

OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

Judge dismisses prisoners’ lawsuit over spoiled food

PORTLAND — A federal judge has dismissed a class action lawsuit by current and former inmates claiming the Oregon prison system served them spoiled food.

The Oregonian reported Tuesday that the 2017 lawsuit was thrown out by a U.S. district judge who found there was no evidence of sustained “adverse health impacts.”

The lawsuit says state prison inmates were served fish and chicken intended as “bait food,” spoiled milk and other food marked “not for human consumption.”

The lawsuit says the conditions violated the inmates’ Eighth Amendment rights against cruel and unusual punishment.

The judge found there was occasional illness but no evidence food was “constitutionally inadequate.”

The prisons cited in the lawsuit were the Oregon State Penitentiary, Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Columbia River Correctional Institution, and Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

Sexual assault kit tracking system to be used across Oregon

PORTLAND — The Portland Police Department has developed an online system to provide updates to people who have been tested for evidence of sexual assault.

The Oregonian reported Tuesday that the online system has been used in Portland since May and the state police plan to adopt it statewide by the end of July 2020.

Police say people can track sexual assault kits anonymously to determine if evidence obtained during a hospital visit was submitted to a crime lab for testing.

Authorities say the online system will not reveal the crime lab results, but only whether the results were given to police.

GOP replacement selected for vacant state rep seat

SALEM — County commissioners have selected a replacement for a vacant Republican seat in Oregon’s House of Representatives.

Marion County Commissioners announced Tuesday that Raquel Moore-Greene will become the next state representative for the area covering South Salem and Turner. She will replace former Republican Rep. Denyc Boyles, who resigned her seat after she was tapped to fill a vacancy in the Senate.

Moore-Green previously worked as a staffer under current Marion County Commissioner Chairman Kevin Cameron when he represented House District 19 in the Legislature. A spokeswoman

for the county commissioners’ office said Moore-Green has also worked as a contractor for Cameron’s campaigns and his private business.

The spokeswoman said Cameron was able to vote on Moore-Green’s appointment and that conflict-of-interest rules didn’t apply because “there is no family relationship and he does not stand to benefit financially from the appointment.”

Oregon Shakespeare Festival may change theater due to fires

ASHLAND — The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a major tourist draw in southern Oregon, is exploring changes to its famous outdoor theater after losing millions because of smoky wildfire conditions in 2017 and 2018.

The annual summer theater festival uses Ashland High School’s indoor theater when smoke shuts down its outdoor 1,190-seat Allen Elizabethan Theatre, and the festival has added matinee performances at that theater as well.

The festival is looking for a permanent solution to volatile air quality issues, Paul Christy, the festival’s acting executive director, told the Ashland Tidings. The festival has hired a prominent professional in theater construction to explore ideas for a rebirth of the Elizabethan Theatre, he said.

Ideas include a retractable roof and a redesign of the seating to encircle the stage so theater-goers are closer to the actors, he said.

The festival suffered a \$2.6 million loss in 2018, hard on the heels of a \$2.8 million loss in 2017, according to the festival’s 2018 annual report, which is being released to the public.

Governor signs bill to keep guns from stalkers and abusers

SALEM — Oregon will close a loophole in state law that allowed domestic abusers to illegally hold on to their firearms.

Gov. Kate Brown signed a measure Tuesday that threatens further penalties to domestic abusers who refuse to turn over their firearms following a court order. It strengthens a 2015 law meant to keep guns from those with convictions for domestic violence or stalking. Legislators had heard complaints that abusers were still holding onto their weapons by skipping court hearings.

Democrats were only able to push through modest gun law changes this year despite a supermajority in the Legislature. A more sweeping gun reform package was cast aside as part of a deal to convince Senate Republicans to return from a walkout over education funding.

— The Associated Press

FDA warns top marijuana company for making CBD health claims

By Carla K. Johnson
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — U.S. regulators warned a leading marijuana company for making unproven health claims about CBD, the trendy ingredient that’s turning up in lotions, foods and pet treats.

The Food and Drug Administration announced Tuesday it warned Curaleaf Inc., of Wakefield, Massachusetts, for illegally selling unapproved products. Curaleaf’s claims could lead people to delay medical care for serious conditions like cancer, the agency said.

“Consumers should be aware of purchasing or using any such products,” said Acting FDA Commissioner Ned Sharpless in a statement.

The FDA has issued similar warning letters to smaller businesses, but this is the first since the agency began studying how it regulates CBD. The agency plans to report in the fall on its regulatory approach after holding a public hearing and receiving nearly 4,500 comments.

The agency is exploring “potential regulatory pathways” for some CBD products to be lawfully marketed, Sharpless said.

Curaleaf, which operates in 12 states, said it will work with the FDA to resolve



The Associated Press file photo

A syringe with a dose of CBD oil is shown in a research laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado. CBD is a compound found in marijuana but doesn’t cause a high. The Food and Drug Administration announced Tuesday it has warned Curaleaf Inc., of Wakefield, Massachusetts, for illegally selling unapproved CBD products.

the issues mentioned in the warning letter. The company’s shares fell more than 7% on the news, and some other cannabis stocks lost ground.

The company “is fully committed to complying with FDA requirements for all of the products that it markets,” Curaleaf said in a statement.

CVS Health, which started carrying CBD skin products in some states this year, plans to remove Curaleaf from its shelves

following the FDA’s warning, said CVS spokesman Mike DeAngelis in an email. The drugstore chain has been selling Curaleaf CBD

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