

OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

Initiative signature gathering starts

PORTLAND — Backers of an initiative to decriminalize small amounts of illicit drugs started collecting signatures in Portland this week.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported advocates need 112,020 signatures to qualify for the November 2020 ballot.

Campaign manager Peter Zuckerman said the proponents will decide to push ahead with the initiative depending on the success in collecting signatures this month.

The effort is called Initiative Petition 44 or the 2020 Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act. It is backed by the Drug Policy Alliance, the same group behind the 2014 ballot measure that legalized recreational marijuana in Oregon.

Bull elk, cow elk shot and left to waste; police seek tips

TILLAMOOK — Oregon State Police are asking for the public’s help to find whomever is responsible for shooting a bull elk and cow elk and leaving the carcasses to waste.

KATU-TV reported Tillamook Fish and Wildlife troopers responded Wednesday to a report of a dead bull elk in an area known as Hembre Ridge.

The bull elk was killed with a rifle and no meat was removed, police said. A dead cow elk was found nearby. Police said it appeared both elk had been shot in the past few days. none of the meat was salvageable, police

Police ask anyone who was in the area or anyone who may have information to call the TIP line at 1-800-452-7888, or (asterisk)OSP (677) and refer information to Trooper Charles Reeder. Information can also be emailed to TIP@state.or.us.

Man who ‘freaked out’ on plane, forced landing pleads guilty

PORTLAND — A Washington man who ingested methamphetamine before getting on a plane in Seattle and had what a prosecutor called a “freak out” on board pleaded guilty Thursday to interfering with crew members after the California-bound flight was forced to land in Portland.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Douglas Smyser, of Bonney Lake, is expected to face four months on home detention when sentenced in December.

Smyser, according to prosecutors, was headed to a drug rehab Feb. 13 in Malibu, California, when he ate meth before his Compass Air flight from Seattle. Smyser began pacing the aisle, refused to sit down and told a crew member that someone had a gun, FBI agent Damon Bateson wrote in a complaint. The captain diverted the plane to Portland because the crew feared Smyser might rush the cockpit, the complaint says.

Name released of deputy who shot man after chase in Bend

BEND — The Deschutes County District Attorney’s Office has released the name of the deputy who shot a 28-year-old man Friday near a Bend shopping mall.

Clint Baltzor, who has been with the county sheriff’s office for 12 years, remains on paid leave as the District Attorney’s Office continues an investigation.

Baltzor shot Bend resident Adam Gilliam after he allegedly stole a vehicle from a homeless shelter and led police on a short chase.

Man who ‘freaked out’ on plane, forced landing pleads guilty

PORTLAND — A Washington man who ingested methamphetamine before getting on a plane in Seattle and had what a prosecutor called a “freak out” on board pleaded guilty Thursday to interfering with crew members after the California-bound flight was forced to land in Portland.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Douglas Smyser, of Bonney Lake, is expected to face four months on home detention when sentenced in December.

Smyser, according to prosecutors, was headed to a drug rehab Feb. 13 in Malibu, California, when he ate meth before his Compass Air flight from Seattle. Smyser began pacing the aisle, refused to sit down and told a crew member that someone had a gun, FBI agent Damon Bateson wrote in a complaint. The captain diverted the plane to Portland because the crew feared Smyser might rush the cockpit, the complaint says.

Name released of deputy who shot man after chase in Bend

BEND — The Deschutes County District Attorney’s Office has released the name of the deputy who shot a 28-year-old man Friday near a Bend shopping mall.

Clint Baltzor, who has been with the county sheriff’s office for 12 years, remains on paid leave as the District Attorney’s Office continues an investigation.

Baltzor shot Bend resident Adam Gilliam after he allegedly stole a vehicle from a homeless shelter and led police on a short chase.

Name released of deputy who shot man after chase in Bend

BEND — The Deschutes County District Attorney’s Office has released the name of the deputy who shot a 28-year-old man Friday near a Bend shopping mall.

Clint Baltzor, who has been with the county sheriff’s office for 12 years, remains on paid leave as the District Attorney’s Office continues an investigation.

Baltzor shot Bend resident Adam Gilliam after he allegedly stole a vehicle from a homeless shelter and led police on a short chase.

Name released of deputy who shot man after chase in Bend

BEND — The Deschutes County District Attorney’s Office has released the name of the deputy who shot a 28-year-old man Friday near a Bend shopping mall.

Clint Baltzor, who has been with the county sheriff’s office for 12 years, remains on paid leave as the District Attorney’s Office continues an investigation.

Baltzor shot Bend resident Adam Gilliam after he allegedly stole a vehicle from a homeless shelter and led police on a short chase.

— The Associated Press

Gas tax increase begins New Year’s Day

Observer staff

SALEM — The second of four increases in the gas tax goes into effect Jan. 1. The increase is part of House Bill 2017, the “Keep Oregon Moving” act the Oregon Legislature passed in 2017.

This is the second 4-cents-per-gallon increase. The first went into effect in 2018.

Under the new law, Oregon lawmakers set requirement the Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon cities and counties must meet to trigger the increase. The Oregon Transportation Commission sent the Legislature a report outlining how ODOT and local governments met those requirements. Two more 2-cent gas tax increases in 2022 and 2024 are on deck—but if ODOT meets additional accountability requirements for a total of 10 cents.

The legislation tied the gas tax increases to ODOT completing two specific projects to help address congestion on I-205. The state road department also worked with Oregon cities and counties to produce a website detailing the condition of the major roads and all Oregon bridges. The site grades the major roads in and through communities as good, fair or poor so people can see what they’re getting for their increased taxes.

ODOT also had to provide a list of shovel-ready projects that could be constructed with additional funds and report on the agency’s efforts to address congestion through a number of other important projects in the Portland metro region.

At full implementation in 2024, Oregon’s gas tax will be 40 cents a gallon, still less than the gas tax in either Washington or California. The law also allows counties and cities to add their own local gas tax.



Observer file photo

The second of four increases in the gas tax goes into effect Jan. 1. The increase is part of House Bill 2017, the “Keep Oregon Moving” act the Oregon Legislature passed in 2017. This is the second 4-cents-per-gallon increase. The first went into effect in 2018.

Oregon ends use of driver license, ID address labels

Observer staff

SALEM — Oregon residents starting Jan. 1, 2020, no longer will have to apply new address stickers on their driver license, permit

or ID card.

Under Senate Bill 57, which the 2019 Oregon Legislature passed, Oregon joined the vast majority of states in ending the use

of address stickers. The Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services division announced Monday it will cease mailing the labels with new address for changes of address it receives after Dec. 31.

The DMV in a news release estimated the change will save \$550,000 a year in printing and postage costs. That savings will go into the State Highway Fund to support local and state roads.

Oregon law requires driver license, permit and ID card holders to file a change of address with Motor Vehicle Services within 30 days of moving to a new address within Oregon. You can file a change of address for free at OregonDMV.com/dmv2u.

It is important to keep your address up to date with DMV so you receive vital information such as driver license and vehicle registra-

tion renewal reminders. In a traffic stop by law enforcement, officers can ask if the address on your card is current and verify it from inside their patrol vehicle.

Before SB 57, Oregon was one of three states that required cardholders to place a new address sticker on their license, permit or ID card. As of Jan. 1, only Connecticut and Michigan will require the use of stickers.

HEALTH NOTIFICATION!

Are You Hard of Hearing?



A major name brand hearing aid provider wishes to field test a remarkable new digital hearing instrument in the area. This offer is free of charge and you are under no obligation.

These revolutionary 100% Digital instruments use the latest technology to comfortably and almost invisibly help you hear more clearly. This technology solves the “stopped up ears” and “head in a barrel” sensation some people experience.

If you wish to participate, you will be required to have your hearing tested in our office **FREE OF CHARGE** to determine candidacy and review your results with the hearing instruments with our hearing care specialist.

At the end of this evaluation, you may keep your instrument, if you so desire, at a tremendous savings for participating in this field test. Special testing will be done to determine the increased benefits of this technology.

Benefits of hearing aids vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing test, and proper fit.

This is a wonderful opportunity to determine if hearing help is available for your hearing loss and get hearing help at a very affordable price.

Call Now and Make a Reservation if you wish to be Included!

THIS WEEK ONLY! OFFER EXPIRES DEC 11TH, 2019



Miracle-Ear®



The Miracle Ear Foundation

Since 1990 the Miracle-Ear Foundation™ has been providing hearing aids, follow-up care, and educational resources to people with hearing loss who demonstrate personal inability to financially provide for their hearing health needs. We do this because we believe everyone in our community deserves quality hearing instruments.

LA GRANDE
111 Elm Street
La Grande, OR 97850
541-605-2109

BAKER CITY
2021 Washington Ave.
Baker City, OR 97814
541-239-3782

ENTERPRISE
113-1/2 Front E. Main St.
Enterprise, OR 97828
541-239-3877

Special Notice State Employees

You may qualify for a hearing aid benefit up to \$4,000 every 4 years. Call for eligibility status.

Mention Code: 19DecHealth

visit us online at: www.miracle-ear.com

Hearing tests are always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only. Hearing Aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences will vary depending on severity of loss, accuracy of evaluation by our Consultant, proper fit, and the ability to adjust amplification. Pursuant to terms of your purchase agreement, the aids must be returned within 30 days of the completion of fitting, in satisfactory condition for a full refund.

●●●●

●●●●

●●●●