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EAST OREGONIAN

FEBRUARY 13-14, 2021

145th Year, No. 51

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

Prisons begin COVID-19 vaccinations

EOCI, TRCI received allocated doses this week, began offering vaccine to most at-risk inmates

By **BRYCE DOLE**
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — Umatilla County prisons have started the process of offering COVID-19 vaccines to all adults in custody after receiving around 670 doses from the state this week, according to prison officials.

Spokespersons from Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton and Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla say each prison received its allocated

doses on Tuesday, Feb. 9, and began offering the vaccine to inmates who are most at risk of severe infection.

Ron Miles, the supervising executive assistant for EOCI, said in an email that the prison is expecting to receive 670 more doses on Tuesday, Feb. 16. The prison expects to finish offering the vaccine to all inmates by Friday, Feb. 19, "barring a weather emergency or other delivery problem," he said.

Miles said it's difficult to tell

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Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution/Contributed Photo
Registered nurse Rhonda Atkins prepares to vaccinate an AIC at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton earlier this week.

**BLUE MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

BMCC president abruptly resigns

Bailey-Fougner diagnosed with cancer late last year

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Nearing his two-year anniversary as president, Dennis Bailey-Fougner resigned from the top job at Blue Mountain Community College on Thursday, Feb. 11.

The BMCC Board of Education formally accepted his resignation at a special meeting, where they also named John Fields, the college's vice president of instruction, as the school's acting president.

In a Friday, Feb. 12, press release, the college stated that Bailey-Fougner was diagnosed with cancer late last year, and although he initially decided to work through his treatment, he was now turning his attention toward his health.

"BMCC is a fantastic institution with a strong future ahead. I regret that I will not be able to be a part of that future but I have decided I need to focus on my health," Bailey-Fougner said in a statement. "I am grateful to everyone who contributes to the success of BMCC."

Bailey-Fougner did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Jane Hill, the chair of the BMCC board, reiterated that Bailey-Fougner resigned for health reasons but declined to comment on his performance, adding she couldn't discuss the president or any other employee's performance because they were personnel issues.

Hill said Bailey-Fougner is still finalizing his resignation agreement with the school.

BMCC will now search for a new president for the second time in three years.

The college last embarked on a



Fields



Hill

UMATILLA RIVER FLOODING: ONE YEAR LATER



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File
Samaritan's Purse volunteers bow their heads in prayer before removing sodden insulation from a Riverview Mobile Home Estates home on Feb. 19, 2020.

Digging out after disaster

Victims experience paralyzing sense of loss

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Todd Taylor knows disaster.

Taylor, a North Carolinian who oversees U.S. teams from an international disaster relief organization called Samaritan's Purse, has experienced the aftermath of hurricanes, tornados, fire and floods. In 2020, his teams responded to

deadly tornados in Tennessee, flooding in Michigan and Hurricane Laura in Louisiana. They spent three months in Southern Oregon after fire ripped through the cities of Talent and Phoenix, and burned more than 2,000 homes.

Even with one disaster after another, Taylor clearly remembers Pendleton. Swollen rivers and creeks had jumped the banks on Feb. 7, 2020, and by the time Taylor's team reached the area a week later, it encountered devastation and numerous flooded-out residents who were still reeling.

"When we arrived in Pendleton, we saw hundreds of homes with severe flash flood

damage from the very rapid snowmelt and heavy rains," Taylor said.

The team parked its semitruck and trailer in the First Assembly of God parking lot to use as a headquarters and got to work. In the next three weeks, 209 volunteers (many of them local) worked a total of 4,424 hours to clear debris and prep homes for reconstruction. This marked the first West Coast flood response for the relief organization, which is funded by private donations.

Some images remain lodged in Taylor's brain.

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Local brewery picks up lawsuit victory

Anheuser-Busch must halt deceptive ads for Michelob ULTRA Hard Seltzer, judge says

By **MAXINE BERNSTEIN**
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — A federal judge found on Tuesday, Feb. 9, that Anheuser-Busch's advertisements portraying its Michelob ULTRA Hard Seltzer as "the only" or "the

first national USDA certified organic hard seltzer" are false.

"Truth matters," U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon wrote in his 25-page opinion.

He issued a temporary restraining order for the beverage maker to halt the deceptive ads.

Owners of Suzie's Brewery in Pendleton started selling Suzie's Seltzer in July 2020 after receiving federal certification for the organic hard seltzer, and sought the court action after spotting TV ads for the Michelob product during an NFL championship playoff game on Jan. 24.

In the commercial titled "Not Playing Around," the ad described Michelob ULTRA Organic Seltzer

as "the only national USDA Certified Organic Hard Seltzer. We're not playing around."

In subsequent Instagram posts by so-called social media influencers, the product also was promoted as "the first National USDA Organic Seltzer," according to the opinion and court argument.

The judge said Anheuser-Busch

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COVID-19 NUMBERS IN UMATILLA COUNTY

TOTALS FOR WEEK ENDING 2/12/2021



RISK LEVEL EXTREME	NEW CASES OVER 2 WEEKS	338	TOTAL CASE GOAL	40	OR LESS OVER 2 WEEKS	POSITIVE TEST RATE	11.0%	2.9%	POSITIVE TEST GOAL	5%
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