

# Judge warns against retaliation at Two Rivers prison

By **CONRAD WILSON**  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

UMATILLA — A federal judge is warning prison staff at Oregon's Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla not to retaliate against an adult in their custody who sued corrections officials because they wouldn't follow masking rules.

Following hearings in federal court, U.S. Magistrate Judge Stacie Beckerman issued a new written order Wednesday, March 30, that told employees at the prison not to take actions against Aaron Hanna.

In October, Hanna asked the court to force prison officials and correctional officers at Two Rivers to comply with the Oregon Department of Corrections' policy on wearing masks.

That policy requires correctional officers and staff to wear masks anytime they are in the facility, even as most statewide mandates for mask wearing were



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

**A federal judge on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, warned prison staff at Oregon's Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla not to retaliate against an adult in their custody who sued corrections officials because they wouldn't follow masking rules.**

lifted in March.

On March 21, Beckerman issued an order that required prison staff follow their own rules and wear masks inside the prison.

"It didn't take long for that to really kind of sour

things over at TRCI," said Juan Chavez, Hanna's attorney. He said the guards and leaders at the Two Rivers prison "took the judge's conclusions that they need to enforce their masking orders and appli-

fied that against AIC's (adult in custody) by several magnitudes."

That was not Beckerman's intent, a point she clarified this week, stating the injunction applied only to staff and not to the pris-

on's policy for adults in custody.

Inmates were forced to wear masks while chewing food and only allowed to slip their masks down to take bites, Chavez said. They had to wear masks

outside in the yard and while taking showers.

"They ratcheted up mask enforcement against AICs, which made AICs not happy," Chavez said. "Staff were telling people, 'Well, don't be angry with us, be angry with Hanna.'"

That put Hanna in a vulnerable position.

Chavez said the implication from Two Rivers was clear: "Come against us, come get accountability against us, we're going to make you feel the pain even worse."

Beckerman said any violation of her injunction, or retaliation against Hanna, could result in civil or criminal contempt proceedings.

A spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Corrections said the agency "cannot comment on the specifics of this case, but the DOC makes every effort to comply with court orders and will continue to do so."

A hearing is set for May 10 to discuss the retaliation Hanna faced at Two Rivers.

# Program will pay cash for information on poaching of wild animals

New fund provides reward for tips on nongame animal poaching

By **ALEX BAUMHARDT**  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

SALEM — A new fund will reward tipsters for information on poached or stolen nongame animals, such as raptors, which can't be hunted.

Up until now, callers to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Turn in Poachers line, or TIP line, could receive a cash award only if they called with

### MORE INFORMATION

To report poaching or illegal animal theft, call the Turn in Poachers (TIP) line at 800-452-7888 or \*OSP (\*677) from a mobile phone, or email: TIP@osp.oregon.gov.

information on a game species, such as deer, elk and bear, hunted outside of state regulations. Those awards are paid for by the Oregon Hunters Association.

Now, callers with information on the illegal killing of imperiled, threatened or endangered nongame animals will also be rewarded.

Those with information that leads to an arrest or citation for the poaching of eagles, hawks, owls or other raptors, for example, could receive \$500. For tips on animals

considered threatened or endangered by the state or federal Endangered Species Act, the reward is \$1,000. These include animals such as wolverines and sea otters. Tips that lead to citations and arrests in the illegal trade of imperiled frogs, turtles and reptiles, often sold illegally online or in wet markets, also will be rewarded.

The new rewards are paid for by the Oregon Wildlife Coalition, a group of eight conservation organizations that work together closely

on policy and advocacy.

According to Danielle Moser, wildlife program coordinator at Oregon Wild, part of the wildlife coalition, poaching in Oregon "remains a significant problem, especially for those species which are imperiled or low in population numbers."

Moser pointed to the recent poisoning of eight wolves and the poaching of two more in Northeastern Oregon.

"For a species with a low population, 10 instances of poaching can be a significant setback for the species' population," Moser wrote in an email. There are about 170 wolves in Oregon.

The reward for information on the killing of those wolves is now

up to nearly \$48,000.

"Thrill kills" of game animals in the state continue to be an issue, according to the state Fish and Wildlife Department and the Oregon Hunters Association. In 2020, the association distributed more than \$20,000 for information on the illegal killing of game species.

Yvonne Shaw, manager of the department's Stop Poaching campaign, said in a statement that nongame animals are also victims of senseless attacks.

"Raptors, which eat incredible numbers of mice, voles and other crop pests, have been targeted," Shaw wrote. "We lose many incredible birds every year from thrill killers."

# Fire-detecting cameras to be installed across Oregon, atop peaks and cell towers

Upgrades to cost state about \$4.5 million

By **ALEX BAUMHARDT**  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

SALEM — Oregon will soon have nearly 60 cameras across the state perched on cellphone towers, old fire towers and mountaintops, watching for potential forest fires across the state.

The cameras, part of the ALERTWildfire network, help fire departments and state agencies spot wildfires early, predict their movements and slow their spread. They also allow Oregonians the opportunity to make evacuation decisions early, based on their proximity to fires.

Currently, the network is

made up of two dozen cameras, which will more than double with new state money.

Legislators in February appropriated \$4.5 million to the Oregon Hazards Lab at the University of Oregon to add at least 29 cameras across the state over the next year. Most of the two dozen currently operating are in Southeastern and Western Oregon. New cameras will be concentrated in the Rogue Valley and in the Bend, Richmond and La Pine areas.

The video streams are accessible online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to the public and to emergency response agencies and firefighters, who can also use a time lapse feature to go

back and trace the origins of a fire. Additionally, artificial intelligence software in the system can detect smoke and alert fire agencies and emergency responders.

Such a forest surveillance system was first implemented around Lake Tahoe in 2014 by the University of Nevada Reno and has expanded to Oregon, California, Washington, and Idaho in partnership with state and federal agencies and public universities.

The Oregon expansion is being spearheaded by Doug Toomey, a geophysicist and director of the Oregon Hazards Lab, where scientists study natural disasters in the Pacific Northwest, and search for ways to use technology to monitor and mitigate them.

Toomey hopes the cameras will be useful to people living in areas prone to wildfire.

"You don't have to sit and wait to see if your home is being evacuated. You can see what things look like in real time," he said.

In California, the system has allowed fire agencies to respond more strategically to fires when they begin to move. During the Lilac Fire in San Diego County in 2017, several fire departments collaborated to double the size of their initial response within the first 10 minutes of flames spreading. They could see the size of the fire from the elevated cameras rather than waiting to assess on the ground, according to a CBS news report.

Toomey said the Hazards Lab can program cameras to gray out homes or businesses upon request for privacy reasons. Toomey said for the most part, people living within view of the fire cameras have seen the benefits outweigh their concerns.

The number of cameras in Oregon are still small in

comparison to other states that are part of the ALERT-Wildfire collaborative. In California, the network has more than 1,000 cameras positioned around the state including dozens near its border with Oregon.

"It is a great start to have this money but we have a long way to go," Toomey said.

## La GRANDE AUTO REPAIR



# 975-2000

[www.lagrandeautorepair.com](http://www.lagrandeautorepair.com)

MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE

ACDelcoTSS

Joe Horst

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!  
877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid March 16, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Special Financing Available  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*Terms & Conditions Apply



A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!

| (844) 989-2328

\*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.



## Mobile Service

### Outstanding Computer Repair

Fast & Reliable  
Call or Text 24/7

Dale Bogardus 541-297-5831

Stay up-to-date with Microsoft's most advanced operating system to date, Windows 11  
Desktops and laptops in stock  
Or upgrade yours today for the best security!

House calls (let me come to you!)  
Drop Offs & Remote Services are Available

All credit cards accepted






Careers that make a difference

Work with people with disabilities!




www.ImpactOregon.careers

impact

BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet!  
ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available.

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$69.99

MO. for 12 Mos.

America's Top 120 Package

190 CHANNELS

Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-866-373-9175

Offer ends 4/13/22

All offers require credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and 4-6¢/By. Prices include Hopper Due for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 Sling. more. Offered here near each location credit qualification.

dish



Turning 65?  
We're here to help!

Joel Myer  
[jmyer@valleyinsurance.com](mailto:jmyer@valleyinsurance.com)



1603 Washington Ave, La Grande

(541) 963-3121

Let us take the mystery out of Medicare for you!

Kathy Rienti  
[krienti@valleyinsurance.com](mailto:krienti@valleyinsurance.com)

