

After battling cancer, I'm back



Pete Martini
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

I'm back.

After seven months of fighting off four cancers, I have returned to cover Mid-Valley sports for the Statesman Journal.

It was a scary shock when I heard the news back in January, but with the help of my doctors, nurses and 12 rounds of chemo, I'm free of cancer.

During my battle, I had so much help from family, friends, colleagues and the general public. The outpouring of support was humbling. I even received a heart-warming video from former Ducks quarterback Joey Harrington. I saw the best of humanity during the darkest point of my life, and

it made a difference.

It was a long journey that took me away from what I love: Covering sports in Oregon.

During my 19-year career, I've been able to meet and interview some stellar athletes in high school, college and the pros.

I played football at Sprague High School, but I wasn't very good. That's why I'm so impressed to see young athletes turn their passion into performance.

Early on, I knew that my way to stay connected to sports was through journalism.

From high school state tournaments to Saturday afternoons at Autzen or Reser stadiums, I love it all.

So as I begin the next chapter in my life as a cancer survivor, I look forward to continuing my career and sharing the stories of local athletes with the rest of the Mid-Valley.

It's feels great to be back, Salem.

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OSU, UO to require proof of vaccination to enter events

Jordyn Brown

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USA TODAY NETWORK

Oregon State University and the University of Oregon will require people attending their events to show they have been vaccinated or got a recent negative COVID-19 test.

The policies apply to people 12 and older and include athletic events, concerts and conferences.

"This decision was made in partnership with public health authorities and peer institutions in the state to help keep our communities safe," UO tweeted.

The requirement will not apply to the Prefontaine Classic, which concludes before the requirement takes effect and, while held on UO property, is not a university-run event.

The UO and OSU policies are similar

and were crafted together, a news release said.

"We now are asking our community members and fans attending events and athletics to join us in helping prevent viral spread. Wearing face coverings in indoor and outdoor public spaces, where physical distancing is not possible and implementing OSU's proof of vaccination requirements to attend university events and activities are necessary measure," OSU Provost for Student Affairs Dan Larson said in a news release.

Acceptable proof of a COVID-19 vaccination includes a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccination card, a photocopy of the card or a photo of the card on a mobile device, according to a UO news release. Attendees must be at least two weeks past their first dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine or the second dose in a two-dose series vaccine, such as Moderna or Pfizer.

Those who can't provide proof of vaccination can show documentation of a negative test taken within three days of the event, according to the release.

The test must be a SARS-CoV-2 viral test with emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Home tests will not be accepted.

A test result must be in the form of paper or electronic documentation. The documentation must include:

- Test result.
- Type of test.
- Entity issuing the result (such as laboratory, healthcare entity or telehealth service).
- Specimen collection date. A negative test result must show the specimen was collected within the three days before the event to be attended. A positive test result for documentation of recovery from COVID-19 must show the specimen was collected within the

three months before the event.

• Accompanying proof of identification in the form of a driver's license or other document that visibly identifies the person on the test result.

Guests age 5 and older at university events will be required to wear face coverings indoors throughout the venue, including in seats, except when actively eating or drinking.

Local hospital leaders said earlier this week a spike in cases is being driven in major part by patients who are unvaccinated. PeaceHealth shared information on social media that showed that of their COVID-19 patients from Aug. 1-18, 963 patients were unvaccinated, 34 patients were vaccinated and 40 patients were partially vaccinated.

Contact reporter Jordyn Brown at jbrown@registerguard.com or 541-246-4264, and follow her on Twitter @thejordynbrown and Instagram @registerguard.

2020 FBI data reveal a spike in bias crimes

Dianne Lugo Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has released data of bias incidents reported to the bureau, revealing the highest number of recorded incidents in 12 years.

According to the Hate Crime Statistics report, 15,136 law enforcement agencies in the country submitted their information to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program's compilation this year.

In 2020, 10,528 victims were targeted in 7,554 single-bias incidents—the most recorded incidents since 2008. It's 473 more incidents than were reported nationally in 2019 (7,081) and 1,716 more victims (8812).

Oregon's agencies reported a similar upward trend.

A hundred more incidents

There were 271 single-bias incidents affecting 360 victims in Oregon in 2020. That's up from 170 incidents with 242 victims in 2019, a 57% overall increase.

There were nine incidents where the offender had multiple biases.

Race, ethnicity or ancestry was the bias motivator in 70% of the state's reported incidents. Victims perceived as Black were targeted most frequently in 2020, with 102 reported anti-Black or African American crimes.

Religion and sexual orientation were the second-highest motivators in the reported incidents. Agencies reported 29 crimes motivated by sexual orientation in the state (10%), nine motivated by gender identity (3%) and 28 motivated by religion (10%). People perceived as Jewish were targeted more frequently in crimes motivated by religion in 2020.

Disability was a bias motivator in 2% of the reported incidents (six reports).

According to the FBI's Crime Data Explorer, 108 of the Oregon offenses involved the destruction, damage or vandalism of property. In 93 of the reports, the offense type was intimidation. Simple assault was involved in 75, and aggravated assault was reported in 33 of the incidents.

These bias incidents occurred in various locations. The location was a residential home in 82 of the reported incidents. They occurred at a highway, alley, street or sidewalk in 55 incidents and at a

park or playground in 23.

The reported race of the offenders in Oregon was White in 136 crimes and Black or African American in 18.

These reported incidents differ from the bias incidents Oregon's Department of Justice reported earlier this year.

The FBI has collected data directly from law enforcement agencies while the DOJ tracks criminal and non-criminal bias incidents that witnesses and victims report to the Bias Response Hotline directly. Some of those incidents may then be redirected directly to law enforcement.

The hotline received 1,101 reports of bias incidents in 2020. The hotline has received 565 reports in 2021.

28 incidents reported in Salem

In Marion County, the Aumsville Police Department, Gervais Police Department and Stayton Police Department reported no hate crimes that met FBI collection guidelines.

The Hubbard Police Department reported two single-bias incidents. The Keizer Police Department, Mount Angel Police Department, Silverton Police Department, Marion County State Police, Turner Police Department and Woodburn Police Department reported one incident each.

Salem's Police Department reported 28 single-bias incidents. Of those, 21 were motivated by bias against race, ethnicity or ancestry. Five were motivated by bias against sexual orientation. In 2019, the Salem Police Department reported 10 incidents.

At least one of those 2020 Salem cases ended in murder.

Herman Graham, 48, was shot and killed Oct. 23 in east Salem. Manuel Elisha North, of Eugene, was charged with second-degree murder, first-degree bias crime and unlawful use of a weapon.

The Salem Police Department has revealed little information about the murder, including what details led to the bias crime charges.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office had no available data through the FBI.

The FBI will be focusing on reaching agencies that did not report their data to the FBI. The agency received data from 207 out of 234 local and state agencies.

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland has charged FBI officials across the country with identifying the agencies that did not provide their data, he said.

Special agent in charge of the Portland Field Office Kieran L. Ramsey will be reaching out to Oregon agencies personally to convince them about the need to

report and provide their data.

"I have no doubt that any agency that perhaps is not reporting is still just as concerned as we are about hate crimes in their community," Ramsey said. "I'm confident our message will reach them."

Ramsey said he does not believe the increase in reported bias crimes nationally and statewide can be attributed to a single cause or societal factor but instead likely reflects both increased reporting to local jurisdictions and an increase in incidents.

"That's the troubling thing," he said.

Campaign to raise awareness

During Wednesday's briefing, Ramsey said the FBI in Oregon acknowledges that the number of actual incidents was likely much higher than what was reported. It's why the agency is launching a hate crimes awareness campaign in the state.

"We know that hate crimes historically go underreported," said Ramsey.

Hate crimes are a "top priority" for the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice, Ramsey said.

The hope is that the awareness campaign being rolled out in Oregon this week will increase reporting of bias crimes, allowing individuals who may not be comfortable reporting to their local law enforcement agencies to instead report to the FBI.

"We want to give folks yet another avenue that they can turn to," Ramsey said. "Bottom line is, we want to hear from victims that are out there. We know there are victims out there that no one has heard from yet."

He doesn't agree that increased reporting will reveal a "problem worse than it is," as some have suggested.

He said he is hopeful expanded efforts to encourage reporting will reach people who are suffering in silence.

"We need to know what the problem is and if that means we get a lot more reporting on it then law enforcement and agencies that we partner with all need to know about that immediately," Ramsey said.

To report a hate crime to the FBI, call 1-800-CALL-FBI, or report the crime online at tips.fbi.gov. In Oregon, people can also call the Bias Response Hotline 1-844-924-BIAS or report online. Information to call local law enforcement agencies directly is available at the Oregon DOJ website.

Dianne Lugo is a reporter at the Statesman Journal covering equity and social justice. You can reach her at dlugo@statesmanjournal.com, 503-936-4811 or on Twitter @DianneLugo.



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