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BRIEFING

Thelma's Place to reopen in Redmond

Adult day care at Thelma's Place, a Redmond nonprofit for memory loss individuals, will reopen July 1.

Founded in 2008 by Erik Berkey, Thelma's Place is an intergenerational care facility in Redmond and is under the same roof as Country Side Living, a 38-bed live-in community, and Whoopsy Daisy Child Care Center.

The memory care center closed because of COVID-19, but the children's day care center remained open throughout the pandemic.

For more information call 541-548-3049 or email kathyd@countrysideliv-

Landlords may apply for relief

Oregon landlords whose tenants have fallen behind on rent during the coronavirus pandemic will have one more chance this month to apply for relief from the state.

Oregon Housing and Community Services opened applications Tuesday for a final round of funding through its \$150 million Landlord Compensation Fund. Landlords can apply for relief to cover 80% of the rent they are owed by residential tenants dating back to April 2020 in exchange for forgiving the remaining 20% of unpaid rent.

Landlords will be able to apply until June 18.

Oregon lawmakers created the fund in December. Renters until February 2022 to repay their past-due rent.

However, landlords only recently began receiving checks through the Landlord Compensation Fund, which was hampered by technical issues.

Still, the state ultimately approved nearly \$33 million in assistance through its first round of funding to cover the unpaid rent of nearly 12,000 households

Unlike in previous rounds of the program, landlords will be allowed to apply for funds to cover the unpaid rent of former tenants.

The state plans to make at least \$60 million available in the final round of funding. Landlords can apply for relief to cover missed rent accrued from April 1, 2020, through the end of June 2021.

Enchanted Forest to reopen soon

Enchanted Forest will officially reopen to the public this weekend, welcoming guests again for the first time in eight

The Salem-area amusement park announced the reopening Tuesday, two weeks after delaying its initial reopening plan due to a public backlash over its new policies to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The announcement comes following a difficult year and a half for the beloved attraction, which has struggled with coronavirus pandemic, finan-

cial woes and an ice storm. "You just can't imagine how excited we are," park co-manager Susan Vaslev

said of the reopening. Enchanted Forest originally shut down at the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, and reopened that June to only 200 guests at a time. It shut back down again only four months later, as COVID-19 cases rose dramatically in

Oregon over the fall. — Bulletin staff and wire reports

Visit Bend seeks to use room taxes to support recreation

BY SUZANNE ROIG

The Bulletin

In recognition of the natural resources that attract visitors to Bend, the group charged with luring visitors here wants to use a portion of the room tax it receives to fund shovel-ready projects.

By this fall, an advisory group will choose projects that support tourism and spend up

to \$500,000 of transient room taxes to support the natural resources, trailheads and other reasons that are the primary drivers of why people come here. Next year the Sustainability Fund, as it's been called, could set aside up to \$750,000, said Kevney Dugan, Visit Bend

Visit Bend already has a grant program for marketing cultural events like BendFilm and Oregon WinterFest, which bring people to Bend. The new fund would enable the marketing group to expand its support to so-called tourism-related facilities like trailheads, bike paths and river-launch areas for adaptive sports.

"We as an industry have put more people out there in the natural landscape than a land

manager assumed would be there," Dugan said. "We feel the responsibility. We looked at what does it take to be responsible.

"We are taking what is happening out there seriously and doing what we can to protect and enhance these areas so the next generation will have the same opportunity to recreate here that we had."

To do that, the group will need Bend City Council approval. The council was considering the issue at Wednesday night's meeting. The funds could be used to maintain trails, expand nordic skiing, build an adaptive sports launch area at the river or build a parking lot. It's a concept embraced by other communities.

See Visit Bend / A12

Vaccine freebies

Shot and a beer



President, brewers, sports leagues and others offering incentives to encourage vaccination





BY ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

ASHINGTON — Dangling ev erything from sports tickets to a free beer, President Joe Biden is looking for that extra something — anything — that will get people to roll up their sleeves for COVID-19 shots when the promise of a lifesaving vaccine by itself hasn't been enough.

Biden on Wednesday announced a "month of action" to urge more Americans to get vaccinated before the July 4 holiday, including an early summer sprint of incentives and a slew of new steps to ease barriers and make getting shots more appealing to those who haven't received them. He is closing in on his goal of getting 70% of adults at least partially vaccinated by Independence Day — essential to his aim of returning the nation to something approaching a pre-pandemic sense of normalcy this summer.

The more people we get vaccinated, the more success we're going to have in the fight against this virus," Biden said from the White House. He



George Ripley, 72, holds up his free beer after receiving the J&J COVID-19 vaccine shot on May 6 at The REACH at the Kennedy Center in Washington. Free beer is the latest White House-backed incentive for Americans to get vaccinated for the coronavirus

predicted that with more vaccinations, America will soon experience "a summer of freedom, a ummer of joy, a summer of get togethers celebrations. An All-American summer."

Biden's plan will continue to use public and private-sector partnerships, mirroring the "whole of government" effort he deployed to make vaccines more widely available after he took office. The president said he was "pulling out all the stops" to drive up the vaccination rate.

Among those efforts is a promotional giveaway announced Wednesday by Anheuser-Busch, saying it will "buy Americans 21+ a round of beer" once Biden's 70% goal is met.

"Get a shot and have a beer," Biden said, advertising the promotion even though he himself refrains from drinking alcohol.

The fine print on the Anheuser-Busch promotion reveals the benefits to the sponsoring company, which will collect consumer data and photos through its website to register for the \$5 giveaway. The company says it will hand out credits to however many people qualify.

See Freebies / A12

Pot producers are pushing to clamp down on Delta-8 THC

BY TIFFANY KARY

Bloomberg News A little-known substance

derived from hemp is flying off the shelves of U.S. gas stations and smoke shops, offering users a cheap and convenient high even in states where marijuana isn't legal. But large cannabis producers are now pushing to clamp down on Delta-8 THC amid worries that a lack of oversight means heavy metals and unexpected intoxicants are cropping up in some of the products.

The cannabis compound has proliferated in gummies, joints and vape pens, with sales more than doubling in the past year across the country. Despite being almost chemically identical to federally outlawed forms of mar-



E. Jason Wambsgans/Chicago Tribune file Processing hemp at the Red White and Bloom facility in Granville, Il-

linois, in 2020. ijuana, Delta-8 has escaped widespread scrutiny thanks to

ambiguity in U.S. laws. That's starting to change, with a coalition of cannabis producers now pushing

federal and state regulators to block sales of unregulated Delta-8. More than a dozen states have already moved to restrict the products.

See Delta-8/A12

Largest meat producer getting back online after cyberattack

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN **AND FRANK BAJAK**

Associated Press

DETROIT — The world's largest meat processing company has resumed most production after a weekend cyberattack, but experts say the vulnerabilities exposed by this attack and others are far from resolved.

In a statement late Wednesday, the FBI attributed the attack on Brazil-based meat processor JBS SA to REvil, also known as Sodinokibi, a Russian-speaking gang that has made some of the largest ransomware demands on record in recent months. The FBI said it will work to bring the group to justice and it urged anyone

who is the victim of a cyberattack to contact the bureau immediately.

REvil has not posted anything related to the hack on its dark web site. But that's not unusual. Ransomware syndicates as a rule don't post about attacks when they are in initial negotiations with victims — or if the victims have paid a ransom.

In October, a REvil representative who goes by the handle "UNKN" said in an interview published online that the agriculture sector would now be a main target for the syndicate. REvil also threatened to auction off sensitive stolen data from victims who refused to pay it.

See Cyberattack / A12