

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

LOCAL & BRIEFING

Vehicle strikes, kills pedestrian in Madras

A pedestrian was struck and killed by a vehicle Tuesday night in Madras.

At 11:18 p.m., a person reported the incident on U.S. Highway 97 near L Street.

The victim, a 59-year-old man, was dead when emergency personnel arrived, according to a Madras Police news release. The man is a local resident, but authorities have yet to release his name.

The man was struck at a point where the highway speed limit drops from 35 to 25 mph.

The driver of the four-door passenger vehicle stayed on the scene and cooperated with authorities, police said.

The investigation is ongoing. The results will be forwarded to the Jefferson County District Attorney for review.

Bend, La Pine residents wake up to smoke

Residents of Bend and La Pine woke up to moderate levels of smoke Wednesday following prescribed burns in southern Deschutes County.

The Air Quality Index reached 62, a moderate (yellow) level, on Wednesday morning in Bend, according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The index in La Pine reached 55.

Smoke from the prescribed burns covered much of Bend, with Pilot Butte and other landmarks obscured in the haze. The prescribed burns are conducted to reduce brush and undergrowth that can create conditions for out-of-control wildfires.

At the moderate air-quality level, some pollutants may be a health concern for a small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.

Klamath Falls, which had

an air-quality level of 155, was the city in Oregon with levels in the unhealthy (red) category on Wednesday.

One of the burns in Central Oregon occurred on 326 acres of land southeast of Bend, according to Central Oregon Fire Info. More prescribed burns are planned for Wednesday south of Crescent and south of Sisters. The burn near Sisters will occur on 197 acres covering two units.

Local residents can receive alerts about prescribed fires or wildfires by texting COFIRE to 888-777.

Former property manager jailed for embezzlement

A former Redmond property manager was convicted of stealing more than \$13,000 in tenant rent money.

Shonny Shury Vernon was sentenced this week in Deschutes County Circuit Court to seven days in jail after pleading guilty to one count of aggravated first-degree theft.



Vernon

Vernon, 50, was formerly employed by Cascade Property Management as a property manager for the Bluffs Apartments complex in Redmond, according to court documents.

In May 2018, a number of residents of the complex were shown to be behind on their rent. Nearly all of them were able to provide receipts showing they had in fact paid their rent.

The management company audited Vernon's work and found thousands of dollars missing.

Police discovered many of these payments were cash, and many were MoneyGrams that had been altered to be paid to

Vernon instead of the Bluffs Apartments, according to court documents.

Vernon was found to have stolen more than \$13,000 from tenant rental payments. An additional \$300 in petty cash was also missing.

In addition to jail, Deschutes County Circuit Court Judge Wells Ashby ordered that Vernon serve two years probation and pay full restitution to Cascade Property Management and First Financial Asset Management.

Vernon's attorney, Michelle McIver, said her client's crimes were not drug related and that she stole to feed a gambling addiction.

"Ms. Vernon is quite remorseful," McIver said. "She has been quite forthright in how she came to take advantage of an employer that was always good to her."

Following her arrest, Vernon found other employment and has not hidden her crime, McIver said. She's to have nothing to do with money in her current role.

"Ms. Vernon understands that all this is very generous of her present employer," McIver said.

PSU will require vaccines for most students, staff

Portland State University officials said Wednesday the school would require on-campus students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19 starting in September.

Students will have to verify their vaccination status before starting on-campus classes in the fall term. Students can claim a "personal, medical or religious exemption" to the vaccine requirement. Details of the requirements for faculty and staff had not been finalized.

—Bulletin staff and wire reports

Judge declines to release one brother in Capitol case

BY MAXINE BERNSTEIN

The Oregonian

A federal judge on Tuesday declined to release college senior Matthew Klein, one of two Oregon brothers accused in the Jan. 6 breach of the U.S. Capitol, after finding his parents unsuitable to supervise him pending trial.

The ruling came after prosecutors submitted examples of text messages that showed Klein's mother and father warning Matthew's younger brother, Jonathanpeter Klein, that "braggers get caught."

Their mother also sent texts to Jonathanpeter Klein warning him that his "phone is not encrypted," that he should "[b]e careful what [he] say[s]" and that he should "clear [his] phone" or that he should "[p]ull a Hillary and use a hammer" and "bleach" to destroy the phone, according to court records.

Matthew Klein, 24, and Jonathanpeter Klein, 21, both have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to defraud the United States, aiding and abetting in the obstruction of an official proceeding, obstruction of law enforcement during civil disorder, destruction of government property, entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds and disorderly conduct in a restricted building or grounds.



FBI/Submitted

Jonathanpeter Allen Klein, 21, on right, a self-described Proud Boy, with brother Matthew Leland Klein, 24, on left, according to the FBI.

Matthew Klein's lawyer had urged his client's release to his parents in Baker City, describing them as deeply religious Christian missionaries and very responsible people. Matthew Klein wants to continue his education at George Fox University, said defense attorney Steven R. Kiersch.

Matthew Klein enrolled at the Christian college in Newberg in fall 2017 and had been attending up until his arrest on March 23, according to the university.

"He was a senior, but he is no longer a student at George Fox," George Fox spokesman Rob Felton said Tuesday.

Virus-infected inmates seek class-action status

BY NOELLE CROMBIE

The Oregonian

A new legal filing asks a federal judge to grant class-action status to prisoners who were diagnosed with COVID-19 as well as the estates of prisoners who died after contracting the illness.

The latest request was submitted Monday in an ongoing lawsuit that alleges the Oregon Department of Corrections failed to protect incarcerated people from the virus that has swept through the prison system.

According to the latest figures from the state, 3,607 prisoners have tested positive for COVID-19 and 42 have died.

Corrections officials, the U.S. District Court filing states, have "willfully and wantonly ignored the public health threat caused by this global pandemic and, as a result, class members

have been harmed, and lives have been lost."

Lawyers ask the court to designate three classes: one for people who were diagnosed with the virus, another for people who were not offered vaccines by Jan. 1 and a wrongful death class made up of the estates of people who had COVID-19 and died while in prison.

Any money damages awarded in the case would be determined by a jury or the court, said Juan Chavez, one of the lawyers representing the plaintiffs.

"Enough time has elapsed where we now have to look at the wreckage and it's not pretty," he said. "The state had an opportunity to save people and they didn't so now they have to pay and be held accountable."

Jennifer Black, a spokeswoman for the department, declined to comment.

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