

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Man pepper-sprayed by Portland mayor is heir to dairy

PORTLAND — Police on Tuesday, Jan. 26, identified a man who Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler pepper-sprayed as a partner at a law firm who also tried to obtain surveillance footage of the mayor in a restaurant and get a copy of his meal receipt.

An additional police report identified Cary Cadonau as the man whom Wheeler pepper-sprayed after he confronted the mayor leaving a restaurant Sunday evening and accused him of not wearing a mask. No charges have been filed in the incident. Cadonau didn’t immediately return an e-mail seeking comment.

Wheeler and Sam Adams, who served one term as Portland mayor from 2009-13, had been dining in a tented area and were walking to their cars when Cadonau approached, unmasked, and got close to the mayor’s face while filming with his phone, according to police reports.

According to a statement the mayor gave to police, Wheeler told the man of current COVID-19 regulations, which allows people to take their mask off to eat or drink.

“He then accused me of other things to which I indicated he did not understand the rules and should probably have a better understanding if he was going to confront people about them,” Wheeler said in his statement.

Wheeler said the man stood within one or two feet of him and Wheeler became concerned for his safety and contracting COVID-19. Wheeler told the man to “back off” and he was carrying pepper spray, which he would use if necessary. When the man did not listen, the mayor said he sprayed him in the eyes.

Adams, whose statement to police was consistent with the mayor’s, suggested to Wheeler he should leave for his safety. Before doing so, Wheeler said he threw a bottle of water toward the man so he could wash his eyes, he told police.

Cadonau told police when contacted Monday he didn’t want to discuss the matter because he was an attorney. He said the mayor should be held “accountable” but declined to elaborate, according to the police report.

Stories from 2019 in The Oregonian/OregonLive identify an attorney named Cary Cadonau arguing in court over the sale of his family’s business, Alpenrose Dairy, to a Seattle-based company.

Wheeler, who was re-elected in November, has been targeted by left-wing demonstrators, including some who smashed windows and set a small fire inside his condo building.

Leader in oxycodone fraud sentenced to 4 years in prison

PORTLAND — A man who fraudulently obtained and sold 2,400 oxycodone pills by having others pass fake prescriptions at Portland-area pharmacies was sentenced Tuesday to four years in federal prison.

Chase Adam Conway, 36, sent women into pharmacies to fill the bogus prescriptions, obtaining 90 to 180 pills at a time, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration tracked Conway’s car in 2018, and found he had been using doctors’ DEA registration numbers without their knowledge, according to Kemp Strickland, an assistant U.S. attorney.

Conway also obtained medical prescription paper, used his printer to fraudulently place the doctors’ names and their DEA registration numbers on the prescriptions, and provided his “runners,” with bogus IDs to obtain the pills.

Conway’s lawyer Robert Hamilton, an assistant federal public defender, said his client’s crime was driven by addiction to opiates and methamphetamine.

His arrest in this case has “probably saved his life and others too and he recognizes that,” Hamilton said.

Resort damaged by fire hopes to soon reopen

ROSEBURG — The owners of a resort on the Umpqua River that was damaged by last year’s Oregon wildfires are hoping to open for guests by mid-March.

The News-Review reports that thanks to favorable weather and fundraising to help pay for the \$200,000 in damages from the fire, Travis and Melinda Woodward said repairs to the Steamboat Inn are ahead of schedule.

Melinda Woodward has already sent out notices that the Inn is hiring for the upcoming season.

Septic and water systems serving the main Inn and restaurant, the Steamboat Creek cottages and guest and employee housing on the south side of the North Umpqua River had all sustained significant damage during the Archie Creek fire.

Melinda Woodward said that each repair has been done “one piece at a time,” and praised a stretch of fair weather which helped them get ahead of the repairs.

“We got lucky,” Melinda Woodward said. “Some of the equipment we were told was going to take six to eight weeks to arrive showed up in two. Everything kind of lined up in our favor.”

— Associated Press

Thousands of Portland’s health care workers are not vaccinated

By SARA CLINE
The Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND — Health officials in the tri-county Portland, Oregon, metro area said Tuesday, Jan. 26, that “tens of thousands” of frontline health care workers have not received the COVID-19 vaccine and that it will likely take weeks before most do.

One solution is allocating more doses of the vaccine to the populated area, said Jessica Guernsey, the Multnomah County public health director. Guernsey said officials have spoken to the Oregon Health Authority about this option and have not received “an outright denial.”

“There really is no easy way to say this, right now we are in a situation in the metro area where we have more people eligible for the vaccine than we actually have vaccine in the metro area,” Guernsey said. “This is an incredibly frustrating situation.”

Health leaders in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties announced Tuesday the online regional COVID-19 Phase 1A vaccination sign-up survey, that was launched Jan. 12, is now closed because of the limited vaccine supply.

The survey was intended to link healthcare providers and others in Phase 1A to appointment slots with the health systems as vaccines became available.

Health officials said that while 60,000 eligible people applied for vaccines through the survey, only 11,000 were sent invitations to be vaccinated.

The announcement came a day after teachers in Oregon have begun being vaccinated. Seniors 80 and older will be eli-



Josh Andersen/OHSU via AP

In this Dec. 18, 2020, photo provided by the Oregon Health & Science University, Christine Greco, who works at Oregon Health & Science University’s drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at Hillsboro Stadium, Hillsboro, receives a COVID-19 vaccine injection in Hillsboro.

gible the week of Feb. 7. In the weeks that follow, Oregon seniors in younger age groups will become eligible.

Health officials say that 1A health care workers will be vaccinated at the same time as teachers, however state officials decide the weekly amount of vaccine doses allocated toward each eligible group.

This week, the metro area received a total of 15,000 vaccines. Out of that, the state earmarked 12,000 doses for educators and 3,000 for Phase 1A.

Tri-county area health officials have described the vaccine situation as complex and frustrating — reiterating that the metro area is unlike the rest of the state, as it home to Oregon’s three most populous counties and many of the state’s large hospitals.

While metro area health officials said allocating more doses to the tri-counties would help, they also noted that there are people across the state waiting and in need of the vaccine.

“I think with the scarce resource and this scenario, we are trying to be mindful of not falling into urban versus rural or teachers versus grandparents,”

Vines said. “A lot of people want and deserve this vaccine. They deserve to get it in a smooth and timely way. We are working really hard within the constraints to make that happen.”

On Tuesday Gov. Kate Brown also announced that some indoor activities, such as gyms and movie theaters, in Oregon can reopen with a limited capacity beginning Friday.

However, the new modifications do not apply to indoor dining, which has been banned for more than two months in counties labeled as Extreme Risk because of the coronavirus pandemic, including Multnomah — the state’s most populous county and home to Portland.

In addition, the governor announced updates to county risk levels.

Beginning Friday, Grant County will move into the Moderate Risk level while Tillamook, Curry and Lake counties will move into the Lower Risk level. Twenty-five counties remain in Extreme Risk.

The Oregon Health Authority re-examines and adjusts county risk levels every two weeks. The next announcement will be made Feb. 9.



Help senior drivers maintain their independence

As men and women age, various factors may affect their ability to drive. In addition to issues with memory, seniors may have failing eyesight and physical limitations, and their reaction time may slow down. In such instances, seniors’ ability to safely operate a motor vehicle may be questioned.

Age alone is not a reliable measure of driving ability, but many of the issues that affect one’s ability to safely drive a vehicle tend to appear as men and women near their golden years.

Losing the ability to safely operate an automobile can greatly reduce a person’s independence. That is why periodic driver evaluations may be met with some reluctance. Aging men and women who don’t want to avoid potential conflicts with concerned family members can take their own steps to ensure they maintain their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Schedule a driving safety evaluation

When drivers’ abilities to operate a motor vehicle become suspect, a thorough evaluation should be scheduled. The evaluation should not be handled by a family physician or family member, but by an unbiased third party like a Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist. This is a therapist who has special certification to assist people with disabilities, including older adults, with driving. They can help individuals with adaptive equipment or techniques if driving issues stem from something that can be addressed.

Figure out if the car “fits” the individual

A program called CarFit can help drivers assess if their car is suited to their abilities. A team of trained technicians and/or health professionals work with participants to ensure their vehicles are equipped for maximum safety and comfort. A properly adjusted vehicle is as important as one’s cognitive and physical abilities. Adjustments can include mirror placement, good foot positioning and sitting at the proper distance from the steering wheel. People can learn about an upcoming event at www.car-fit.org.

Take a driver improvement course

Driver improvement courses are provided by various organizations, including some insurance companies. AARP also has a Driver Safety Course to lower the risk of traffic violations, collisions and injuries. Completion of these courses can help drivers enhance their abilities behind the wheel and may result in lower premiums for mature drivers.



Keep the mind and body fit

Regular exercise and a healthy diet can be assets for mature drivers. Mental fitness techniques and brain exercises can improve reaction time, while aerobic and strength-training workouts can keep the body in shape.

Driving is one of the key avenues to personal independence. Strengthening seniors’ driving abilities is a goal of many organizations.

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