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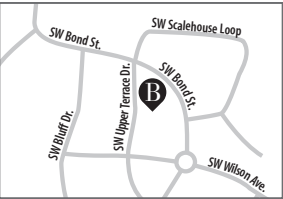
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

OREGON

Brown shares credit for job training plan

BY PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown shared the stage with others as they celebrated the plan she hopes will transform Oregon's future economy and workforce.

A ceremonial signing of Senate Bill 1545, which enacts the \$200 million plan known as Future Ready Oregon, took place Tuesday on Intel's Ronler Acres campus in Hillsboro. Brown signed the actual legislation on March 17.

Brown spoke for only a few minutes. She described the plan as "a game-changing investment for working Oregonians," but left it to others to talk about its creation and execution.

The plan blends \$123 million in federal funds, mostly from President Joe Biden's pandemic recovery legislation, with \$76 million from the state budget. Some money will go to the existing network of regional workforce development boards, and some money will go to competitive



Gov. Kate Brown displays the bill that enacts a \$200 million workforce development plan during a ceremonial bill signing Tuesday at Intel's Ronler Acres campus in Hillsboro.

grants to organizations for innovative ways to reach, train and support would-be workers left behind in previous

economic recoveries.

"It will give Oregonians the education, the training and the resources they need to get

into good-paying careers at places like — let me think — Intel and other key industries across the state," said Pia Wil-

son-Body, president of the Intel Foundation.

"I would be remiss if I did not point out that these investments prioritize our underserved communities ... to ensure a diverse, skilled and equitable workforce."

Among the groups are women, people of color, veterans, low-income and rural residents.

Oregon has regained 82% of the jobs lost two years ago, when the onset of the coronavirus pandemic resulted in a record one-month jump in the statewide unemployment rate from 3.5% to 13.3%. The rate in February, the most recent available, was 4%. State economists say Oregon is on track to a full recovery later this year.

"But I know that the cost of living is on the rise, and we need to do the work so that every Oregonian benefits from it," Brown said. "I know Future Ready Oregon will do just that."

■ pwong@pamplinmedia.com

Rescuers search for snowboarder missing at Mt. Hood Meadows

KALE WILLIAMS

The Oregonian

Search and rescue teams are combing areas of the Mt. Hood Meadows ski resort Wednesday looking for a 30-year-old snowboarder who failed to return after a day on the mountain.

Ryan Mather of Aloha went riding at the resort Tuesday and was last reported at the Shooting Star Express chairlift, which is sometimes used to access backcountry areas of the resort.

Mather's girlfriend reported him missing about 9:30 p.m., and his vehicle was discovered in the parking lot, according to the Hood River County Sheriff's Office.

Teams searched for Mather overnight but were unsuccessful, the sheriff's office said.

The ski resort has been hit by heavy snow during the past several days, with at least 20 inches falling in the past 48 hours, which likely resulted in deep powder conditions off of groomed trails. The resort only reported



The Oregonian file

Passengers ride a chairlift in 2020 at Mt. Hood Meadows.

about an inch of new snow since Tuesday morning.

Personnel from more than a half dozen organizations — including the Hood River Crag Rats, Portland Mountain Rescue, Corvallis Mountain Rescue, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon Air National Guard — are helping with the search.

Portland police collected personal info on protesters in 2020, audit finds

BY MAXINE BERNSTEIN

The Oregonian

Portland police collected personal information and social media posts about demonstrators during the city's mass racial justice protests in 2020 without documenting a potential crime, according to a city audit released Wednesday.

One officer recorded license plates of cars near a protest. Another kept a video of people presumed to be protest organizers. The Police Bureau's Criminal Intelligence Unit held onto a bulletin from Vancouver police describing a vehicle blaring anti-law enforcement music.

Glaringly missing from Police Bureau directives, auditors said, is any policy or instruction to officers governing what material they can gather regarding public protests.

That led officers to use their own discretion on how and what type of information to obtain and keep, the audit found.

Evaluators with the Portland Audit Services Office reviewed a random sample of 40 police reports related to protests and 33 reports from the bureau's Criminal Intelligence Unit. The unit of four officers and sergeant investigates threats of targeted violence, violent extremism, threats to public officials and does threat assessments for major events and dignitary visits.

Among other key findings: The Police Bureau provided

no guidance for officers at protests about what information they could collect; the Criminal Intelligence Unit didn't limit access to some of its reports, sharing them in the online police record management system that outside agencies can access; the intelligence unit also kept records past its 30-day retention deadline when the case involved no crime.

And despite community concerns, the auditors said they did not find that a police plane monitoring the protests could identify individuals or that the plane had stingray technology to pick up cellphone data.

Police Chief Chuck Lovell pushed back on some of the findings involving the Criminal Intelligence Unit, saying five of the six reports entered into the general records system didn't amount to criminal intelligence per se. And the sixth report was a bulletin from an outside police agency, he said.

Lovell also noted that officers can view publicly available social media information and doing so doesn't constitute a formal legal "search" under the Fourth Amendment.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner, said the Police Bureau will adopt most of the audit's recommendations.

"I support these protections because of the very real history of shameful and biased surveillance practices

by some law enforcement agencies in our state and nation," Wheeler said in a written response.

He and Lovell said the Police Bureau also will adopt a procedure to govern the use and reporting of electronic surveillance technology and put the police commissioner in charge of approving state or federal funding to buy the technology more specifically.

LOCAL BRIEFING

COVID-19 community levels for Central Oregon

The Bulletin is no longer publishing COVID-19 daily case counts by county.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention monitors community levels of COVID-19 to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

The CDC lists the following levels for Central Oregon:

Deschutes County: Low

Crook County: Low

Jefferson County: Low

Precautions the CDC recommends for communities with low levels: Stay up to date on vaccines and get tested if you have symptoms.

High Desert Museum to offer free family workshops

The High Desert Museum near Bend is accepting applications for a free, family-centered outdoor learning workshop series. The series is available only for children 8 through 11 and their adult caregivers.

The program, titled Burrowing into Wildlife Science: A Family Adventure Workshop Series will be held May 7, May 14, May 21, May 28, June 4 and June 11. Each day, participants will learn about different aspects of predators and prey that inhabit local desert and forest environments.

The program is free and participants will also be awarded \$150 for participating in the series. Gas cards will be provided to help with transportation, and lunch will be provided at each workshop.

To apply for the program, families can submit an application at highdesertmuseum.org. Click on the education tab, and in the drop down menu, click Family Workshop. Applications are available in both English and Spanish.

Redmond group calls on residents to support school

A group in Redmond is asking local residents to help support the Redmond School District by "adopting" a local school for a week and making donations.

The group, Redmond Collective Action, said in a press release that it is calling on community members to make donations to M.A. Lynch Elementary School from April 11-15.

Among the group's ideas for donations are arts and crafts, books, school supplies, gift cards and other encouraging cards. The group also recommended that community members donate to music, art and English language learner programs.

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