

Capitol to start security screening

By PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon will join 33 other states in requiring visitors, elected officials and staff to pass through metal detectors and submit to bag checks when they enter the Capitol.

The enhanced security in Salem will start Jan. 27. Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek, the Legislature's presiding officers, said in a statement it will be similar to the procedure for entry into court buildings. State employees staff trial courts, but Oregon's 36 counties provide the courtrooms and maintain security.

The Legislature is responsible for management of the Capitol under a 1969 law. The secretary of state was the previous legal custodian of the Capitol and its grounds.

The enhanced security will apply at the two public entrances open and two other entrances for employees and others with special identification cards. The State Street entry, facing Willamette University to the south, and the main entry with its iconic revolving doors are closed because of construction.

The Capitol, the third in Oregon history, opened in October 1938.

The Capitol's office wings, opened in 1977 and renovated in 2008, are undergoing seismic reinforcement as part of a larger building improvement project. The wings house offices for individual legislators.

The Capitol was reopened to the public on July 12, 2021, after the close of the regular



The Oregon Capitol is enhancing security on Jan. 27, 2022, before the start of the new legislative session.

session. It had been closed for 16 months after the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

Firearms ban

The added security follows a recent law (Senate Bill 554) barring firearms, even those carried by people with concealed-handgun licenses, from the Capitol.

During the 2021 session, lawmakers barred firearms from the Capitol and the passenger terminal at Portland International Airport as part of broader legislation to require safe storage of firearms by their owners. Schools, community colleges and universities have the option to do so by action of their governing boards. Opponents failed to submit signatures for an attempt to refer the legislation to a statewide election, so the new law took effect Sept. 25. Signs are posted at the public entrances.

Lawmakers acted after anti-lockdown demonstrators, some of them armed, attempted to force their way into the Capitol during a special session on Dec. 21, 2020, when the Capitol still was closed to the public. Some of them got into a vestibule before police ejected them; police blocked their second attempt at a different entry later in the day.

Anti-lockdown, pro-Donald Trump demonstrators also appeared at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 — the same day as the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol in Washington — but were confined to the Capitol Mall across from the Capitol. The Oregon Capitol was closed to all employees, and ground-level windows in the office wings and main building were covered with plywood. The boards were removed a couple of months later.

On June 10, 2021, the

House expelled Rep. Mike Nearman, a four-term Republican from Polk County, after Capitol surveillance video showed he opened the vestibule door and allowed demonstrators to enter the building. He reentered through another door on the other side. A cellphone video surfaced later during which Nearman told a pre-session audience that if he received a text message, they might gain access to the Capitol. Once that video was disclosed, the 22 other Republicans joined all 37 Democrats in the 59-1 expulsion vote, the first since Oregon became a state in 1859.

Nearman pleaded guilty July 27 to one count of first-degree official misconduct, but expressed no regret for his action during his appearance in Marion County Circuit Court. The district attorney dropped a second charge of criminal trespass.

State audit: OSP should revamp staffing method

By NOELLE CROMBIE
The Oregonian

SALEM — Oregon State Police should move away from the longstanding practice of using population to dictate how many troopers the agency needs and shift to an approach that relies instead on workload, a state audit recommends.

State police also should do more to analyze their overtime use, according to the audit by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office.

Auditors looked at whether the agency's workforce plans address public and trooper safety.

The audit included other details:

State police spent more than \$2.5 million on overtime, travel, protective gear and special training to deploy troopers and supervisors to respond to civil unrest in Portland in 2020.

The agency sent between 50 to 100 personnel to the protests, according to the audit.

It spent another \$700,000 on overtime and other expenses related to historic wildfires that burned across the state that year.

The audit also makes clear that the agency's workforce fails to reflect the demographics of Oregon.

About 90% of the workforce is white, while 71.8% of Oregonians are white, according to the audit. And while 13.9% of the state's population is Hispanic or Latino, 4.2% of the agency's workers are Hispanic or Latino.

Auditors recommended changes in how the agency approaches staffing, calling the current model "the least effective available" and one that fails to "account for Oregon's changing policing environment."

A system that analyzes troopers' workload instead is more responsive to public safety concerns, the audit says.

"The difference between workload demand and trooper capacity may reveal a surplus, which could suggest an excess of staffing," the report says. "Alternatively, the analysis may show there is more work than trooper time. In that case, the analysis can also help OSP estimate how many additional positions it would need to cover that deficit."

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$24.00 per month and business services are \$38.00-\$40.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



OHSU cited for animal welfare violations, again

By COURTNEY VAUGHN
Oregon Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — Federal regulators have charged Oregon Health & Science University with breaking federal animal welfare laws.

The university was issued a critical violation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture following a Dec. 6, 2021, inspection at one of OHSU's animal research labs.

According to the complaint, a Mongolian gerbil died of starvation during an experiment in which a group of gerbils had their food rationed. The animals were part of a hearing loss study, and were given regulated access to food as part of a round of behavioral tests for food rewards.

"A verbal request for services by a laboratory staff member to the husbandry supervisor was not communicated to the husbandry technician responsible for feeding in the room," a USDA inspection report notes. "Consequently, five animals were not given their daily ration on Oct. 2, 2021. The problem was identified on Oct. 3, 2021, and the animals were immediately provided food.

In addition, the veterinarian was notified and conducted a physical exam. According to the facility, four of the five gerbils were bright and alert. One animal, however, presented as lethargic and was administered fluids by the veterinarian."

The inspector noted the animals' condition improved, but that same animal soon became lethargic again and despite veterinary interventions, the animal died on Oct. 4.

"Animals must be given food as required to ensure their health and comfort. These animals were under an IACUC-approved protocol describing how food was to be provided and the amount of the daily ration to be given to each animal," the inspector said, citing the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

The violation is the latest in a string of recent incidents citing inadequate technician oversight and lack of veterinary care at OHSU animal testing labs. It's the fourth critical violation in two years and the 17th violation in four years, critics noted.

Violations include incidents in which two lab monkeys were scalded to

death after accidentally being placed in a high-temperature cage washer, while another primate was injured after being caught in a drain cover and two others were euthanized after developing brain infections due to delayed veterinary care following experiments. In another incident, prairie voles died of dehydration when they were left without water.

The slew of mishaps has led animal rights activists to label the research university as the worst offender of animal rights violations in the nation.

Officials at OHSU say it takes animal care seriously, and relies on regular independent inspections.

"OHSU understands and embraces the responsibility to provide compassionate, leading-edge health and veterinary care that comes with the privilege of working with animals," a statement from OHSU reads. "We employ hundreds of dedicated staff who care deeply for the animals in our care and work around the clock to ensure humane, respectful treatment. Any time there is an unexpected issue or event involving these animals, it is deeply upsetting to all of us."

The university points to annual reviews of its laboratories by government agencies and its voluntary participation in the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International, AAALAC.

Animal welfare advocates say all of that is meaningless if repeated violations are occurring.

Stop Animal Exploitation Now!, an Ohio-based watchdog group that monitors the nation's research facilities for illegal activities and animal abuse, filed a federal complaint against OHSU with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, urging the agency to make an example of OHSU with stiffer penalties.

"These violations demonstrate the most basic failures which could possibly occur in a laboratory," the complaint states. "OHSU has passed the level for a normal prosecution. ...Dozens of animals have died or been injured. Dozens of violations have occurred."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals also chimed in saying OHSU's animal research should be stopped.

TRUCKS IN STOCK! PLENTY ON THE WAY! INQUIRE TODAY!



**1740 Washington
Baker City, OR 97814**

1-800-399-3912

www.bakercitygmsales.com













Thank you for supporting

Newspapers In Education

NIE



GOLD SPONSORS
Community Bank

SILVER SPONSORS
Alive and Well PPP
CHI St. Anthony Hospital
Corteva Agriscience
Desire For Healing Inc
Hill Meat Company
Northeast Oregon Water Association
OSU Extension Service- Umatilla County
RE/MAX Cornerstone
Rick's Car Wash
Tum-A-Lum Lumber
Western Radiator

BRONZE SPONSORS
A & G Property Management & Maintenance
Blue Mountain Community College
Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates, Inc.
Davita Blue Mountain Kidney Center
DuPont Pioneer HiBred Research Center
Jeremy J. Larson DVM LLC
Kelly Lumber Supply Inc
Kiks Golf Center
Kirby Nagelhout Construction Co.
Kopacz Nursery & Florist
Landmark Tax Services
McEntire Dental
Mid Columbia Bus Co
NW Metal Fabricators Inc
Rob Merriman Plumbing & Heating Inc
The RBH Group LLC
The Saddle Restaurant and Lounge
Willowbrook Terrace

OTHER SPONSORS
Barlyte Specialty Foods
Umatilla Electric Cooperative
CMG Financial
Duchek Construction
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
Hermiston Public Library
Hodgen Distributing
Pendleton KOA
Starvation Ridge Farming, LLC
Sun Terrace Hermiston

Want to see your name here? Call 800-781-3214