

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

LOCAL BRIEFING

Tow truck driver jailed for injuring pedestrian

A Redmond tow truck driver received 30 days in jail and a five-year driver's license suspension for seriously injuring a pedestrian and fleeing the scene.



Bills

Ryan Emery Bills, 26, pleaded guilty to one count of third-degree assault in Deschutes County Circuit Court.

Around 8 p.m. Oct. 30, Bills was driving on NW Sixth Street in Redmond when he struck Nancy Newman crossing at the intersection with NW Jackpine Street. Witnesses told police the driver of a white tow truck fled after the collision.

Surveillance cameras from nearby businesses show Newman was legally crossing the street, according to Redmond Police.

Bills was later arrested at the office of his then-employer, Epic Towing in Redmond. Bills was charged with second-degree assault for allegedly showing "extreme indifference" to Newman. He was also charged with hit-and-run and reckless endangering.

In addition to a month of jail, Judge Bethany Flint assigned him five years probation and ordered him to complete a traffic safety course with the National Traffic Safety Institute, attend a victim impact panel and write a letter of apology to Newman.

— Bulletin staff report

Inmates say managers exposed them to virus

JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
The Oregonian

As coronavirus outbreaks rage at several Oregon prisons, inmates at a minimum-security facility in Salem are pushing for changes after they say administrators sent dozens of inmates who had just tested positive for COVID-19 back into the general population.

Inmates at the Santiam Correctional Institution said they're increasingly concerned about the way administrators are handling the pandemic and believe the Oregon Department of Corrections has know-

ingly placed inmates in danger.

According to six inmates at the Salem prison, administrators began sending COVID-positive inmates back into their dormitories Jan. 21 — a day after the prison offered mass testing that revealed an outbreak of about 50 cases.

The inmates said some of those who tested positive were sent back to their dorms for more than 24 hours before being transferred to a quarantine unit.

Instead of cells, the men housed in the minimum-security prison sleep in large

rooms lined with bunk beds.

There are four dorms, each with about 100 units.

Inmates said they've repeatedly tried to push for testing of those who feel sick, as well as better sanitation protocols throughout the prison.

But they reported their calls often fall on deaf ears.

Department of Corrections Spokeswoman Jennifer Black said that 50 Santiam inmates tested positive for COVID-19 on Jan. 20.

The department's chief medical officer requested tests for all Santiam inmates who

wanted them, and the department began working on transportation plans for inmates who tested positive.

Black said the inmates, who were all asymptomatic, were told to keep their masks on while they waited to be moved and were taken to the quarantine unit at the nearby Oregon State Penitentiary the next day.

"If an adult in custody had not been held in general population and would have been transported to the COVID-19 Recovery Unit at

Coffee Creek (Correctional Facility) as soon as possible," Black said in an email.

She said that while Santiam has offered mass testing only once so far, it offers tests to all inmates who request them.

She said 114 Santiam inmates have tested positive since the beginning of the pandemic and that 86 of them have recovered, including the 50 who tested positive on Jan. 20.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 42 inmates have died of coronavirus across all of Oregon's prisons.

Community college president steps down for health reasons



Blue Mountain Community College President Dennis Bailey-Fougner, left, sits in on a 2019 college coordinating council meeting in Pendleton.
East Oregonian, file

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.

The college board 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 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.

DEATH NOTICES

Marilyn Lynette March of La Pine, OR
March 5, 1935 - 9, 2021

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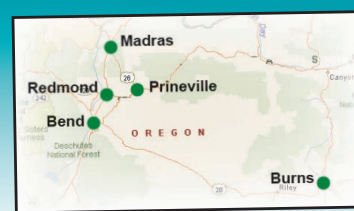
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