

ARREST: At least eight thefts have been reported

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a residence and had been throwing rocks at vehicles. Investigating further, they found property in Kirshner’s possession that linked him to multiple vehicle break-ins in the Sisters area that had been reported the morning of September 25.

Kirshner was taken into custody and transported to the Deschutes County Jail where he was lodged on one count of first degree criminal mischief; one count of second-degree theft; and eight counts of unlawful entry of motor vehicles.

Sgt. Grant Johnstone of the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office told *The Nugget* that investigation into the thefts continues and that victims continue to come forward.

“We know for sure of eight, and that’s going to grow,” he said.

Sgt. Johnstone also noted that law enforcement is looking into a possible connection with vehicle break-ins in Bend.

Among the items stolen from vehicles were a number of IDs.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Noah Kirshner, 19, was taken into custody last week.

“His plan was to make some fake IDs out of some of those ID cards he took,” Sgt. Johnstone reported.

“We know for sure of eight, and that’s going to grow.”
— Sgt. Grant Johnstone

The sergeant said that it’s best not to leave an identification card like a driver’s license in a parked vehicle — even in a small, quiet town like Sisters.

“Any ID or any wallet or anything like that should be removed if the vehicle’s going to be parked for any extended period of time,” Sgt. Johnstone said.

Smoke costs Shakespeare festival

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — The famed Oregon Shakespeare Festival that attracts tourists from around the world said Tuesday that it lost \$2 million this summer because wildfire smoke forced it to cancel more than two dozen outdoor performances.

The organization will have an indoor venue next season for smoky days as an alternate to its award-winning outdoor theater and will shift its outdoor season back a week to avoid the worst of the wildfire season, said Julie Cortez, the festival’s spokeswoman.

The event in Ashland had to cancel 26 outdoor performances starting in July and running through earlier this month, she said. That’s more canceled shows than in all five previous seasons combined, Cortez said.

“It’s impacting everyone in our region. Pretty much every business or organization in this area has sagged a bit this summer,” she said.

It comes as climate change extends the wildfire season and makes blazes bigger and more destructive, threatening to make air quality worse in

urban areas.

The festival has always had to contend with wildfires, but this season was “above and beyond” any other, Cortez said, with smoke coming in from massive fires in Northern California, southern Oregon and sometimes even Washington state. Ashland is just across the state line from California.

The Tony Award-winning Oregon Shakespeare Festival is among the oldest and largest professional nonprofit theaters in the nation. It prides itself on offering outdoor showings of Shakespeare’s plays performed in a venue similar to what his contemporary audiences would have experienced, but it also offers other types of theater in indoor performance halls.

Next season, the festival plans to open an alternate indoor venue from July 30 to September 8 — peak wildfire season. The organization will only sell in advance the number of tickets it can honor in the indoor location, Cortez said.

If the weather looks promising, the rest of the tickets for the 1,200-seat outdoor theater will go on sale shortly before the show so no one is turned away, she said.

The festival is still searching for an indoor venue that will work and plans to add matinees in the indoor space.

This year, a local high school theater provided 400 seats so outdoor shows that were canceled could accommodate one-third of ticket-holders, she said.

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— Julie Cortez

The rest could exchange tickets for another date, get a refund or “donate” their ticket cost to the festival, Cortez said.

Not included in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s calculations is how much revenue was lost from would-be tourists who simply stayed away, given the smoky conditions.

The nonprofit is still calculating that amount and has launched a fundraising drive.

The Nugget

10.24.18

Food & Home Issue



It’s fall! Cooling temperatures conjure up thoughts of spending more time inside and getting a jump on holiday shopping lists. Enjoy a mug of peppermint hot chocolate, the aroma of slow cooking roasts and baked goods, pull out the warm socks and sweaters, take the youngsters to the pumpkin patch, stock up on good reads, and revel in the ambiance of candlelight and warming fires. Pets aren’t the only ones ready to curl up next to the hearth!

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Publishes: Wednesday, October 24, 2018
Deadline: Friday, October 19 at 5 p.m.