. Even grants that have been awarded but not spent were supposed to be halted under the order.

[Ahead of Trump, lawyers raced to protect Oregon families from 'threat of imminent deportation'](#)

Oregon Live

In the weeks before President Donald Trump's return to the White House, a small group of lawyers in Oregon worked swiftly to try to protect as many people as possible from the threat of deportation before policy changes took effect under the new administration.

Immigration attorneys with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's legal services program, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees, or SOAR, raced to file as many motions as possible to terminate immigration cases or seek prosecutorial discretion requests in Portland Immigration Court.

[Urban League of Portland taps former Multnomah County DA Mike Schmidt as general counsel](#)

Oregon Live

Mike Schmidt, the former Multnomah County district attorney who [lost his reelection bid](#) last year to an office insider, started this week as general counsel of the Urban League of Portland, one of Oregon's largest and oldest civil rights organizations.

Schmidt confirmed the move Thursday. He began the job Monday.

[Should special interests get to offer Oregon officials luxury gifts? Lawmakers consider](#)

Oregon Live

Oregon lawmakers are considering whether to scrub a prohibition on lobbyists and special interests offering gifts worth more than \$50 to public officials after the state ethics commission called for the change.

Legislators passed the ban on offering expensive gifts in 2007, after The Oregonian/OregonLive [reported](#) that beer and wine distributors paid for lawmakers' trips to Hawaii in [2002](#) and 2004 — trips the lawmakers failed to disclose as required. The same law includes a ban on public officials, political candidates and their family and household members accepting more than \$50 in gifts annually from anyone with an interest in influencing government laws and administration. Now, Oregon Government Ethics Commission executive director Susan V. Myers says state law needs to be updated to remove the prohibition on offering expensive gifts to public officials, candidates and family and household members. The reason she cited: a 2009 Oregon Supreme Court ruling that found the ban violated free speech protections in the state Constitution. Lawmakers this year introduced [House Bill 2928](#) to heed her request.

[New bill proposed to allow mugshots to become more widely available](#)

KEZI

A local Eugene man is proposing a new bill that would allow wiggle room surrounding the limited release of mugshots to the public. The proposed bill is essentially a copy of current the Oregon law in place, which was introduced years ago as House Bill 3273.

When HB 3273 was passed in Oregon back in 2021, the law made it harder for new mugshots of suspected criminals to be released to the public.

Under the current law, it is prohibited for law enforcement agencies to release booking photos except in specified circumstances and it requires "publish-for-pay" publications to remove and destroy booking photos upon request within a specified time period.

"Right now is people need to get a hold of and I have to look this up Senator Floyd Prozanski or Kim Thatcher and let them know that you would like this to be put into a work session so that it can be discussed," Weber said. "I am going to be working to try to get more public officials to voice their opinions or to voice their support about this bill." Weber said Senator Todd Nash is sponsoring the proposed bill.

[OR retirement: Treasurer Steiner backs bill for climate-friendly retirement fund](#)

KOIN

Oregon State Treasurer Elizabeth Steiner is calling on the Oregon legislature to pass a bill that directs the treasury to make "climate positive" investments in the Oregon public employee retirement fund.

[House Bill 2200](#) directs the Oregon Investment Council and State Treasurer to take actions to reduce carbon intensity of state investments and to address investment risks related to climate change. The bill was introduced at the request of former State Treasurer Tobias Read.

On Tuesday, [Treasurer Steiner testified](#) before the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans in support of the bill, saying it would allow her department to make investments that reduce the risks of losses in the OPERF due to investments in carbon emitting businesses.

EDUCATION

[Three Projects Meant to Benefit PPS's Black Community Have Stalled](#)

Willamette Week

Portland Public Schools has a long history of underserving its Black students, who face an achievement gap, higher rates of chronic absenteeism, and lower graduation rates.

Since then, PPS has pledged to aid its Black students through three capital projects. The Center for Black Student Excellence and the Jefferson High School modernization both appeared as line items on the 2020 schools bond, while an effort to relocate Harriet Tubman Middle School received a boost from the state in 2022.

But none of the three projects has broken ground. As the district loses track of time, it's also losing money to inflation. Now, as PPS prepares to present voters with a \$1.83 billion bond package in May—one meant to fund the remainder of the Jefferson modernization and two similar projects at Cleveland and Ida B. Wells high schools—WW is examining what's happened to these three projects.

National assessment shows Oregon students falling behind in key subjects

Oregon Capital Chronicle

Data shows student scores didn't slide much in reading or math from the last assessment in 2022, but students weren't doing well then, either. Among Oregon fourth graders who took the assessment last year, nearly half scored "below basic" in reading. This was worse than the national average, which shows about 40% of U.S. fourth graders are not meeting that benchmark in reading. This means these students struggle to read and understand simple words.

When it comes to math, about one-third of Oregon fourth graders tested below basic in the national assessment, meaning they might struggle to add and subtract multi-digit numbers or understand the values and number placement in multi-digit figures up to hundred thousands. About 45% of eighth graders failed to meet the benchmark, meaning they might struggle to solve equations with integers and fractions, and might have trouble using math to determine units of measurement such as length, area and volume.

Absenteeism [remains a problem](#) in Oregon. Statewide, nearly 40% of Oregon students were chronically absent during the 2022-23 school year, marking a 20 percentage point drop from 2018-19. That means they missed at least 16 days in a 160-day period.

Nation's Report Card: Oregon, Washington test scores mostly down

OPB

The biggest drop was in fourth grade reading, which fell three points below 2022 levels. Oregon's fourth grade reading scores were seven points below the national average, continuing a disparity dating back almost two decades.

The stagnant results come despite investments that outpace inflation in many states, including Oregon and Washington, according to an analysis by an education think tank based at Georgetown University. The [Edunomics Lab](#)'s analysis shows Oregon spending has gone up by 80% since 2013, while reading and math scores have fallen. School spending in Washington has gone up even more — by 110%, according to the Edunomics Lab — while test scores have decreased over the last decade.

Oregon graduation rate continues COVID-era trend: Little improvement

OPB

After their first year of high school, more than a quarter of the students in the Class of 2024 were not on track to graduate in four years. Yet, in the end, 81.8% of them did.

That means about 38,700 public school students in all 36 counties earned their diploma last year, signifying the [second-highest](#) rate in Oregon's history.

Students involved in career and technical education programs, known as CTE, graduated at higher rates, up in the 90s, depending on how involved they were in the programs.

Former English Learners — students who have completed “English Learner” programs before entering high school in Oregon — graduated at nearly 88%, about six percentage points higher than the statewide average for all students, regardless of language background. That’s an all-time high for that student group.

And students in special education programs also saw the highest graduation rate for that group at almost 69%.

District results varied. Some exceeded the state average, such as Beaverton, Bend-La Pine, Portland and Tillamook school districts. Comparatively, others’ districtwide averages, such as those from Salem-Keizer, Eugene and Woodburn, fell slightly below the state’s average.

In fact, Oregon’s four-year graduation rate has remained relatively stagnant, around that 81%, the entire time these most recent graduates were in high school.

There has been improvement over time. Since 2013-14, the state’s four-year graduation rate has increased by nearly 10 percentage points. And that 0.6% increase over last year represents about 1,000 more students graduating.

Still, Oregon is far from [its goal of having every student graduate](#).

[**Oregon high school graduation rate rises slightly, even as other academic indicators flatline**](#)

Oregon Live

Despite a steady rise in graduation rates over the last decade, however, Oregon still underperforms compared to other states. The average graduation rate nationally is [87.4%](#) according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

But state leaders also acknowledged that there are huge gaps in their information about the class’s trajectory, including the impact of grade inflation and what will happen to the approximately [45%](#) of the class that is [unlikely to go to college](#), if historical trends hold.

Oregon does not currently collect student grades, though a pilot project to do so is in the works, does not release college-going data until 18 months after a class has left high school and does not systematically track what happens to graduates who opt out of college or trade school.

ENVIRONMENT

[**Blue Heron paper mill in Oregon City goes up in flames; firefighters on scene**](#)

Oregon Live

Firefighters battled a 3-alarm blaze at the old Blue Heron paper mill in Oregon City Thursday morning, Clackamas Fire reported.

Officials closed Highway 99E as fire crews tackled the blaze.

Firefighters responded to reports of a fire at about 3:45 a.m., according to reports.

No injuries have been reported. Officials haven’t provided any additional details at this time.

[**PGE says it needs to log 5 acres of Portland’s mature forest. City staff are skeptical**](#)

OPB

A utility company wants to cut through 5 acres of mature Doug fir and big leaf maples in a massive Portland urban forest to make way for new transmission lines.

Forest Park spans 5,200 acres in the Tualatin Mountains of Northwest Portland. One of the largest urban parks in the United States, it provides important habitat for vulnerable species, particularly Northern red-legged frogs — as well as more than 80 miles of trails for Portlanders seeking easy nearby access to the wilderness.

Portland General Electric executives say the company needs to improve its infrastructure to meet Portland’s electricity demands, particularly as it moves away from fossil fuels and prepares the grid to carry more renewably generated power.

The company plans to meet that goal by removing 400 trees through intact, mature forest to install new power poles and 1,400 feet of transmission lines. The proposal has drawn fierce opposition from environmental groups, as well as the city of Portland itself.

Earlier this month, the city permitting department issued a [report](#) highlighting multiple other flaws in PGE's plan. The report showed at least two other alternatives PGE could pursue that would avoid cutting hundreds of trees in Forest Park.

Opinion: In Senate bill, a new approach to river trash

Hasso Hering

A state senator from Port Orford has an answer to the problem of vagrants leaving trash behind when they leave their camping spots along Oregon rivers: Make the state clean it up.

Glancing through the hundreds of bills introduced in the 2025 Oregon legislature, I came across Senate Bill 359. It was sponsored by **Sen. David Brock Smith**, a Republican, and is pending in the Senate's Committee on Energy and Environment.

The implication was that riverside landowners such as cities would be held responsible for continuous cleanup, subject to the DEQ's fines if they failed.

Nothing has been heard of this petition since.

As for SB 359, I doubt that the DEQ wants to be saddled with the direct responsibility of cleaning up the stuff that people leave along the Willamette. If the bill gets a hearing — which I don't think is likely — we'll see what the agency says.

Oregon rancher describes recovery from Durkee Fire

Idaho 6 News

Before it was all said and done, the Durkee fire in Eastern Oregon burned almost 300 thousand acres last year, wreaking havoc for travelers but more importantly, putting ranchers in a very tough spot for this year.

Podcast: There's a massive underground aquifer in Oregon's Cascades. Why it's important

Salem Statesman Journal

In this episode of [the Explore Oregon Podcast](#), [host Zach Urness](#) talks with two Oregon researchers who published a study about a massive underground aquifer below the Central Cascade Mountains east of Salem and Eugene.

Leif Karlstrom, a University of Oregon earth scientist, and Gordon Grant, a hydrologist with the U.S. Forest Service, talk about an aquifer they estimate contains 81 cubic kilometers of freshwater — or roughly as much water contained in three Lake Meads, the largest reservoir in the United States.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Fresh lawsuit hits Oregon city at the heart of Supreme Court ruling on homeless encampments

Associated Press

The small Oregon city at the [heart of a major U.S. Supreme Court ruling](#) last year that allowed cities across the country to enforce homeless camping bans is facing a fresh lawsuit over its camping rules as advocates find new ways to challenge them.

Disability Rights Oregon sued Grants Pass on Thursday, accusing it of violating a state law requiring cities' camping regulations to be "objectively reasonable."

[Last June's Supreme Court ruling](#) made the southern Oregon mountain town of 40,000 the unlikely face of the nation's homelessness crisis.

In Grants Pass — where officials have struggled for years to address a homelessness crisis that has divided residents — the decision paved the way for the new mayor and City Council members elected in November to crack down on camping upon taking office.

Grants Pass has just one overnight shelter for adults — the Gospel Rescue Mission — and its rules requiring attendance at religious services and barring pets, alcohol, drugs and smoking mean many won't stay there.

"It wants to make being homeless in Grants Pass so unpleasant that people go elsewhere," Disability Rights Oregon said of the city in its complaint. "Despite the presence of numerous elderly, ill, and disabled people on site, the city increased its draconian restrictions in the dead of winter leaving hundreds of people with no legal option for their continued survival."

[Portland Wants State to Help Fund Its Homeless Pod Villages](#)

Willamette Week

It comes as no surprise, given Wilson's ambitious goal of ending unsheltered homelessness by establishing 2,000 shelter beds in the coming years, that among the top three goals listed was securing ongoing funding from the state for the city's array of existing tiny pod shelters and temporary alternative shelter sites. The agenda does not mention a goal of securing state funding for Wilson's extensive shelter plan, but does note a desire for dollars to help support a "continuum" of shelters.

As *WW* [reported Tuesday afternoon](#), the city's stream of federal grant funding that provides critical support for various bureaus and projects is under threat, thanks to a slew of executive orders President Trump recently announced. The directives—most of which are sweeping and at the same time vague—threw state and local leaders into a panic over their potential trickle-down effects.

HEALTH CARE

[After Oregon governor steps in, Providence and nurses union resume talks amid strike](#)

Oregon Capital Chronicle

The nurses union and Providence Health & Services officials are returning to in-person mediation Wednesday after Gov. Tina Kotek requested they do so to end the largest health care worker strike in state history.

Nearly 5,000 nurses, doctors and other health workers at Providence hospitals and clinics in Oregon went on strike on Jan. 10. And nearly three-week impasse has impacted health care across Oregon, with Providence forced to bring in temporary replacements and cancel some procedures.

When the strike started on Jan. 10, Kotek publicly blamed Providence, which failed to avert the strike after receiving a 10-day notice from the union. Kotek said then that Providence "wasted 10 days when they could have been at the table making progress towards a comprehensive resolution of their labor dispute."

[Governor Kotek gets Providence and ONA back to the table](#)

KDVR

"At the request of Oregon Governor Tina Kotek, the Oregon Nurses Association and Providence Oregon have agreed to have representatives from both sides re-engage in intensive, in-person mediation beginning today, January 29th, 2025, in an effort to end this strike," Providence and ONA said in a joint statement. "Both sides are engaging in every effort to get this dispute resolved as expeditiously as possible and get people back to work."

[Childhood immunizations taking steady hit across Oregon](#)

KVAL

In Oregon, most parents immunize their school aged children to meet school requirements according to data from the Centers for Disease Control, but the Oregon Health Authority says those immunization rates have taken a big hit since 2020. But that decline began even earlier at a slower pace before the pandemic.

[Inquiry finds Kaiser Permanente ignored patient protections in major West Coast research study](#)

Oregon Live

Many of modern medicine's most remarkable achievements have been accomplished through the trust of volunteers, who test new drugs, procedures and medical devices to determine if they are safe and effective.

A major study by Kaiser Permanente of Northern California, however, violated this trust by breaking multiple rules designed to protect volunteers, and the two researchers in charge tried to cover up the lapses by withholding critical information from study participants and those who oversee them, according to hundreds of pages of documents obtained by the Bay Area News Group.

CRIME

[Oregon prison population remains close to pre-pandemic low, due in part to public defender crisis](#)

Oregon Live

The number of people [sentenced to prison](#) each month in Oregon has climbed since the [pandemic](#) but isn't expected to return to pre-pandemic levels until 2029, according to a state forecast.

For about two years starting in April 2020, Oregon's prison population fell by nearly 2,500 beds, according to the state's recent corrections forecast.

The pandemic caused a "dramatic upheaval" in the prison system, driving down the number of people sentenced to prison each month – an average of about 270, the report states. That's down from a pre-pandemic average of an average of 400 people sentenced a month.

About 12,000 people currently are serving time in Oregon prisons. That's on par with the population figures from late 2002, data shows. From 2012 through 2020, when the pandemic emerged, the population hovered around 14,000.

State economists who drafted the forecast say the numbers will see a "slower rebound" to pre-pandemic levels primarily as a result of "systemic issues with the public defense system."

For years, Oregon has struggled to ensure all people accused of crimes have court-appointed attorneys.

The problem is especially acute in Multnomah, Jackson, Marion and Washington counties.

The latest data shows an estimated 3,800 criminal defendants are without lawyers. Most are out of custody.

State economists noted that they don't expect House Bill 4002, the law passed last year that made minor drug possession a misdemeanor crime, to significantly add to Oregon's prison population.

In reversing Measure 110, Oregon's 2020 drug decriminalization law, lawmakers made clear that they didn't want to see low-level drug offenders sent to prison.

[Oregon girl, 2, left unattended on cold school bus for hours; investigation underway](#)

Oregon Live

"She explained that my child had been left on the bus that morning," she recalled. When Robinson asked how long her 2-year-old daughter with autism had been strapped into a child safety seat by herself on the bus, owned and operated by Family Building Blocks in Aumsville, the answer shocked her: about three hours, in roughly 36-degree weather without a coat.

The allegations also could trigger an investigation by the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care, which oversees the licensing of child care programs in Oregon.

But how Robinson's daughter could be overlooked, with only four children to account for, remains a mystery. In hot weather, leaving a child unattended in a car [can be deadly](#).

[Oregon drug trafficker busted third time; caught running \\$2M pot and shroom op](#)

Oregon Live

Agents from Homeland Security Investigations and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service began the investigation in 2021. A man charged with selling drugs identified Hayward's encrypted Telegram channel as the source of his marijuana and marijuana products, a federal asset forfeiture investigator James Stratton wrote in the affidavit. A review of photos and videos on the Telegram channel revealed the interior of the drug operation's warehouse.

Oregon remains a major illegal source for high-potency marijuana and extract products, with an average of 125 different organizations investigated yearly, according to the most recent Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area report.

Despite state efforts to regulate the legalized marijuana market, products made in Oregon continue to be seized nationwide, the report said.

[Police identify man who fired shots, took over TriMet bus in Portland's Old Town](#)

Oregon Live

Police have released the name of the man who allegedly [fired gunshots and then commandeered a TriMet bus](#) in Portland's Old Town on Wednesday.

Hosea J. Chambers, 33, of Portland, was booked on a range of charges, including kidnapping in the first degree, robbery in the first degree, reckless endangering, unlawful use of a weapon and felon in possession of a firearm, the Portland Police Bureau said.

Chambers was convicted of robbery in 2013 and has faced various charges over the years, according to court records.

There were no reported injuries.