

Eugene man sells cricket snacks

By ALISHA ROEMELING
The Register-Guard

EUGENE — Some describe the taste as nutty or having the flavor of a sunflower seed.

Austin Miller of Eugene says the crunchy brown morsels taste like popcorn.

But Miller, a 33-year-old with an unusual new business, isn't describing a typical snack.

He's talking about crickets. Eating crickets.

"The primary way I eat them is on chips with salsa, maybe five or six per chip," Miller said. "Sometimes I put a handful on a salad. They pair well with soft cheeses as well, but their appeal isn't their unique awesome flavor. Really, they just provide a protein-rich crunch."

Miller breeds, raises, freezes, boils, bakes and packages the small insects for humans to buy — and eat.

His business, Craft Crickets in west Eugene, started selling crickets last week through its website.

The thought of eating crickets may be revolting to most Americans, but Miller and others contend that the insects are a nutritious and environmentally friendly food source that will play a larger role in the human diet as the world's population explodes.

"When the world has 9 billion people, we're not going to be able to necessarily feed the population with our current agricultural practices," Miller said. "I'm not sure if it will be in five years or 50, but we'll all be eating insects eventually."

About 30 companies in the United States sell insect-based food items, he said, including a handful of cricket breeding, raising and processing firms.

Cricket Flours, founded in Eugene in 2014 by two University of Oregon graduate students, started by making flour from ground crickets. The



Kelly Lyon/The Register-Guard via AP

In this Dec. 1 photo, Austin Miller poses with some of the crickets he raises inside a warehouse in Eugene, Ore. It takes six to eight weeks for the crickets to grow into adult bugs. Miller breeds, raises, freezes, boils, bakes and packages the small insects for humans to buy and eat.

founders moved their firm to Portland. Earlier this year, they said they had developed the world's first brownie mix with milled crickets.

There's a variety of ways people can consume the tiny, protein-packed bugs, according to Miller, who says he often adds crickets to tacos for extra texture. His life partner, Zoe Anton, 32, grinds them up in a food processor and puts them in shakes or bakes the remains into a cake for added protein.

"It's probably the most protein-rich cake that I've ever eaten," Miller said.

His company's crickets are not seasoned with spices or salt. After being baked, they're packaged — antennas, legs, eyes and all — into 2- and 4-ounce resealable bags. The 2-ounce bag costs \$15 and contains about 650 to 750 crickets. The 4-ounce bags cost \$20 each and have about twice the amount of baked bugs.

At Craft Crickets, Miller raises

about 500,000 crickets at a time in a 3,000-square-foot, rented warehouse on Conger Street, off West 11th Avenue.

He and Anton became interested, and eventually passionate about, eating insects following a yearlong trip to such countries as Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

"We did some traveling in South America, where eating insects is very common," Miller said. "In Oaxaca (Mexico) they sort of pan fry them and season them, and then sell them in large bags and people eat it like candy — they're tasty."

It cost the couple about \$25,000 to start the business. The Oregon Department of Agriculture recently approved Craft Crickets as the state's first food grade producer of crickets, Miller said.

It took awhile to find a place to raise half a million crickets, he said.

Couple to remain in jail pending hit and run murder trial

PORTLAND (AP) — A couple accused of intentionally running down a black teenager will remain behind bars until the outcome of a murder trial.

Colleen Hunt, 35, called for the hearing and asked Judge Jerry Hodson to allow her release from jail until the 2017 trial, reported *The Oregonian/OregonLive*. But Hodson sided with prosecutors, who on Monday played a surveillance video of the August incident — the first time the video was shown in public.

Prosecutors say Hunt encouraged her boyfriend, 38-year-old Russell Courtier, to drive his Jeep into 19-year-old Lamell Bruce Jr. after the two men scuffled outside a 7-Eleven in Gresham. Race was a motivating factor in the attack, according to authorities, who have said the couple has ties to white supremacists.

Three eyewitnesses heard Hunt shout "Run him over!" to Courtier, according to prosecutor David Hannon. The surveillance video shows Bruce sprinting

away from the Jeep seconds before he was fatally struck. Gresham police have also testified that Courtier was accelerating rapidly as he chased Bruce and even drove into oncoming traffic and onto a sidewalk during the pursuit.

Hodson found that the "presumption is strong" that Hunt was an accomplice to murder.

Hunt and Courtier have pleaded not guilty to charges of murder and intimidation, a hate crime. Courtier did not request release from jail

pending trial.

Gresham Detective Aaron Turnage testified that the attack left Bruce with "an unsurvivable traumatic brain injury." He died three days later.

Defense attorney Jon Sarre told the judge that Hunt was in the Jeep and wouldn't have been able to stop Courtier unless she had been able to reason with him or force the stick shift into a neutral gear. He also argued that the state witnesses are biased because they were friends with Bruce.

Klamath County backs sheriff in excessive force lawsuit

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — Klamath County is supporting Sheriff Frank Skrah in an excessive force lawsuit filed by a former jail inmate.

The Herald and News reports that in a response to the lawsuit filed Nov. 28, Klamath County denied claims of wrongdoing by the inmate, saying any force used against him was justified by the circumstances.

Kenneth Ray Bragg has accused Skrah of illegally striking and choking him during his arrest last year. He filed lawsuit in September against Skrah, the county and 10 unidentified law enforcement officers who allegedly witnessed the incident.

Skrah filed a response Nov. 8 saying any force used against Bragg was necessary to subdue an armed suspect.

Duck boat company to pay up to \$1M for violations

SEATTLE (AP) — Ride the Ducks International has agreed to pay up to \$1 million in civil penalties under a consent order reached with federal transportation officials.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Tuesday the Branson, Missouri-based manufacturer of amphibious vehicles violated motor vehicle safety laws when it failed to report a defect in a front axle or initiate a full safety recall.

The company manufactured the vehicle that was involved in a deadly crash on Seattle's Aurora Bridge in 2015. Five college students were killed and dozens injured.

A NHTSA investigation

BRIEFLY



Skrah

found that vehicle had a defect that had been noted by Ride the Ducks International in 2013 but the company did not issue a safety recall as required.

The consent order says the company will pay \$480,000 in civil penalties and spend another \$20,000 to ensure it complies with the order. It will also pay another \$500,000 in fines if it continues to violate federal motor vehicle safety laws or the consent order.

Student with guns on rooftop arrested during dance

GRESHAM (AP) — Authorities say a high school student who was on the rooftop of a school with weapons during a dance east of Portland was arrested.

Gresham Police said in a news release that students at Sam Barlow High School alerted staff about a person dressed in dark clothing standing on the roof near the student parking lot Saturday evening.

Police say the school's resource officer, Jeff Culp, responded to the roof, confronted the person and determined he was student.

Police say the student had two unloaded handguns and handgun ammunition.

Police say he told the officer he was there in a security capacity to ensure the safety of students at the dance. Police say the boy was cooperative.

The student was arrested on weapons possession charges and taken to a county juvenile detention center.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny and very cold	Cold with periods of snow	Rain, mixed with snow early	A blend of sun and clouds	A bit of rain in the morning
27° 14°	27° 24°	34° 26°	39° 30°	40° 26°
31° 19°	25° 21°	33° 25°	37° 31°	40° 27°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 31° 26°

Normals 40° 27°

Records 65° (1987) 0° (2013)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.20"

Month to date 0.21"

Normal month to date 0.27"

Year to date 11.51"

Last year to date 8.08"

Normal year to date 11.78"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 33° 32°

Normals 41° 28°

Records 62° (1945) 1° (2013)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.07"

Month to date 0.07"

Normal month to date 0.32"

Year to date 7.97"

Last year to date 5.64"

Normal year to date 8.82"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:22 a.m.

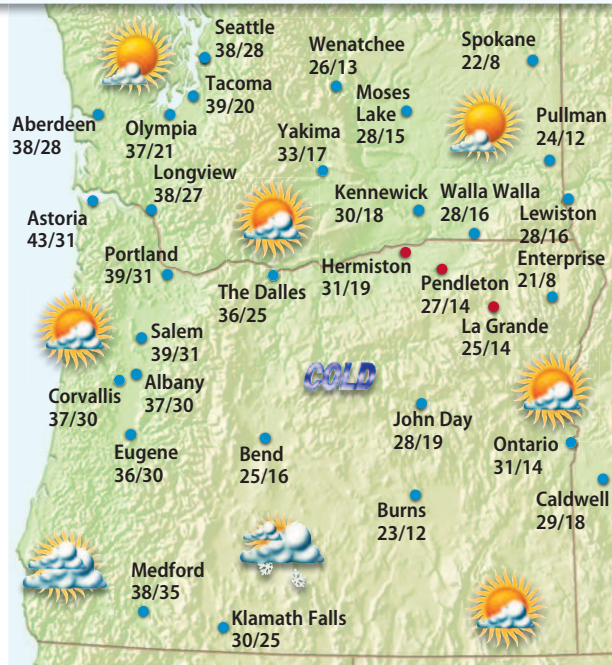
Sunset tonight 4:11 p.m.

Moonrise today 12:39 p.m.

Moonset today none

First Full Last New

Dec 7 Dec 13 Dec 20 Dec 28



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Clouds and sun today; a passing afternoon shower in the south. Periods of rain tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Partly sunny and cold today. Snow tonight, accumulating a coating to an inch.

Western Washington: Mostly sunny today. Cloudy tonight; a little snow at times across the south.

Eastern Washington: Mostly sunny today. Mostly cloudy tonight. A little snow at times tomorrow.

Cascades: Cold today with sunshine and some clouds; a flurry in the south during the afternoon.

Northern California: Rain today, but a bit of snow in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

Today Thu. Hi Lo W Hi Lo W

Astoria	43	31	pc	46	42	r
Baker City	24	8	pc	25	24	sn
Bend	25	16	pc	38	33	sn
Brookings	46	41	c	53	46	r
Burns	23	12	pc	32	26	sn
Enterprise	21	8	s	28	25	c
Eugene	36	30	pc	48	42	sn
Heppner	26	14	pc	27	23	sn
Hermiston	31	19	s	25	21	sn
John Day	28	19	pc	38	34	sn
Klamath Falls	30	25	sn	42	34	i
La Grande	25	14	s	30	27	sn
Meacham	24	10	s	28	25	sn
Medford	38	35	c	50	42	r
Newport	43	35	pc	51	46	r
North Bend	47	40	c	56	47	r
Ontario	31	14	pc	31	26	sn
Pasco	32	15	s	29	23	sn
Pendleton	27	14	s	27	24	sn
Portland	39	31	pc	35	33	i
Redmond	30	15	pc	34	29	sn
Salem	39	31	pc	43	42	sn
Spokane	22	8	s	22	21	sn
Ukiah	24	11	pc	31	26	sn
Vancouver	38	30	pc	36	35	i
Walla Walla	28	16	s	28	25	sn
Yakima	33	17	s	27	18	sn

WORLD CITIES

Today Thu. Hi Lo W Hi Lo W

Beijing	48	26	s	47	22	s
Hong Kong	74	64	s	73	63	pc
Jerusalem	60	44	s	56	39	pc
London	57	49	pc	58	50	c
Mexico City	76	49	pc	75	53	pc
Moscow	18	15	c	28	22	sf
Paris	49	35	pc	50	37	pc
Rome	61	40	s	59	40	c
Seoul	47	24	pc	45	31	pc
Sydney	77	69	pc	86	65	pc
Tokyo	50	41	c	57	45	s

WINDS

(in mph) Today Thursday Boardman NE 6-12 NNE 6-12 Pendleton NE 6-12 NE 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 1 1 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

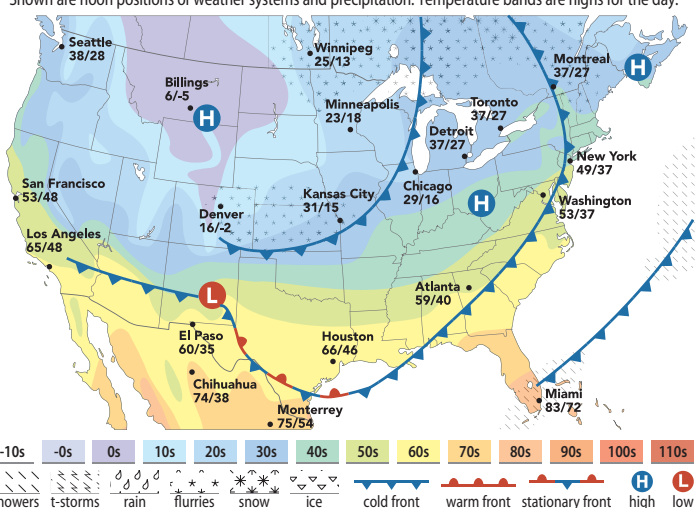
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Snow will retreat over northern New England, while rain showers linger over southern Florida today. Arctic air will cross the Central states. snow will advance from the central Rockies to the central Plains.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 90° in Stuart, Fla. Low -24° in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

NATIONAL CITIES

Today Thu. Hi Lo W Hi Lo W

Albuquerque	48	23	s	41	27	s
Atlanta	59	40	pc	50	26	pc
Atlanta City	53	39	c	48	31	c
Baltimore	52	32	pc	46	28	c
Billings	6	-5	pc	6	2	pc
Birmingham	56	36	pc	47	22	c
Boston	29	20	pc	32	30	sn
Boston	45	35	c	44	30	c
Charleston, SC	66	48	pc	66	35	c
Charleston, WV	44	28	pc	38	20	c
Chicago	29	16	c	25	15	sf
Cleveland	39	26	c	32	25	sf
Dallas	58	34	c	43	26	s
Denver	16	-2	sn	23	8	s
Detroit	37	27	c	33	24	sf
El Paso	60	35	pc	49	28	pc
Fairbanks	-14	-24	s	-15	-21	s
Fargo	20					