

LOCAL & STATE BRIEFING

OSHA fines Redmond Lowe's \$18,100 for COVID-19 infractions

The Lowe's hardware store branch in Redmond was hit with \$18,100 in fines Monday from Oregon Occupational Safety and Health — better known as OSHA — for multiple COVID-19 violations.

The biggest penalty, costing \$17,500, was for not requiring customers to wear face coverings, according to an OSHA press release. State inspections found that Lowe's branch supervisors knew of the state-mask mandate and willfully chose to ignore it, the release stated.

The Lowe's store in Albany received an identical fine Monday for the same reason.

The store also received two \$300 fines for not creating a risk assessment plan to identify possible employee exposure to COVID-19 or an infection control plan, the release stated.

Deschutes Brewery closes pub for 7 days after employee tests positive for COVID-19

Deschutes Brewery and Public House in downtown Bend is closed until April 26 after an employee tested positive for COVID-19, according to the company.

The closure means no indoor dining, no take-out and no outdoor seating, said Erin Rankin, Deschutes Brewery spokeswoman. The employee was exposed to the virus outside of work.

In a Facebook post, the company said the closure was out of caution and because it didn't want to expose others.

"We have a limited staff," Rankin said. "This is the first positive test we've had at the pub."

Powell Butte man pleads not guilty to child sex abuse; trial set for 2022

A Powell Butte man appeared in court Monday to plead not guilty to eight charges alleging child sexual abuse.

Jason Neal Petz, 49, is charged with two counts of third-degree rape, two counts of third-degree sodomy, two counts of third-degree sex abuse and two counts of second-degree sex abuse.

Petz appeared for a plea hearing in Deschutes County Circuit Court, where a judge set a date for a 12-person jury trial in January 2022.

Petz is accused of unlawfully engaging in sexual intercourse with a child under 16 between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2019.

The alleged victim was interviewed at the KIDS Center child abuse investigation organi-

zation in Bend. Petz was arrested July 23 and charged that month by a grand jury. He has been out of custody since summer 2020.

Prescribed burn planned south of Sisters

Deschutes National Forest fuel specialists will be conducting a prescribed burn on national forest land about 7 miles south of Sisters, near the Black Pine Spring Campground, starting Wednesday morning.

The workers will burn about 290 acres between Forest Road 16 and Forest Road 1620, according to a U.S. Forest Service press release. There will be traffic delays during the prescribed fires, and smoke will be visible to those living in the Sisters area, the release stated.

The prescribed burn is intended to eliminate fuel in ponderosa pine stands, so future wildfires are less intense and less likely to reach Sisters, the release stated.

Nearby residents should close their windows at night and drive slowly and with headlights on if there's smoke on nearby roadways.

Wildfire has burned 1,400 acres in Klamath County, with 10% containment

Officials in Klamath County have reduced the evacuation warning to Level 2 for residents near a wildfire that has burned about 1,400 acres in Klamath County, fire and forest agencies reported Monday.

The Ponina Fire was burning about 5 miles north of the town of Beatty. About 10% of the fire has been contained, according to a news release from Klamath County, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

The fire near Beatty started several days after a rapidly moving brush fire near Oregon City forced homeowners in about a dozen homes to evacuate. The Niebur Fire started Friday afternoon and immediately threatened several structures.

The Ponina Fire broke out less than three weeks after Gov. Kate Brown declared a drought emergency in Klamath County. The blaze began on private property and moved into the Fremont-Winema National Forest, said Tamara Schmidt, spokeswoman for the national forest. The cause is unclear. So early in the fire season, it's proven difficult to find crews and resources to fight the blaze, Schmidt said. For now, U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry crews are fighting the fire.

— Bulletin staff and wire reports

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Firefighters battle house fire — and encounter large African cat

The Oregonian

Clark County, Washington, firefighters said a large African cat bit a firefighter helping to extinguish a blaze Sunday at a home in the Felida neighborhood, north of Vancouver.

Clark County Fire District officials said a fire broke out at the back of single-story home Sunday, then spread to the home's attic. The homeowner was trying to douse the flames as firefighters arrived.

Firefighters got the fire under control within 25 minutes, but at least one encountered the serval — a savannah wildcat native to sub-Saharan Africa — and suffered a minor injury from a bite to the fingers.

Officials estimated the cat weighed 60 to 70 pounds, though the cats typically only weigh up to 40 pounds in the wild.

With the fire out, the firefighters decided to close up the



123RF

A serval cat rests at a zoo. Firefighters in Washington state came face to face with one of these big cats while battling a house fire Sunday.

house with the cat inside until the homeowner and animal control officers could contain it. It was later captured safely.

Fire district officials said the serval was "unharmed, just a

little freaked out."

According to The Columbian newspaper, owning serval cats is legal in Washington. They can be bred with domestic cats.

Klamath irrigators open canal as state officials order them to cease

The Klamath Drainage District began delivering water Thursday night after its board voted to operate under a state permit, the legality of which is in question.

A day later, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation told the district to stop all diversions from the Klamath River or the drainage district may face penalties.

District officials said they recognize the recently declared drought in Klamath County. But farmers need to raise the soil moisture levels, and the dry and windy spring has started eroding the soil and creating dust storms.

Jared Botcher, acting area manager for reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office, sent a letter to White on Friday directing Klamath Drainage District to "immediately cease diversions from the Klamath River."

— Herald and News (Klamath Falls)

Hearing loss shouldn't keep you from sharing her big moments.



Even a mild hearing loss can drive the most active person into their own world—feeling flawed, vulnerable, and disconnected from family and friends. The long-term solution to your hearing problem is a unique combination of professional hearing care services and the right hearing instrument technology for your loss, lifestyle, and budget.

At Miracle-Ear, you will enjoy a state-of-the-art premiere product line

featuring a variety of models and solutions to fit your lifestyle. We have been in business over 70 years and our team of professionals are experts in customizing a solution just for you. We believe our job isn't finished until our patients' lives are improved, and your Miracle-Ear team is committed to bringing the best possible hearing care to your community and improving the lives of their patients through better hearing.



Buy One Get One ME-3 70% OFF

Digital Hearing Aid Rechargeable Streaming Capabilities



Offer valid thru April 30, 2021.

Another Great Way to Save

MEMINI Audiotone for ONLY \$495

Hurry! Offer ends 4/30/2021



Save on our full line of digital hearing solutions. Valid on one hearing device.

Good only from participating Miracle-Ear® representatives. One coupon per purchase. No other offers or discounts apply. Discount does not apply to prior sales. Offer on MEMINI Audiotone. Cannot combine with any other offers. Cash value 1/20 cent. Offer expires 4/30/2021.

MIRACLE-EAR IS AMERICA'S #1 CHOICE IN HEARING AIDS FOR OVER 70 YEARS!



CHOOSE FROM ANY OF OUR FIVE LOCATIONS! BEND • REDMOND • MADRAS • PRINEVILLE • BURNS

404 NE Greenwood Ave Bend
Corner of Greenwood and 4th Street

541-330-5503



No other offers or discounts apply. All discounts do not apply to prior sales. Good only from participating Miracle-Ear representatives. **Hearing aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences vary depending on severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation, proper fit, and ability to adapt to a hearing aid. Only your Miracle-Ear® representative can determine if a Miracle-Ear® hearing aid is right for you. ©2012 Miracle-Ear, Inc. 14548ROPA/HP4C/YEL

NO INTEREST FINANCING AND EVERYONE APPROVED FINANCING NOW OFFERED!

PDX-BEND

FROM PORTLAND TO BEND OR FROM BEND TO PORTLAND AND BACK, ATIYEH BROS. DELIVERS.

Introducing Atiyeh Bros. rug cleaning and sales services to the Bend area. **We'll be in the Bend area on April 22nd** to pick up your rugs, clean them in our state-of-the-art facility, and deliver them back to your home. If you're ready for a new rug, our experts will work with you to select options to try at home before you commit!

For more information or to schedule a time, visit atiyehbros.com/Bend
Cleaning Services 503-234-5495
Retail Showroom 503-639-8642



CCB#3590