

# LIBRARY

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in Oregon history.

A petition to change the name of the library has been circulating at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) for five days as of Wednesday morning and had received 2,487 signatures.

“The online petition to change the name of Pierce Library gives voice to those who are concerned about the name’s implications, not only for the university but for our community and beyond,” Seydel said.

The EOU student government, the Faculty Senate and other university organizations will provide the petition and supporting documentation and recommendations to a committee of two students, a history department faculty member and a member of



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Eastern Oregon University in La Grande named the campus library after Walter Pierce, Oregon’s 17th governor, and his third wife, Cornelia Pierce, the first state librarian. EOU is considering changing the building’s name due to Walter Pierce’s affiliation with the Ku Klux Klan.

the library staff.

The EOU Faculty Senate in December 2017 passed a resolution for a name change, and EOU President Tom Insko in 2018 told the board a committee would

look into the possibility of removing the Pierce name from the library. According to Seydel, the committee was to finish its work in the spring, but due to the pandemic the group was unable

to complete research and instead will present findings to the university in the fall.

“As a university, we approach decisions equipped with research, analysis and data, and that is what is in process today,” Seydel said. “Although EOU has a process in place to ensure this issue is addressed in a timely manner, President Insko has initiated a process that seeks to have the EOU Board review the name this summer in order to advance what is right for the EOU community.”

During the 1999 process of changing the name of the library, a report analyzed the appropriateness of the name. Those findings included documentation of the Klan support for Pierce and his inconsistency with following Klan ideals, though the report also showed he supported

the anti-immigrant views of the KKK.

Changing the name of the library again does not have total support.

“We have had some feedback from folks who are concerned about the historical context of the name,” Seydel said. “They would like to not change the name because they would like to honor the contributions that Pierce made to the state and to the region. People are also interested in not sweeping history under the rug and not pretending it never happened. We need to acknowledge that the library once had his name, perhaps with something in the library.”

Seydel also said renaming the library would be a whole other issue and the building could become simply the EOU Library or the Library.

# FIREWORKS

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happening, provided it can be done correctly.

“We wish them the best and hope they are able to pull it off successfully,” Searles said.

Mike Lockhart, of the Wallowa Lake Tourism Association, and Gary Bethscheider, of the Stubborn Mule in Joseph, have joined forces to raise the money needed and get a pyrotechnician contracted.

Lockhart said he expects to have the arrangements made by the end of the week.

“We’re trying to do something good,” Lockhart said. “We’re not in any way trying to be disrespectful of the situation.”

He emphasized that those attending the event must take responsibility for social distancing.

“People need to take personal responsibility,” he said. “If they feel they don’t want to assume that risk, then they should not go. If they do, they should accept the responsibility of social distancing and protect themselves so they don’t contribute to the spread of virus.”

Lockhart said it’s uncertain if they’ll use the familiar “Shake the Lake” moniker for the event, since that had been used by the chamber-sponsored show.

“We don’t want to tread on their territory,” he said.

But Searles said “Shake the Lake” is not trademarked and Lockhart’s group is free to use the name. Still, Lockhart said they may come up with something a little more generic.

That, however, has yet to be determined.

In previous years, it has cost about \$14,000 for the pyrotechnics, lodging for the pyrotechnicians, advertising and other elements of the approximately 25-minute show held from a floating dock in the north end of the lake, Searles said.

Lockhart said the association has raised sufficient funds to put on a similar display.

He’s still hoping to increase the quality of the show and raise more money to do so.

Anyone who is interested in donating to the cause can send their contributions to the Wallowa Lake Tourism Association, P.O. Box 853 Joseph, Ore., 97846.

Searles said the chamber’s board plans to do “Shake the Lake” again next year.

“It’s just this COVID pandemic that led us to cancel it for this year, like many other events,” she said. “I hope everything comes off OK and people in the county and visitors are safe.”

# Judge grants order barring most Portland police tear gas use

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — A federal judge Tuesday night backed Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler’s restrictions on the city’s police use of a common tear gas with a 14-day court order banning the agent except when a life is at risk.

U.S. District Judge Marco A. Hernandez’s ruling came following about an hour of argument and watching video evidence of recent protests, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

The nonprofit Don’t Shoot Portland and two protesters on Friday sued the city, seeking to bar the Portland police use of tear gas to disperse large crowds of demonstrators protesting the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after Minneapolis officer pinned him to the ground with a knee to his neck for nearly nine minutes.

The judge found that protesters who sued

“engaged only in peaceful and non-destructive protest,” with no record of criminal activity.

“To the contrary, there is even evidence that some protesters were confronted with tear gas while trying to follow police orders and leave the demonstrations,” the judge wrote in a 10-page ruling. “Given the effects of tear gas, and the potential deadly harm posed by the spread of COVID-19, Plaintiffs have estab-

lished a strong likelihood that Defendant engaged in excessive force contrary to the Fourth Amendment.”

Hernandez ruled that the protesters who sued demonstrated a threat of immediate, irreparable harm in the absence of a temporary court order, showed they were likely to succeed on their claim of excessive force by police and also raised a serious question as to whether their free speech rights were violated.

City attorneys had countered that the mayor on Saturday already limited the Police Bureau’s use of tear gas, directing that police not use it “unless there is a serious and immediate threat to life safety” with no other viable alternative available for dispersing violent demonstrators.

By issuing a 14-day temporary restraining order, the plaintiffs will be able to return to court to report any violations.

# State to test residents at all long-term care facilities

By Sara Cline  
Associated Press/Report for America

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown announced Tuesday the state is working to implement a plan to test all staff and residents at long-term care facilities for coronavirus.

Testing will start at care centers at the highest risk of having an outbreak. Most of those facilities are in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Yamhill, Marion and Polk counties, according to the governor’s office.

“From the beginning of this pandemic, it has been one of my top priorities to protect the residents and staff of long-term care facilities,” Brown said in a statement.

Care centers in Oregon have been hit with outbreaks throughout the pandemic. As of Tuesday, out of the state’s 688 large long term-care facilities 16 currently have confirmed coronavirus cases, the governor’s office said. Previously it had been 27 facilities.

The disease especially impacts older adults and people with existing health problems as it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

At least 169 people across Oregon have died from the coronavirus and more than 4,980 in the state have tested positive for the disease.

Long-term care facilities are restricting non-essential visitors and screening essential individuals prior to entering the building.

“Expanding testing is an essential first step that will allow us to examine how visitation policies can be safely and incrementally eased,” Gov. Brown said.

# DMV working through new ID issue

By Peter Wong  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services has bad news and good news for customers stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

The bad news was DMV’s initial effort to reopen its field offices after a 10-week shutdown hit a roadblock — and not the physical kind.

The good news is DMV was able to get around it quickly — and that more than 3.1 million Oregon drivers will have up to 15 months, instead of three, to obtain the kind of licenses enabling them to board commercial aircraft.

Assistant Director Travis Brouwer of the

Oregon Department of Transportation, DMV’s parent agency, spoke about both this week at a virtual meeting of the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Transportation.

In the first hour after telephone lines were opened June 1, DMV got 18,000 calls — the normal call volume is 1,000 per day — and DMV shut down the lines soon afterward.

“We were faced with a deluge of calls we did not anticipate,” Brouwer said.

But with help from its computer systems vendor, DMV put up a substitute: An online form for people to request in-person appointments, with specific times, at their local field office.

Of the 60 field offices,

38 were able to reopen June 3 to provide limited services. All but six were closed since March 25, after the first of Gov. Kate Brown’s executive orders during the coronavirus pandemic — and those six were limited to commercial driver licenses.

In a second phase, 57 field offices will reopen by Monday, June 22, for limited services. All 60 offices will reopen by Aug. 3 with all services.

Many DMV services can be done online or via mail. A new computer system will enable DMV to expand that list.

But renewals of regular drivers’ licenses require people to come in for new photos, and for those 60 and older, vision tests.

# Virus outbreak at North Bend prison resolved

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — State public health officials said Tuesday the coronavirus outbreak at a North Bend prison has been resolved.

The minimum-security prison at one point had 25 infected inmates and three infected employees, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

It is one of four state prisons with confirmed cases of the virus. A spokesperson for the Oregon Health Authority said in an email that an outbreak is considered over 28 days after the

date of the last onset of symptoms for people with the virus.

At the Oregon State Penitentiary, the state’s maximum-security prison in Salem, cases have slowed, said Christopher DiGiulio, the chief of medicine for the Oregon Department of Corrections.

The prison has reported one new case of coronavirus in the past several days, he said.

Previously, the state was reporting as many as 20 new cases a day there, he said.

As of Tuesday, the total number of confirmed cases among Oregon inmates stood at 167. Another 47 employees also have tested positive.

The outbreak at the Oregon State Penitentiary remains the largest in the state with a total of 168 cases among inmates and workers combined. Among inmates, 93 are considered recovered, DiGiulio said.

Santiam Correctional Institution in Salem and Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla

also have reported cases of the disease. Santiam has eight cases and Two Rivers has one.

For most, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks.

For some people, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Health officials have reported about 5,000 positive cases in Oregon, with at least 169 deaths.

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