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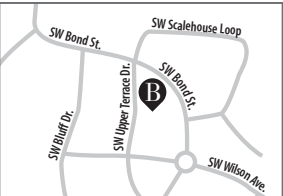
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Oregon prisons director picked to run federal prisons

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO AND MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Tuesday named Colette Peters, the director of Oregon's prison system, to run the federal Bureau of Prisons, turning to a reform-minded outsider as it seeks to rebuild the beleaguered agency.
Peters, who championed steeply reducing the state's inmate population in the last decade, will inherit a federal agency plagued by myriad scandals. Her hiring comes about seven months af-

ter Bureau of Prisons Director Michael Carvajal submitted his resignation amid mounting pressure from Congress after investigations by The Associated Press exposed widespread corruption and misconduct in the agency.
In an interview with the AP, Peters stressed the importance of working to "create an environment where people can feel comfortable coming forward and talking about misconduct."
When she officially begins her role Aug. 2, Peters will become only the second director in the agency's history with no prior experience in the federal

prisons system. Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, who led the search for the new director, had been looking for someone who was focused on reforming an agency that has had cultural issues for decades.
Monaco, in a recent interview with the AP, said she sought "somebody who's got executive experience managing a corrections operation, but someone who's got real experience and credibility, quite frankly, as a reformer."
"And I think we have achieved that," Monaco said. "I know we've achieved that with Colette Peters."

Peters had faced some scrutiny in Oregon and was accused in a lawsuit of placing underqualified friends in high-ranking positions within the state's Department of Corrections and creating openings for them by firing other employees or creating a hostile environment causing other employees to quit.
P She said the allegations in the lawsuit were without merit and "not founded."
"That is not how I operate," she said. "I believe very strongly in recruitment processes and really finding the right person for the right job."

CLATSOP COUNTY



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Opponents say vacation rentals have created problems in neighborhoods such as Cove Beach.

Proposed referendum would limit short-term rentals

BY ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian
A referendum is in the works to repeal a new Clatsop County ordinance that made vacation rentals a recognized use in zones throughout unincorporated areas.
The county received a prospective petition on July 1, just over a week after county commissioners unanimously approved changes to the development code and formally allowed vacation rentals in commercial and residential zones.
If the referendum qualifies for the ballot and is approved

by voters, vacation rentals of 30 or fewer days would be banned in the county's unincorporated areas excluding Arch Cape, where vacation rentals have been permitted for almost 20 years.
Vacation rentals would start to be eliminated next year as owners would be unable to renew their permits. More than 170 vacation rentals exist in unincorporated areas, including some that have operated for decades.
The county has estimated that phasing out vacation rentals would lead to the loss of more than \$500,000 in an-

nual lodging tax revenue.
Although the referendum would apply only to unincorporated areas, all county voters could vote on the ballot measure.
The petitioners — Charles Dice and Jeff Davis, of Cove Beach, and Clare Hasler-Lewis, of Surf Pines — have until Aug. 10 to turn in signatures from 4% — or 742 — of county voters to get the referendum on the November ballot. If they want the referendum on the May ballot, the petitioners have until Sept. 20 to turn in signatures, according to the county.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Deschutes County offers funds to reduce fire risks

Deschutes County residents wanting to reduce wildfire risk in their neighborhoods may be able to tap into county funds to help them complete reduction projects.
On Tuesday the county announced a program that will grant up to \$100,000 to fund projects to remove brush, small trees and undergrowth that fuel wildfires. Short-term projects that improve defensible space will be considered for funding. The funds are derived from video lottery gaming.
Preference for funding will be given to communities or neighborhoods working to be recognized by Firewise USA, a nationwide initiative under the National Fire Protection Association designed to make communities more resistant to wildfire, or those already recognized.
Applicants must be working at the neighborhood or community level to reduce wildfire risk. Individual property owners are not eligible.
A wide range of activities may be eligible for funding, including, equipment rental, supplies needed for community work parties, brush clearing projects, improving defensible space and debris disposal fees. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Sept. 16.
Deschutes County discourages requests for regular maintenance, such as pine-needle raking and removal and ongoing operational funding that cannot be sustained beyond the grant period.
Interested applicants can learn more and ask questions about the grant opportunity by attending one of two meetings.
An in-person meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Deschutes County Road Department main conference room, 61150 SE 27th St. in Bend. A virtual meeting is set for 9 a.m. Aug. 2.
To register for the meeting, contact Deschutes County Forester Ed Keith (ed.keith@deschutes.org).

COVID-19 community levels for Central Oregon

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.
As of Thursday, 14 Oregon counties had reached high levels of community spread, 15 were at medium and seven were low.
The CDC listed the following levels for Central Oregon:
Deschutes County: Medium
Crook County: Medium
Jefferson County: Medium
Precautions the CDC recommends for communities with medium levels:
• If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your health care provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions.
• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
• Get tested if you have symptoms

— Bulletin staff reports

Starbucks closing 2 Portland locations, 14 others in U.S.

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press
Starbucks is closing 16 stores around the country because of repeated safety issues, including drug use and other disruptive behaviors that threaten staff.
The coffee giant is closing six stores in its hometown of Seattle, six in Los Angeles, two in Portland and one each in Philadelphia and Washington. Starbucks said employees at those stores will be given the opportunity to transfer to other stores.
Starbucks said Tuesday the closures are part of a larger effort to respond to staff concerns and make sure stores are safe and welcoming. In a letter to employees, Debbie Stroud and Denise Nelson, Starbucks' senior vice presidents of operations, said the company's stores aren't immune from problems like rising drug use and a growing mental health crisis.
The closures took on heightened significance because of an ongoing unionization effort at Starbucks' U.S. stores. More than 189 U.S. Starbucks stores have voted to unionize since late last year, according to the National Labor Relations Board. Star-



Gene J. Puskar/AP file

This photo shows a Starbucks sign in a coffee shop in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The coffee company said Tuesday it's closing 16 stores including two in Portland.

bucks opposes the unionization effort.
Two of the Seattle stores that are closing have voted to unionize, while one of the Portland stores has petitioned to hold a union vote. Last month, Starbucks also closed a unionized store in Ithaca, New York, because of operational problems, including an overflowing grease trap.
Starbucks Workers United, the labor group organizing the effort, said it intends to file unfair labor practice charges against Starbucks on behalf of the two unionized stores that are closing in Seattle.
But Starbucks insisted the closures weren't related to the unionization drive.

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