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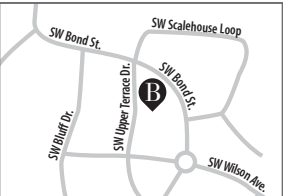
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

BEND

Couple with 4,500 fentanyl pills sentenced

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin
A couple that trafficked fentanyl in peanut butter jars will head to prison following sentencing this week in Deschutes County Circuit Court.
Ryeann Nicole Martin received an 18-month sentence, while her husband, Luke Anthony Martin, was sentenced to 40 months.
Ryeann Martin, 29, pleaded guilty to manufacturing meth-

amphetamine, manufacturing fentanyl and aggravated ID theft, for having more than 10 pieces of identification from 10 or more people.
Luke Martin, 38, pleaded no contest to the same charges. He received a longer sentence than his wife primarily because he has a more extensive criminal record.
When defendants plead “no contest,” they accept responsibility for an offense

without specifically admitting guilt.
Last month, the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement team announced the Martins’ arrests following a Feb. 11 raid of their home in the 61000 block of Ferguson Court. Officers used stun grenades to disorient the couple, according to the drug enforcement team.
As detectives swarmed the home, Luke Martin was holding a grocery bag with an

“unusual” number of peanut butter containers, according to Sgt. Kent Vander Kamp of the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office. Police believe the peanut butter was used to mask odor and prevent drug dogs and detectives from finding the drugs. In all, police recovered 4,500 fentanyl pills in the raid.
The arrests were part of a larger investigation of fentanyl trafficking in the Central Ore-

gon, Vander Kamp said. Police believe the Martins imported large quantities of fentanyl pills and powder from the Portland area into cCentral Oregon, where they distributed it.
Detectives also found stolen mail from around the Bend area. They believe it was part of a fake-check operation run from the couple’s home.
■ Reporter: 541-383-0325, gandrews@bendbulletin.com

Oregon could do more to reduce risk of violent extremism, audit finds

Associated Press
SALEM — The breach of the Oregon Capitol in December 2020 and the hours-long standoff with police capped a year of heightened politically-motivated violence, state auditors said in a new report.
Auditors said Wednesday the state could do more to prevent these events from happening and improve coordination between levels of government and agencies grappling with the threat of extremist acts, the Statesman Journal reported.
Oregon ranks 27th among states in population, but came in sixth among states for violent extremist attacks between 2011 and 2020, auditors said, citing data from the Center for Strategic and International Studies.
The threats have “become increasingly complex and volatile,” with people using social media and websites to propagate “extremist narratives and activity,” according to the auditor’s report.
Oregon state law doesn’t define or criminalize domestic violent extremism. Auditors suggest Oregon consider looking to other states that define domestic violent extremism or “terroristic acts” in their laws, which can mean the state can charge offenders if federal standards aren’t met.
Federal law defines domestic terrorism as “acts dangerous to human life” that are illegal, primarily take place on U.S. soil and



Abigail Dollins/Statesman-Journal via AP, file
A right-wing protester screams at Salem Police as she attempts to get into the Oregon State Capitol during a special session of the Legislature in Salem on Dec. 21, 2020. A newly released audit says the state needs to take action to reduce the risk of violent extremism.

appear to intend to influence a government or intimidate people.
“Attacks on the Oregon state capitol and the U.S. capitol over the last couple years clearly demonstrated the risk to public safety and the high cost on public resources resulting from domestic terrorism and violent extremism,” Audits Division Director Kip Memmott said. “Our report notes that Oregon is especially at high risk for this

type of violence.”
The report also suggested the state’s homeland security council come up with a statewide strategy that includes “specific, measurable outcomes” to counter extremist activities, and that the state revise its plan to protect critical infrastructure like hospitals and power plants with the “latest information” on threats of domestic violent extremism.

ALSEA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ex-superintendent created toxic workplace, suit alleges

Associated Press
ALSEA — A lawsuit alleges the Alsea School District enabled its former superintendent to create a hostile work environment with gender discrimination, sexual harassment and general misogyny.
The lawsuit alleges Marc Thielman, who resigned as superintendent in February after several complaints were filed against him, “engaged in sexual harassment on a regular, sustained and ongoing basis” throughout Shanon Rice’s employment with the rural, Western Oregon school district, the Albany Democrat-Herald reported.
Rice, the principal of Alsea Elementary School, filed the lawsuit in Benton County Circuit Court last week. The lawsuit does not name Thielman as a defendant. District officials could not be reached for comment.
Thielman is running for Oregon governor as a Republican.
He would talk about his

genitalia and sexual life on “an almost daily basis,” the legal complaint alleges, and regularly used sexual innuendos and made sexually suggestive comments about women’s bodies. It was so pervasive that Rice would take a “mental vacation” whenever Thielman steered a conversation

toward sex, the lawsuit said.
The lawsuit alleges district officials enabled him by consistently ignoring concerns and complaints and retaliated against Rice by not renewing her contract, effectively terminating her as of June 30, 2022.
Rice is seeking more than \$3.7 million from the district for the alleged hostile work environment, sexual harassment, gender discrimination and whistleblower retaliation.
Thielman made waves in January when he announced that at his direction, the school board had passed a resolution to return “local control” to the board and make indoor masking optional during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thielman

Oregon to pay \$1.3M to home care workers who received late or partial payments

BY JAMIE GOLDBERG
The Oregonian
Oregon will pay a combined \$1.3 million in late fees to more than 4,000 home care workers who received late or incomplete payments over the last seven months due to glitches in a state software system.
Rebecca Sandoval, vice president of Service Employees International Union Local 503, which represents home care and personal support workers, said the union is aware of more than 8,600 instances over the last seven months where Oregon failed to provide home care workers employed by the state with their full paycheck on time.
The glitches have impacted 4,366 workers, nearly a sixth of the state’s home care workers, who care for seniors with physical disabilities, according to the state.
“It’s not acceptable,” Sandoval said. “It’s quite negligent in terms of servicing a workforce.”

Elisa Williams, a spokesperson for Oregon’s Department of Human Services, said the state is working on a fix that will allow hours to be entered entirely electronically.
Williams said the state hired an outside vendor to implement the new system in order to meet federal law, which required the state to use an electronic visit verification system to approve hours. In light of the issues with incorrect payments, Williams said the state has hired additional technical staff to help home care workers, reached out directly to workers who are experiencing problems with the system and provided access to computers where workers can enter their hours at agency offices around the state.

The union filed a grievance against the state in November.
The settlement between the union and Oregon’s Department of Human Services requires the state to pay providers who received partial or late payments since August \$150 for each incident when they were incorrectly paid, in addition to the pay they were owed for their time worked. The money will start going out to workers in May.
The state agency also agreed to pay late fees when home care workers receive late paychecks and partial payments going forward, the union said. The Oregon Home Care Commission has also agreed to investigate any late pay complaints within 30 days, the union said.

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