

Iconic moment in Bend: Wienermobile rolls up to the last Blockbuster store

By Kyle Spurr
The (Bend) Bulletin

BEND — Two cultural icons converged in Bend on Saturday, April 24 when the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile parked in front of the last Blockbuster video rental store on Earth. The Wienermobile, the rolling orange and yellow symbol of Oscar Mayer hot dogs, pulled into the Blockbuster parking lot off Third Street to a crowd of about two dozen people taking pictures and singing, “I wish I were an Oscar Mayer Weiner.”

Some people were busy picking out movies inside the Blockbuster and were startled when the 27-foot-long hot dog on wheels parked outside.

“I saw it pull up through the window, and I just started yelling and ran to the window,” said Esty Pittman, who was visiting from Salt Lake City with her boyfriend, Jacob VanOteghem.

Pittman, 31 and VanOteghem, 30, stopped Saturday to visit the Blockbuster and had no idea the Wienermobile was scheduled to visit.

It was a flashback to childhood for Pittman, who remembers singing the Oscar Mayer song in the grocery store with her mother and looking for the Wienermobile on road trips with her family.

“My mom used to push me around the grocery store, and I would sing the Oscar Mayer song,” Pittman said. “This is my ’90s dream come true.”

Blockbuster was the third out of four stops in Central Oregon for the Wienermobile. The traveling hot dog made an appearance at Fort Rock Park in Sunriver on Thursday,



Ryan Brennecke/The (Bend) Bulletin

Ruby and Brewer Mottern stand with their two dogs Griz (behind cutout) and Luna as their mother, Jody Mottern, takes their picture Saturday, April 24 while visiting the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile at the Bend Blockbuster store.

in downtown Bend on Friday and will travel south again to the Village at Sunriver from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

The Wienermobile has been on the road since 1936. Today, six Wienermobiles travel around the country at all times.

The Wienermobile that came to Bend travels the West Coast and averages about 500 miles per week, said Tommy Derken, a “Hotdogger” who drives the Wienermobile.

Derken graduated from University of Southern California in May and hit the road in the Wienermobile in June.

Driving the Wienermobile is the perfect job for a recent college graduate, since it’s good public relations and marketing experience and a good way to see the country, Derken said.

“And you are a celebrity everywhere you go,” Derken said.

Derken and another Hotdogger, Nina LeBrun, spent Saturday handing out stickers and Wienermobile whistles to the crowd. The two Hotdoggers also took families’ pictures, signed autographs and helped children pose behind cardboard cutouts of hot dogs.

No food was served during the event, which is a common misconception, Derken said.

“We don’t sell hot dogs,” Derken said. “We just look like one.”

Bend resident Helen Guerrero-Randall came early Saturday and could not contain her excitement as she watched the Wienermobile park in front of Blockbuster. Guerrero-Randall, a

retired medical librarian for St. Charles Health System, always loved the old advertisements for Oscar Mayer on TV, but never had a chance to see the Wienermobile in person.

“I didn’t know they still had this going around,” she said. “They are actually still doing promotions. I’m thrilled.”

Guerrero-Randall enthusiastically sang the entire Oscar Mayer song, took a picture with the cardboard cut out and got Derken’s autograph.

She soaked in the nostalgia of Oscar Mayer and Blockbuster, where she still has her membership card to rent movies.

“It’s nostalgic in a really good way,” Guerrero-Randall said. “It’s that positive nostalgia. The endorphins are flowing.”

Family of man killed by police seeks investigation

PORTLAND (AP) — The family of the man fatally shot by a Portland police officer is calling on the governor and state attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor to do an independent investigation of the incident.

Robert Delgado was shot on April 16 by East Precinct Officer Zachary DeLong at Lents Park in Southeast Portland.

His children and other relatives gathered Friday at the Portland law offices of their attorney, J. Ashlee Albies, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

“The family recognizes that we don’t know everything that happened and

that the investigation is still underway,” Albies said. But she said video of the encounter and witness accounts are “deeply disturbing and alarming.”

“We see that Robert is having a mental health crisis,” she said. “He is clearly struggling to keep his composure and we hear the way that the police were responding.”

A 911 caller reported that a man in the park was doing quick-draws with a gun but not pointing it at anyone, according to the Police Bureau. DeLong got there and radioed that Delgado wasn’t following police commands. Minutes later, DeLong fired at Delgado from

behind a tree about 90 feet away.

Police recovered a replica handgun with an orange tip on it and a magazine to the gun that Delgado had. Police photographed the gun in the grass but did not say exactly where it was.

Delgado suffered from anxiety and depression and had been living outside and “couch surfing,” according to his family and court records. His sister said he struggled with substance abuse addiction.

Speaking on the family’s behalf, Albies said a special prosecutor would ensure an independent review of the shooting.

ACLU to represent Bend group in lawsuit over cost for public records

BEND (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union says it will represent a social justice organization in Bend in a lawsuit filed by the city after months of wrangling about how much the nonprofit should pay in fees related to a public records request.

The Central Oregon Peacekeepers requested internal city documents related to a clash between supporters of then-President Donald Trump and Black Lives Matter activists at a park last October. The request also asked for any records that show the general relationship between the Bend Police Department and groups that oppose the activities of social justice groups such as the Peacekeepers, The Bulletin reported Friday, April 23.

The city called the request overly broad and charged the Peacekeepers \$3,600 in fees for 65 hours of staff work to assemble them. Bend officials declined to release the records for free under a public interest waiver and instead offered to reduce the fee by 25%.

“It shouldn’t cost two months’ rent for an activist to see what their government is doing,” said Alan Kessler, an attorney from ACLU of

Oregon representing the Peacekeepers. Kessler argues that the city is acting in “bad faith” and is charging the racial justice advocates differently than other requestors.

The lawsuit stems from a decision by Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel, who reviewed the case at the Peacekeepers’ request and found the city’s fee was unreasonable. Under Oregon law, parties can appeal public records disputes to county district attorneys.

The city says it is now worried that with his decision, Hummel created a new standard for public records fee waiver requests that is contrary to state law and sets a precedent for groups demanding the city waive fees in future large record requests.

“Because we process requests in a non-discriminatory manner, a new standard for fee waiver requests could mean City staff have to perform free work for other groups or individuals with very different political or social views from the Peacekeepers,” Mary Winters, the city’s attorney, wrote in an email to The Bulletin. “The issue of the standard is important enough to take

to court and get a clear answer.”

“This issue is not about (the) content of records, but is a relatively straightforward and honest disagreement on the reasonableness of fees and whether the City has discretion to charge fees for a broad and expansive request in this case.”

The ACLU filed a response to the city’s lawsuit in Deschutes County Circuit Court on Wednesday and

filed a counterclaim asking for Bend to pay its client’s legal fees.

The Peacekeepers initially requested the public records after Trump supporters and racial justice activists got into a brawl at a Bend park on Oct. 3. The melee began when an activist stole a Trump flag from a Trump supporter. Multiple people threw punches and some sprayed Mace. Police also confiscated two guns.

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STATE BRIEFING

Klamath Falls restaurant fined second time for COVID-19 violations

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — A Klamath Falls restaurant landed a hefty fine Friday from state workplace safety officials amid COVID-19 for continuing to offer indoor dining after it was similarly fined last December for the same thing.

Casey’s Restaurant was fined \$27,660 by the Oregon Health and Safety Administration for four violations, the agency said.

The restaurant was fined \$8,900 over alleged violations in December. Casey’s Restaurant has appealed that fine. Employers have 30 days to appeal citations. It wasn’t immediately known if the owners plan to appeal the latest fine.

Klamath County has experienced high COVID case numbers and no indoor dining was allowed during the inspection period to limit disease transmission.

The restaurant’s fines also included infractions such as not setting up an infection control plan or monitoring employees’ potential exposure to the virus, Oregon OSHA said.

Michael Wood, administrator for Oregon OSHA, called the citations a “critical part” of his agency’s role in enforcing Oregon’s health and safety rules.

“In the vast majority of cases, we have not had to conduct formal enforcement visits, because most employers are choosing to do the right thing,” Wood said. “They are doing so because they know they are making meaningful contributions as part of a larger and multifaceted community effort to end this pandemic sooner rather than later.”

Wood is considering whether to make rules on COVID-19 workplace safety — such as requiring masks and social distancing in businesses — permanent when the temporary rules expire on May 4. He has said that any permanent rules will be repealed once the coronavirus is under control in Oregon and there is no longer a need for them.

Oregon prison system sued for requiring inmates to pay for their own prosthetics

PORTLAND (AP) — A class action lawsuit has been filed claiming the Oregon Department of Corrections is violating the Americans with Disabilities Act because it charges prisoners with disabilities for prosthetics and other medical devices they need.

The suit was filed last week in federal court by Portland attorney Lynn Walsh and nonprofit legal organization Disability Rights Advocates, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

The litigation aims to prevent the practice of charging people with disabilities in prison for health care appliances and durable medical equipment. In addition to preventing the practice in the future, the plaintiffs want the state to reimburse people.

The lead plaintiff, Donald Terrill, is imprisoned at the Snake River Correctional Institution in eastern Oregon, and was fitted with a prosthesis after a lower leg amputation eight years ago. Since 2013, the Oregon Department of Corrections has garnished Terrill’s trust account. He’s paid more than \$10,000 toward his own prosthetic leg and still owes another \$14,000. He makes \$45 per month working in prison.

“Because I am being charged for my prosthesis, I cannot buy much beyond toothpaste and deodorant, or save up for shoes,” Terrill said in a statement.

The Oregon Department of Corrections acknowledged adults in custody (AICs) are “generally required” to buy their own medical equipment “like hearing aids and prosthetics.”

“When AICs are released from custody, these items leave with the AIC because the equipment is not Department of Corrections property, but personal property,” Corrections spokeswoman Jennifer Black said. Medical items such as canes are supplied by Corrections and can be returned and used again, she said.

Terrill requires the prosthetic limb to get around the Snake River prison, according to the lawsuit. Without it, he said, he wouldn’t have access to the same programs and services in prison as other inmates.

Driver collides on purpose with car on coastal highway, leading to three deaths

BANDON (AP) — A man driving recklessly on U.S. Highway 101 along the Oregon coast Thursday intentionally collided with an oncoming vehicle, killing himself and two other people, authorities said.

Cory Orsenico, 32, of California was reported multiple times for dangerous driving while he drove north before he crossed the highway into the path of a vehicle driven by Dawn Adams, the Coos County Sheriff’s Office said Friday, April 23 in a news release.

Before the crash, Orsenico had been reported for speeding, swerving, passing on corners, cutting off vehicles, running through red lights and speeding through a school zone in Bandon, the news release said.

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