

Appeal Tribune

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'Strong state leader monitoring'

Auditors call for stronger state oversight of local school districts

Natalie Pate

Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Student Success Act – passed in 2019 and providing an extra \$1 billion of tax money annually for early childhood education and K-12 schools – is Oregon's fourth major education improvement effort since the 1990s.

Baked in are requirements for the Oregon Department of Education to track district performance and work with districts to improve student out-

comes.

The state's three previous efforts to tackle such issues were abandoned, according to a state report. State officials want to ensure that doesn't happen again.

The Secretary of State's Office and the Oregon Audits Division Tuesday released a preemptive report outlining five risk areas that it said could jeopardize student achievement going forward.

The report – addressed to the Govern-

nor's Office, the state Legislature and the Oregon State Board of Education – draws on six K-12 audits conducted since 2016 and identifies five key risks, including performance monitoring and support; transparency on results and challenges; spending scrutiny and guidance; clear, enforceable district standards; and governance and funding stability.

Archives: 3 things to know about the

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Thousands of teachers and education activists rally for a day of action starting at Riverfront Park in Salem on May 8, 2019. Schools across Oregon closed early or were closed for the day as teachers walked out to demand more school funding to address large class sizes, low graduation rates and other concerns.

ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL



Highway 22 was closed near Detroit and Santiam Junction after a fuel tanker crashed. PROVIDED BY OREGON STATE POLICE

'Too fast under the conditions'

Gasoline spill into North Santiam River results in \$200,000 in penalties

Bill Poehler

Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

A gasoline company whose truck spilled more than 7,000 gallons of oil onto Highway 22 and into the North Santiam River in 2020 will pay over \$200,000 in penalties, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA said in a press release that Space Age Fuel Inc., which is headquartered in Clackamas, agreed to pay a \$135,000 fine for violating the Clean Water Act from the accident.

It also agreed to pay a \$72,000 fine to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and develop an inclement weather plan.

According to a press release, a tanker truck from the company carrying about 10,700 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel rolled over on Highway 22 on February 16, 2020.

According to records obtained by the Statesman Journal under a public records request, the driver, Daniel Rodriguez,

was cited for driving "too fast under the conditions," by the state and was fined \$265.

Rodriguez lost control of the tanker on a right turn and hit the guardrail in "slush and snow conditions" at about 7:41 a.m. that morning.

About 7,800 gallons of oil were spilled onto the highway. Most of the oil collected into a ditch on the side of the highway and some flowed directly into the North Santiam River. The oil in the ditch seeped into the soil and eventually went into the river.

A 600-foot section of road was replaced at the site of the crash east of Idanha. The road was closed for nearly a week while it was repaired.

According to the EPA, the river had elevated levels of petroleum from Feb. 17 through March

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Couple establishes ranch to help heal 'hurting' teens

Virginia Barreda

Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Emmy and Justin Arana say horses can teach people important life skills, such as confidence and emotional awareness.

The couple co-founded Acres of Hope Youth Ranch, a non-profit mentorship program that gives teenagers who are going through mental health struggles the opportunity to work with and care for horses. The ranch, located at a 40-acre property in Independence, serves youth ages 12 to 19, who struggle with suicide, depression and anxiety. Some are also victims of sex trafficking.

The program's goal, the Aranas said, is to serve as a place of healing and comfort for hurting teens.

"You throw a thousand-pound horse between you

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Emmy and Justin Arana, the co-founders of Acres of Hope Youth Ranch, with their horses Kimber and Aslan on May 18 in Salem. The non-profit organization allows youth going through mental health struggles and trauma to connect with horses as a way to heal.

ABIGAIL DOLLINS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Tensions rising as college parties draw police

Louis Krauss

Eugene Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

Noisy off-campus parties have again become a heated topic among residents and students in Eugene's West University neighborhood, sparking conflicting opinions on the increased patrols and citations from the Eugene Police Department.

In Eugene, unruly parties and the city's attempts to subdue them are nothing new. In 2013, the City Council approved an unruly gathering ordinance that fines hosts of events serving alcohol, and potentially the property owners if there are repeat offenses.

Data the Register-Guard acquired from Eugene police indicates this year is outpacing prior years in the number of unruly party citations issued. Police say the problem has reached the point where its response merits moving from education to enforcement. And University of Oregon officials say they are also looking into recent incidents.

The recent stepped-up enforcement comes as the weather warms, COVID-19 restrictions lift and big gatherings become more socially accepted.

Eugene police have sent out news releases about five parties and the police response over the past month. It began April 23, when more than 500 parties flooded into the middle of 16th Avenue between Hilyard and Patterson streets, at a party prior to the University of Oregon's spring football game. Officers trying to shut it down had bottles and food containers thrown at them, according to the news release from police spokeswoman Melinda McLaughlin.

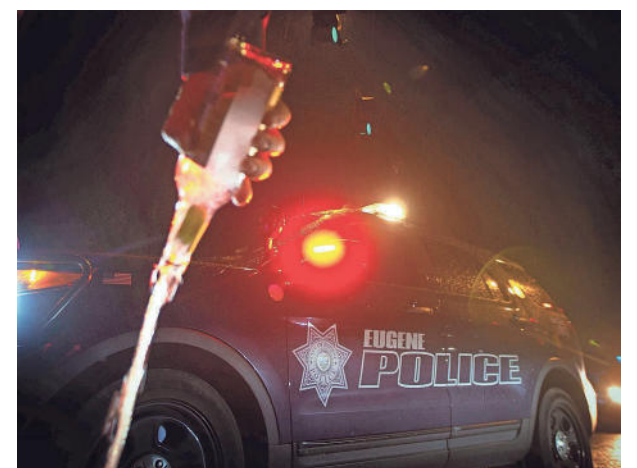
Two weeks later, on May 7, police busted up a Mother's Day party with 200 students and some of their parents at a house in the 1300 block of Ferry Street, which was ranked sixth among party houses with 44 calls for service related to noise or alcohol since March 2020, according to the Eugene police data. One student, William Crever, 21, was arrested and charged with fourth-degree assault, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct after allegedly blocking a police car and then hitting an officer in the face. Crever did not respond to requests for comment from The Register-Guard.

The two incidents led to the Eugene police increasing its presence west of the university starting May 13, and officers more strictly enforcing noise complaints and open container violations. In the past two weekends, 105 parties have received misdemeanor citations for a mix of "prohibited noise" and open container violations. Another 47 have been cited for possessing alcohol as a minor, public urination and for hosts breaking the city's unruly gathering ordinance.

'It's the neighborhood we're trying to protect'

Eugene's "social host ordinance," also known as the unruly gathering ordinance, makes it illegal to host, organize and allow oversized, disorderly gatherings and parties involving alcohol. For it to apply, the host must be serving alcohol at the event and

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A Eugene police officer pours alcohol out onto the ground after citing a group of students for open container during a Friday night party patrol in the neighborhood near the University of Oregon. CHRIS PIETSCH/THE REGISTER-GUARD FILE

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