

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Engine lost power before plane crashed near Sisters, NTSB says

BY KYLE SPURR
The Bulletin

The small plane that crashed March 3 while attempting to land at Sisters Eagle Airport lost power during a forced landing, according to a preliminary report from the National Transportation Safety Board.

The safety board is still determining the exact cause of the crash, but shared details in a report from the initial investigation.

The 1972 Cessna 172G was substantially damaged and the pilot and passenger both sustained minor injuries.

The pilot, Madison Stieber, 23, reported the first part of the flight was uneventful with multiple touch-and-go landings at nearby airports, according to the report.

But when returning to the Sisters airport, the plane approached the landing strip too fast and bounced in the air about 150 to 200 feet. While in the air, the plane's engine lost power. Stieber tried to restart the engine, but was unsuccessful, the report said.

The crash was reported to 911 at 5:43 p.m. and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office deputies arrived on scene.

When the plane bounced and went air-



Deschutes County Sheriff's Office/Submitted photo

A small plane crashed while attempting to land at Sisters Eagle Airport on March 3.

borne it flew southwest, over Camp Polk Road and struck the top of a tree before hitting the ground and coming to rest in a dry pond on private property in the 69000 block of Camp Polk Road, according to the sheriff's office.

The plane's tail, wings and fuselage were severely damaged.

"The airplane landed hard during the forced landing and came to rest in a nose down position," the safety board report stated.

LOCAL BRIEFING

\$25K awarded to various Bend-La Pine schools

Local nonprofit Education Foundation for Bend-La Pine Schools has awarded more than \$25,000 in grants to schools in Bend, Sunriver and La Pine this school year.

These grants covered small projects in every elementary school in the school district, as well as 12 middle and high schools, according to a press release Wednesday from the foundation.

Some of this money is going toward creating "brain-based break kits" for all 245 K-3 classrooms in the district, the release stated. These are sets of visual games and tools, along with headphones and a timer, designed to give students a break. These kits will also include instructional material for teachers to help them learn about how students' brains work, the release stated.

Local courts will text reminders for hearings

Circuit courts in Central Oregon are taking part in a novel effort to improve courtroom attendance through technology.

Courts in Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties will soon offer defendants the option of a texted reminder of an upcoming court appearance.

The three courts are "early adopters" of the new service, the Oregon Judicial Department announced Tuesday.

The judicial department launched the new service as a pilot program in the Josephine County Circuit Court on Feb. 8.

"Text messaging doesn't replace official court hearing

notices, but it does allow parties who opt in to receive text message reminders and hearing updates," said Deschutes County Trial Court Administrator Jeff Hall.

The service only applies to state circuit courts and Oregon's Tax Court, not municipal and justice courts. People who want to receive text reminders must have a cell-phone number on file with the court and opt-in to receive the service.

Deschutes District Attorney John Hummel praised the move, saying it will reduce instances of defendants failing to appear in court.

"We receive text reminders from our dentists, which reduce missed dentist appointments," he wrote to The Bulletin. "Text reminders from the court will reduce missed court appearances."

Prescribed burn canceled west of Bend

Fuels specialists canceled a 20-acre prescribed fire Wednesday, about 2 miles west of the Central Cascades Welcome Station at the junction of Century Drive and Forest Road 4610.

The purpose of this burn was to improve conditions for future prescribed fires in the area, according to a statement from the Deschutes National Forest.

Prescribed burns are conducted to improve forest health and reduce the potential for large, out-of-control forest fires. The burns mimic natural fires that historically swept through forests every 10 to 20 years.

Wind conditions weren't right for the planned burn Wednesday.

—Bulletin staff reports

Brown urges program to insure remaining Oregon adults

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown has called on lawmakers to extend health insurance coverage to the estimated 6% of Oregon adults who still do not have it.

The Democratic chief executive testified Tuesday, for House Bill 2164 in the House Health Care Committee. Her proposed budget contains \$10 million to cover 2,000 adults.

Oregon estimates that 94% of adults and all children have coverage under federal, state or private insurance.

"The pandemic has taught us this is not good enough," Brown said in her testimony. "And unfortunately, our communities of color have paid the price. Gaps in coverage persist, and these gaps are disproportionately borne by communities of color."

"Everyone deserves access to health care. It's the right thing to do, the just thing to do. And it's smart economic policy."

The bill would authorize the Oregon Health Authority to create a Cover All People program, modeled on the Oregon

Health Plan, which as of March 8 covered 1.27 million people. It emerged from the health equity committee of the Governor's Racial Justice Council.

The new program would cover legal permanent residents, young adults who age out of Oregon's Cover All Kids program, DACA recipients — young people brought illegally to the United States as children — who have deferrals from deportation, and undocumented adults.

Brown said the new program is not just socially responsible but makes economic sense.

"Across agriculture, manufacturing, the service sector and our health care system, front-line workers from our immigrant and refugee communities have gone to work every day during the pandemic to very literally keep our society going. Many of them worked through wildfires and breathed harmful smoke," she said.

"The very least we can do in a just society is to make sure they have access to this basic human right."

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