

Keizer man arrested after walking away from corrections warehouse

State police on Sunday, Nov. 21 arrested a man who walked away from an Oregon Corrections Enterprises warehouse Friday morning.

Oregon State Police worked with the state Department of Corrections' Fugitive Apprehensive Unit to arrest Benjamin Woods in Salem around 7:30 p.m. Sunday, according to a corrections department news release.

Woods, 38, of Keizer, walked away from the warehouse on Oregon State Penitentiary grounds in Salem around 10:15 a.m. Friday, according to a Friday news release.

People in custody can be paid to do varying jobs at the warehouse including making furniture, metal work and laundry, corrections department spokesperson Jennifer Black said on Friday.

Black said there are Oregon Corrections Enterprises employees and a corrections department security officer onsite at the warehouse. The Oregon Corrections Enterprises employees are responsible for counting the adults in custody and go through the same training as corrections department security except for firearms and use of force training. "OCE participates in general

self-defense," she said.

Woods entered the correction's department's custody on March 24. He pleaded guilty in February 2019 to attempted first-degree burglary and in March 2020 to first-degree burglary, both in Marion County Circuit Court, court records showed.

Before walking away from the warehouse, he was housed at the Santiam Correctional Institution and was working as a clerk at the corrections enterprises warehouse. His earliest release date is Aug. 29, 2024.

Oregon to get more than \$400 million to rebuild from wildfires

By ALEX BAUMHARDT
Of Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon will receive more than \$422 million from the federal government for rebuilding from the 2020 wildfires that were among the worst in state history.

The money comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is distributing \$2 billion in disaster recovery and resiliency funds among nine states and Puerto Rico. Oregon is the second largest recipient of funds after Louisiana, Oregon and California, which suffered billions of dollars in damage from wildfires in 2020, are the only states in the West allocated money.

"Put simply, climate change is truly a hammer hitting Oregon and many of the states directly in the head," Gov. Kate Brown said at a virtual press conference to announce the funds on Thursday.

"Our Labor Day fires of 2020 were unlike anything we have seen in recent memory," she added.

Brown was joined by the federal housing secretary and the governors of Puerto Rico and Louisiana. There is no timeline for when the money will be available. Program requirements, which would include more detail about where and how money can be spent, are in the works and will be published in the Federal Register when ready, according to federal housing officials.

A spokesperson from the Governor's office said the priority for funds would be for rural, low and moderate income households, and communities of color. The next step is for the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to embark on a public engagement process with heavily impacted communities that will inform how the money is deployed, the spokesperson said.

At the conference, Brown said she plans to use the money to aid the most impacted communities and replace

homes for people who have been displaced for more than a year. Brown said the state would build fire resilient housing and rebuild businesses. Of the more than 4,000 homes that were destroyed in the 2020 fires, half were manufactured or mobile homes, Brown

said, adding that most were in rural parts of the state that already lacked affordable housing options and were going through great economic stress from the pandemic.

"Truly, communities disappeared overnight," Brown said.

VOLUNTEER of the Week

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JOSE DOMINGUEZ

Where and how do you volunteer?

- "Latino Action Committee
- Providing scholarships to Senior Migrant students at McNary High
- * Connecting Latino families to resources for their particular need.
- * Volunteering at prisons. Oregon State Correctional Institute and Coffee Creek Facility
- * Provide counseling spiritual enrichment and life skills through the Word of God to men and women inmates."

Why do you volunteer?

- "Serving and helping brings meaning to my faith in Jesus Christ.
- Expresses God's love and makes my faith active and real."

What does volunteering do for you?

- "Brings satisfaction to my work knowing someone was encouraged, helped and given hope.
- Helps me Bring joy and a smile to people's face in their time of need."

How would you get others to volunteer in their community?

- "Express the need, show them the need, invite them to be a solution of help and hope."

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