

Bend, officer near settlement over fatal shooting

BEND (AP) — A Bend police officer and the city are nearing a settlement with the family of a burglary suspect who was fatally shot by the officer in November 2013.

The Bulletin reports that the estate of Tyler Keinonen filed a \$7 million wrongful death case in January, alleging that officer Erick Supplee used excessive deadly force against the 31-year-old suspect.

The Deschutes County District Attorney found Supplee was justified in the shooting.

Electronic court records show that the estate’s representative Jessica Sieverson and both the city and Supplee have settled the claim “in principle.”

The city’s attorney said he couldn’t comment on ongoing settlement negotiations.

The parties must submit a status report on the finalization of settlement negotiations by January 28.

Oregon farmers say paid leave law is unclear

SALEM (AP) — Many farmers in Oregon still have questions about new rules that will require them to provide employees with paid sick leave starting January 1.

Lawmakers passed a bill earlier this year requiring employers with 10 or more workers to offer the paid sick leave, reported *The Capital Press*.

But farmers aren’t sure how that will work with piece-rate workers, like fruit pickers, who are compensated based on the amount they harvest, according to the Oregon Farm Bureau.

The state’s Bureau of

Labor and Industries said piece-rate workers should be compensated at “the regular rate of pay” or, if no such rate was set, at minimum wage. The problem is that the regulations don’t explain how to calculate the “regular rate of pay,” according to OFB public policy director Jenny Dresler.

“We needed a clarification and we didn’t get it,” Dresler said. “We just don’t know.”

Would the number be based on the weekly average of the employee’s piece-rate earnings? Or the rate earned by other workers who are harvesting crops while the

employee is sick?

The labor bureau says it won’t penalize employers while they are still learning the new rules, but Dresler pointed out that that doesn’t stop individual workers from suing the employers.

Labor bureau spokesman Charlie Burr said the agency will offer a series of low-cost seminars about paid sick leave.

Tim Bernasek, an attorney specializing in agricultural and labor issues, says he doesn’t “have a very good answer about how to practically implement this rule.” But Bernasek said he expects

the labor bureau to help farmers figure it out.

He said legal aid organizations with attorneys devoted to farmworker protection will probably also be able to help.

“I would encourage ag employers to roll up their sleeves and make their best effort to make this work,” said Bernasek.

There is also some confusion about the labor bureau’s decision to consider farmers and labor contractors “joint employers” under the law.

Burr said the joint liability provisions are guided by federal labor law.

Nike tops Wall Street profit forecast in latest quarter

BEAVERTON (AP) — Nike Inc. on Tuesday, December 22, reported better-than-expected earnings in its latest quarter, but sales fell short of forecasts.

For its fiscal second quarter ended Nov. 30, the Beaverton-based company earned \$785 million, or 90 cents per share, compared with \$655 million, or 74 cents

per share, a year ago.

The results topped Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of 15 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 85 cents per share.

The athletic apparel maker said revenue rose four percent to \$7.69 billion. Eight analysts expected \$7.81 billion,

on average. The impact of changes in currency values weighed on sales.

Looking ahead, the company forecast that worldwide future orders for Nike Brand athletic footwear and apparel to be delivered from December through April are 15 percent above the same period a year earlier. Excluding currency, future

orders would have increased 20 percent, the company said.

Nike shares have increased 37 percent since the beginning of the year, to close at \$131.85 Tuesday. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index has decreased 1 percent. In after-hours, trading, shares climbed another 1.6 percent, to \$133.89.

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