

ACCIDENT: Fifth logging-related fatality in Oregon this year

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heading the investigation, Pallis said.

"An investigation like this can take up to six months," said Aaron Corvin, an OSHA spokesman. "Typically it is finished sooner."

Corvin said OSHA officials will be trying to determine if the employer violated any workplace safety rules. Corvin said OSHA Inspectors will collect evidence from the scene, interview witnesses and company officials.

"We will be trying to access whether rules were followed or not followed," Corvin said.

OSHA officials then determine if any citations would be issued.

Corley Logging could not be reached for comment. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday in the Vert Auditorium, Pendleton.

This is the fifth logging-related fatality in Oregon this year, and the first in Eastern Oregon, Corvin said. The other fatal accidents occurred Jan. 21 in Lebanon, Feb. 18 in Elsie, May 7 in Coquille, June 7 in Mehama

CASES: Larsen worked on 1,019 cases for the county

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Nelson said there has been little fallout from the 130 open cases his office had in which Larsen helped process evidence. He recalled dismissing two C-felony drug cases, but explained that had to do with the difficulties of asking Larsen to testify while she is under investigation, which also could have interfered with a defendant's right to a speedy trial.

Larsen worked in the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division labs in Pendleton and Bend. Authorities more than a year ago suspected she took drugs from evidence she was testing. That led to her suspension and the criminal investigation, and Gov. Kate Brown in September formed a task force to review lab operations and make recommendations to the legislature for changes to laws to improve the labs' performance.

The local district attorney's offices are not plowing through old cases Larsen may have worked on. Instead, they are leaving that up to defense attorneys to ask for reviews. Nelson said he did not know how a defense attorney could open a case, for example, if a defendant had pleaded guilty.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel was not available this week, but last week he spoke about the situation on Oregon's Public Broadcasting's weekday noon program Think Out Loud. He said Larsen worked on 1,019 cases for the county, and he and two deputies have reviewed 201 to date. Of those, he said, he asked the court to overturn 10 conviction.

Hummel also said he aims to complete reviewing all the cases by September.

The state has not provided prosecutors with extra money or staff to get through the files. Primus said the spike in the workload is part of the job and no different than taking on the city of Hermiston's misdemeanor cases.

"We're going to do the work that comes our way," he said.

Primus also said he still has confidence in the crime lab and one person's actions should not shine a bad light on the rest of the vital work the lab delivers. He said the final outcome should be a better crime lab.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Savon de Marseille is a French soap made with vegetable oils and natural aromas.

PROMENADE: Will feature a tea garden for customers

Continued from 1A

the actual Promenade building does not.

While many Pendleton businesses move into an existing commercial building, Promenade was built from the ground up and is one of the city's newer commercial developments.

Hayden said she could have established Promenade in one of Pendleton's historic downtown buildings, but she elected to build her own to better accommodate deliveries and have enough space for a tea garden.

The garden is expected to play a prominent role

in Promenade's future. Hayden said she plans to provide customers with baked goods they can eat in the garden to give them something to do before or after they shop at the store.

Hayden said she wants to help Pendleton's tourism industry by turning Promenade into a destination, a place where people stop before they patronize Pendleton's other stores and restaurants.

Hayden said one of the reasons she and her husband moved to Eastern Oregon from Eugene 15 years ago was because of its sense of history. Now they can share some history of their own.



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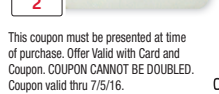


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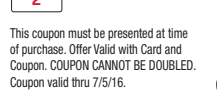
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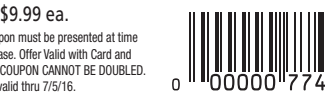
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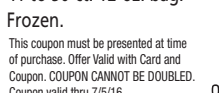


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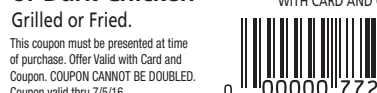
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