

# Robots deliver food to Oregon State students

‘Contactless’ delivery system called a valuable option in pandemic year

By Douglas Perry  
The Oregonian/OregonLive via AP StoryShare

CORVALLIS — The obsolescence of humans is upon us.

The latest evidence can be found in Corvallis, where as of Wednesday, Oct. 21, robots began delivering food to Oregon State students, professors and staff. The university put out a statement heralding that it is “the first campus in the state to have autonomous delivery robots.”

The robots were created by a San Francisco company called Starship Technologies.

Kerry Paterson, who heads up Oregon State’s residential-dining services, said the “contactless” delivery system is a particularly valuable option for this pandemic year.

“This service is yet another way we can facilitate COVID protocols regulating restaurants,” he said.

The robots can keep food hot or cold, and they’re cleaned between deliveries.

Better still: the ‘bots are cute.

Offers the university press statement: “Paterson said most people find the robots pretty adorable,



Blake Brown/Oregon State University

A robot at Oregon State University, Corvallis, delivers food in this Wednesday Oct. 21, 2020, photo. Oregon State announced it is the first campus in the state to use have autonomous delivery robots.

with their rounded bodies and steady pace as they hurry around campus.”

The person who ordered the food is texted a code that unlocks the robot’s pouch.

The autonomous-delivery technology also could prove to be a boon for restaurants that aren’t in college towns. In Michigan, the Ann Arbor-based company Refraction AI launched a self-driving robot that delivers food for 15% of the cost of the meal, about half the charge for human delivery.

Early reviews from restaurateurs and customers are positive, suggesting robot delivery service is going to live long and prosper.

## Woman guilty of homicide in fatal DUII crash

Associated Press

CORVALLIS — A Corvallis woman pleaded guilty to criminally negligent homicide on Thursday, Oct. 22, in Polk County Circuit Court for a 2019 car crash that killed her teenage daughter.

Kayla Carter also pleaded guilty for third-degree assault and no contest to driving under the influence of intoxicants, The Gazette-Times reported.

Carter, with her 13-year-old daughter in the passenger seat of her car, ran a stop sign at an intersection on March 16, 2019, documents said. Her vehicle collided with car heading north on the highway.

Brianna Carter died at the scene. Jessica Cornett of Bend, the driver of the other car, was injured.

According to court documents, Carter’s blood alcohol content was approximately 0.059%. As part of the deal, charges of manslaughter and criminal mischief were dismissed. Sentencing was set for December.

## Virtual town halls coming on Paid Family Medical Leave Act

The Observer

SALEM — The Oregon Employment Department has launched a series of Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance virtual town halls.

“While they may not have all the answers to your questions, your input will help their staff to develop and create draft administrative rules for the Paid Family Med-

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More information, including registration, is available here: <https://www.oregon.gov/employ/PFMLI/Pages/Town-Halls.aspx>.

ical Leave program,” according to the department’s press release. “The PFMLI team invites you to join the upcoming vir-

tual town halls to share your questions, ideas, or suggestions.”

The team will use the input to implement a program that works for all Oregonians, the press release stated.

The first town hall was Oct. 13 on employer and employee contribution rates, employer reporting requirements, and more. The rest of the town hall

are as follows:

- **Equivalent plans**, Oct. 27, 2-3 p.m. This session will focus on submission and review of equivalent plans employers offer.
- **Benefits**, Nov. 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m. This session will focus on program eligibility, application for benefits and more.
- **Small employers**, Nov. 17, 2-3 p.m. This

session will focus on small employers; assistance grants to help with the cost of hiring temporary replacement workers and more.

- **Self-employed/independent contractors**, Dec. 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m. This session will focus on self-employed individuals and independent contractors who elect to participate in the program.

## OHA sees 70% increase in Oregon opioid deaths during April, May

The Observer

PORTLAND — Oregon Health Authority reported the state experienced an spike in opioid overdose deaths this past spring compared to last year, and public health experts believe use of illicit fentanyl and methamphetamine is driving the increase.

Analysts in the Injury and Violence Prevention Section at the OHA Public

Health Division found Oregon had a nearly 70% increase in the number of overdose deaths during April and May 2020 compared to the same time in 2019. There also was a nearly 8% increase in the number of overdose deaths during the first quarter of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

What’s unclear is what effect the COVID-19 pan-

demic may have had on opioid misuse in Oregon.

“Until more data become available, it is premature to say how much of the spike in overdose deaths is attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Dr. Tom Jeanne, deputy state health officer and deputy state epidemiologist at the Public Health Division. “However, the realization that we will be dealing with COVID-19

for some time, and other stressors related to jobs, school and social isolation, may increase feelings of anxiety and depression, and that can lead to a harmful level of alcohol or other drug use.”

The preliminary data come from the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, which includes combined and abstracted data from med-

ical examiners and death certificates.

The analysis also found between April and May 2020 there was a 28% increase in overdose deaths and a more than 15% increase in overdose deaths between March and April. And opioid-involved deaths accounted for almost 73% of total overdose deaths in May 2020.

Of opioid-involved

deaths, the data show, fentanyl and heroin continue to be the drugs most frequently involved, and fentanyl-involved deaths accounted for almost 40% of total overdose deaths in May 2020.

The analysis also found methamphetamine/amphetamine-involved deaths accounted for more than 40% of all overdose deaths in May 2020.

Ask your provider if a Virtual Visit is an option for your care needs.



Frank Szumski, DO, Family Medicine—Regional Medical Clinic

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