



A rockchuck sits near its burrow at Hugh Hartman Elementary School in Redmond on Wednesday.

Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

## Rockchucks: Infestation worse this year

Continued from A1

The marmots emerge from hibernation the last week of February through the first week of March, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The rockchucks create holes that cause tripping hazards, and their feces can spread disease such as salmonella, according to wildlife officials.

"Now that the students are back, we have found the rockchucks are also back," Miller said.

This year, the rockchuck infestation is more widespread. Their feces and dug-out holes have been spotted at Redmond High School and Ridgeview High School, in addition to the elementary school.

The school district is planning to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services Department, which will have a wild-

life specialist exterminate the rockchucks by fumigating their burrows. The specialist places gas cartridges in the burrows, which give off carbon monoxide.

This time, the work will be done early enough in the season to catch rockchucks before they start hibernating again at the end of July, according to wildlife officials.

"Right now is when they all start showing back up," Miller said. "Hopefully, we can get it done early enough that it will be effective this season."

Rockchucks are the largest squirrels in Oregon and are known for being plump and larger than other marmots. They are often seen on rocks throughout the Old Mill District in Bend.

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## WORLD BRIEFING

### Minnesota officer who resigned now charged in shooting

A white former suburban Minneapolis police officer was charged Wednesday with second-degree manslaughter for killing 20-year-old Black motorist Daunte Wright in a shooting that ignited days of unrest and clashes between protesters and police.



Potter

The charge against former Brooklyn Center police Officer Kim Potter was filed three days after Wright was killed during a traffic stop and as the nearby murder trial progresses for the ex-officer charged with killing George Floyd last May.

The former Brooklyn Center police chief has said that Potter, a 26-year veteran and training officer, intended to use her Taser on Wright but fired her handgun instead. However, protesters and Wright's family members say there's no excuse for the shooting and that it shows how the justice system is tilted against Blacks, noting

Wright was stopped for an expired car registration and ended up dead.

Intent isn't a necessary component of second-degree manslaughter in Minnesota. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Potter, 48, posted \$100,000 bond Wednesday evening and was scheduled to make her initial court appearance Thursday. Potter and Police Chief Tim Gannon both resigned Tuesday.

### Humanitarian crisis feared in St. Vincent amid eruptions

Ongoing volcanic eruptions have displaced about 20% of people in the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent as a U.N. official on Wednesday warned of a growing humanitarian crisis.

Between 16,000 to 20,000 people were evacuated under government orders before La Soufriere volcano first erupted Friday, covering the lush green island with ash that continues to blanket communities in St. Vincent as well as Barbados and other nearby islands.

About 6,000 of those evacuees are considered most vulnerable, said Didier Trebucq, United Nations resident coordinator for Barbados and the

Eastern Caribbean.

"So we are facing a situation with a great deal of uncertainty, and also a humanitarian crisis that is growing and may continue for weeks and months," he said.

Trebucq said that based on certain information and preliminary estimations, 20,000 people are "estimated at risk of food insecurity, given the loss of the assets in terms of livelihood like fisheries, or agriculture."

Volcanic activity is expected to continue for days or even weeks. The volcano had a minor eruption in December after a previous eruption in 1979. An older eruption in 1902 killed some 1,600 people.

### At least one killed after ship capsizes off Louisiana's coast

Coast Guard boats and aircraft have covered an area larger than the state of Rhode Island to search for 12 people missing Wednesday off the Louisiana coast after their offshore oilfield vessel capsized in hurricane-force winds.

One worker's body was recovered Wednesday and six people were rescued Tuesday after the Seacor Power



U.S. Coast Guard Coast Guard Cutter Glenn Harris via AP

A Coast Guard crew heads toward a capsized 175-foot commercial lift boat to search for people in the water 8 miles south of Grand Isle, Louisiana.

overturned Tuesday afternoon in the Gulf of Mexico, the Coast Guard said.

The search, interrupted by darkness and bad weather, has covered more than 1,440 square miles of Gulf waters by Wednesday afternoon, according to a news release. The hunt for the missing continued into the evening, said Petty Officer Carlos Galarza.

The bulky vessel, also called a jackup

rig because it has three long legs it can lower to the sea floor to lift the boat out of the water as an offshore platform, flipped over Tuesday afternoon south of Port Fourchon, a major base for the U.S. oil and gas industry.

One worker was found dead on the surface of the water, Watson said at a news conference Wednesday.

—Bulletin wire reports

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