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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

Sign of the season

West side of McKenzie Pass Highway to close Thursday



▶ A vehicle drives through a large lava field at the summit of McKenzie Pass near the Dee Wright Observatory on Wednesday. Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

BY KYLE SPURR • The Bulletin

The west section of McKenzie Pass Highway, near the state Highway 126 junction to the Dee Wright Observatory, will close at 10 a.m. Thursday due to expected snowfall, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The closure will be in place from milepost 62, about 7 miles east of the Highway 126 junction, to milepost 72, near the observatory.

Travel on the east side of the highway will remain open from Sisters to the observatory. The entire highway is expected to close Monday, Nov. 1. It may close sooner depending on snowfall, ac-

ording to the state transportation department.

“It really has to do with snowfall and snow plow resources,” said ODOT spokesperson Kacey Davey.

The highway, also called state Highway 242, will reopen in late spring or summer 2022, depending on road conditions following the winter season.

The 37-mile scenic route, with a summit at 5,325-foot elevation, traditionally closes in mid-November when snow starts to accumulate and it becomes difficult for crews to remove the snow.

The earliest closure of the highway was Oct. 18, 1996. The latest closure was Jan. 10, 1939, ODOT records show.

The highway usually opens in June and averages about 350 vehicles per day. The road’s shortest season was in 1999, when it was only open 90 days, beating the previous record of 120 days set in 1979, according to the records.

McKenzie Pass was the main route between Eugene and Bend, but became a seasonal highway in 1962, when construction finished on state Highway 126.

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Accused in assault, man sues alleged victim

Bend runner Mark Richard Mastalir was arrested for alleged assault on Uber driver

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

An intense legal battle has played out this year in Bend as a man accused of assaulting an Uber driver has sued that woman for \$1 million for allegedly defaming and assaulting him.

Attorneys for the driver say Mark Richard Mastalir is attempting to reduce his criminal liability through an “asinine” move in civil court, which they say will backfire.

“What you got here is a rich bully trying to use his connections and his wealth and his position in the community to beat down this woman that he attacked,” said Greg Kafoury, attorney for the Uber driver, Bend woman Rhonda Bowlin. “I’ve been practicing for 47 years, and I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Mastalir, 53, was arrested March 21, 2020, after Bowlin reported to police that while driving the intoxicated Mastalir home, he’d grabbed her, pulled her hair and assaulted her. Police found him bloody by the side of Skyline Ranch Road, Bowlin having successfully fought him off using pepper spray, a stun gun and a baton, police said.

Paramedics transported Mastalir to St. Charles Bend, where he received staples to close wounds on his scalp. He was indicted by a grand jury in June 2020 and has pleaded not guilty to eight counts including allegations he physically assaulted Bowlin, caused her to swerve into oncoming traffic, grabbed her breasts and spat blood on a responding sheriff’s deputy.

See **Assault** / A4

Deschutes Brewery closes Roanoke, Virginia, taproom

BY MICHAEL KOHN
The Bulletin

Pandemic restrictions that have upended the economy and forced the closure of numerous Bend businesses have caused another casualty. This time it’s the Deschutes Brewery Tasting Room in Roanoke, Virginia.

Michael LaLonde, president and CEO of Deschutes Brewery, announced Wednesday that after four years of operation, Deschutes will not renew its lease for the taproom and will cease its operations at the end of the year.

The pandemic has laid waste to hundreds of pubs and restaurants across the country amid on-and-off lockdowns,



Deschutes Brewery/Submitted photo
Patrons crowd into the Deschutes Brewery taproom in downtown Roanoke, Virginia, which opened for business in 2017.

supply chain disruptions and challenges in finding workers. Foot traffic to breweries and pubs has fallen off during the pandemic in many cities, hurting bottom lines and leading to closures.

See **Deschutes** / A14

Over half of most serious juvenile offenders make commutation list

List includes four convicted in 2001 Redmond killing

BY NOELLE CROMBIE
The Oregonian

More than half of the people serving time in Oregon prisons for crimes they committed as juveniles will be eligible to seek parole or in some cases released outright under a commutation plan by Gov. Kate Brown.

About three-quarters of the estimated 250 prisoners who meet Brown’s criteria were sentenced under Measure 11, the state’s mandatory minimum sentencing law, which applies to the most serious crimes, including sex-

ual abuse, rape and murder.

The governor’s plan represents the latest significant effort to reexamine criminal justice policy in Oregon. In recent years, the state has undertaken multiple major reforms, including rethinking how it prosecutes juveniles.

The move will apply to some notorious young killers, further fanning the simmering philosophical debate about where victims and their families fit in the reform picture.

Brown wants to emphasize crime prevention and rehabilitation over “harsh punishments and lengthy and costly prison sentences,” said her spokesperson Elizabeth Merah.

The governor’s criteria does not apply to people convicted of crimes as juveniles whose projected release dates are in 2050 or later or those who were convicted as juveniles but are also serving time for offenses they committed as adults.

So Kip Kinkel — who fatally shot his parents before killing two students and wounding 24 others at Thurston High School — in 1998 isn’t among the group.

Brown’s office released to The Oregonian the names of all offenders who met her criteria. The list is comprised of people who committed crimes as young as 14 through 17 and are now in the adult prison system.

See **Commutation** / A4