

Heat

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Brown's order covers 25 counties through July 31: Columbia, Clackamas, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Washington, Wheeler and Yamhill counties.

Extreme temperatures significantly increase the potential for heat related illnesses, particularly for those working or participating in outdoor activities.

Brown's order came just more than a year after the highest temperatures during the 2021 "heat dome" that set records across the state, with several areas recording highs of up to 117 degrees.

The Oregon Medical Examiner's Office in August 2021 released a report that 96 people had died from hyperthermia — excessive heat exposure — during the late June heat dome event.

Oregon Health Authority stepped up distribution of air conditioning units to individuals most at risk for heat-related illness while also offering tips for staying cool during extreme-heat conditions.

The program offering air conditioning units to vulnerable Oregonians, including older adults, home bound individuals and those with medical conditions exacerbated by high-heat events, was created following passage of Senate Bill 1536 during the 2022 legislative session. The bill allocated \$5 million to purchase air conditioners for high-risk Oregonians who are eligible to receive medical assistance through OHA, Oregon Department of Human Services or Medicare, or have received any of these services in the past 12 months. The law also allows the units to be installed in homes even if they're not allowed in homeowner or renter agreements as long as they don't pose a safety hazard.

Coordinated Care Organizations can directly purchase AC units and assist with any increased electric bill costs for their enrolled OHP members through their flexible service offerings. Members enrolled in a CCO can call member services to inquire about flexible services.

OHA reminded Oregon employers of a rule requiring them to take steps to keep workers safe against the dangers of high heat. Such steps must be taken when the temperature equals or exceeds 80 degrees.

Another important step was the development of a new heat rule, adopted in May at the request of Gov. Kate Brown, that protects Oregon workers, including those whose jobs require them to be outside. The rule



Yasser Marte/Hermiston Herald
The Hermiston Family Aquatic Center provides some respite Tuesday, July 26, 2022, from the heat.

addresses access to shade and cool water, preventive cool-down breaks, and prevention plans, information and training. Oregon Occupational Safety & Health offers employers free resources to help them comply with the rule. Those resources include consultation services, technical experts, fact sheets about the heat rule's key requirements and online training.

If workers who raise safety or health concerns do not believe their concerns are being addressed, they may file a complaint with Oregon OSHA.

Finally, OHA continues to warn Oregonians about the risk of heat stroke and heat exhaustion during extreme heat events. Heat stroke can be deadly, with symptoms that include body temperature of 103 degrees or higher; hot, red, dry or damp skin; headache; dizziness; nausea and confusion. Heat stroke is considered a medical emergency, and 911 should be called.

Heat exhaustion symptoms include heavy sweating; cold, pale, clammy skin; fast, weak pulse; tiredness or weakness; nausea or vomiting; muscle cramps; dizziness; headache and fainting. People experiencing heat exhaustion should be moved to a cool place and given a cool bath, wet cloths to place on their body and water to sip. Seek medical help if symptoms worsen or last more than an hour.

— Oregon Capital Bureau reporter Gary Warner contributed to this article.

Burglary

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Shafer's foot was injured as a result, according to arrest documents.

As the sedan's driver raced out of the parking lot, Gorte's son-in-law fired three shots at it with a pistol.

Gorte said he believes at least one of the shots may have hit the sedan.

Gorte's son-in-law got into a vehicle and began following the sedan but pulled back when a Union County Sheriff's deputy, responding to a 911 call from the store, took over the chase toward Imbler.

Gorte said he thinks the two masked individuals and their driver were responsible for the earlier break-in and were attempting to rob the store a second time.

THE CHASE AND GUNFIRE

According to arrest documents, shortly after fleeing the gun store, Spalinger switched out from the driver's seat with Romine. Union County Sheriff's Sgt. Travis Schaad in the arrest document reported he tried to stop the car, but Romine continued at speeds of approximately 105 mph.

The pursuit ended in Imbler, where the vehicle crashed at the bridge on Indian Creek Road

near Dutton Road.

Romine, Spalinger and Montez fled into the dense brush and vegetation. As a result, additional law enforcement was called and a perimeter was set up.

The Northeast Oregon Regional SWAT Team and the Oregon State Police SWAT Team responded and ultimately located and arrested Spalinger and Romine late on July 17.

Romine was arrested for reckless endangering and for misdemeanor and felony fleeing, while Spalinger is in jail for first-degree assault, hit-and-run with injury, recklessly endangering and misdemeanor fleeing from police.

THE FALLOUT

Gorte said he has been overwhelmed by the expressions of support his family is receiving on social media.

"It makes you feel like people care, for sure," he said.

Gorte, who has owned his shop for almost 10 years, said he finds it hard to believe something like this occurred in a place like Island City.

"You would not think this could happen in a small town," he said. "Things have changed and not for the best."

Gorte said he is relieved nobody suffered any major injuries. His daughter received medical treatment at Grande

Ronde Hospital, according to police documents.

"I'm glad that nobody has been hurt," he said. "My daughter's foot will heal."

Gorte also lauded the work law enforcement officers did to apprehend the three suspects.

BACKGROUNDS IN CRIMINAL COURT

The court has appointed attorneys for Spalinger and Romine. La Grande's James Schaeffer is representing Spalinger, and Canyon City's Kathleen Dunn is the attorney for Romine. They have hearing pleas scheduled for Aug. 15 and Aug. 22, respectively.

According to arrest documents, Montez is being represented by Rick Dall of La Grande. His plea hearing is set for Aug. 17.

Spalinger and Romine were dating at the time of their arrests, according to Spalinger's interview with law enforcement, but what brought the three remains to be uncovered. Each member of the trio, though, has a history of criminal activity in Oregon and Washington, according to state court records.

Each has been arrested on prior drug charges related to methamphetamine, ranging in severity from possession to intent to manufacture or delivery. "I can share that (Montez

and Romine) made themselves unavailable to supervision and had warrants for their arrest at the time of this incident," Dale Primmer, director of the Umatilla County Community Corrections, said in an email.

Montez has the most extensive criminal history of the group. He was released from the Oregon Department of Correction in May 2020 after being convicted in Umatilla County on charges of delivery of methamphetamine and felon in possession of a weapon.

Montez since 2000 has been arrested on 17 drug-related charges across the two states, with one count of a controlled substance violation, two counts of drug paraphernalia, three counts of delivery and 11 counts of possession.

During the past nearly 17 years, he has been convicted in Oregon on two counts of possession of a controlled substance, two counts of possession of methamphetamine, two counts of third-degree assault and one count of first-degree burglary.

Just days prior to the events in Island City and Elgin, Romine was due to appear in Umatilla County court for probation violations. When he failed to appear on July 11, the court issued a warrant for his arrest.

Ambulances

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The determination also shot down Hughes' request because one of the "overriding reasons" for the request was about funding rather than public safety.

In spite of the health district's determination, Boardman Fire has continued to respond to all calls.

Ken Browne, chair of the Boardman Fire Rescue District, fired back on Facebook.

"In Boardman Fire's case, it is properly responding because it is a Quick Response Team agency. In March 2020, the Health District was taking over 7 minutes to respond to 911 emergency medical calls, when the accepted National average is 60 seconds. In an effort to provide quicker patient care (within the County's ASA Plan) and to

also be in alignment with the Governor's COVID response State of Emergency, Boardman Fire requested their dispatch center, Morrow County Sheriff's Office, to page us for all medical emergencies. The Sheriff's dispatch center has been doing so since March 2020."

Browne also stated while the Oregon Health Authority has approved the ASA Plan, the county has yet to adopt it.

Browne then took a shot at Emily Roberts, CEO of Morrow County Health District.

"However, since becoming CEO of the Health District, Emily Roberts has been on a mission to keep Boardman Fire from doing what we have been trained and certified to do. It should also be noted that the EMS Advisory Committee is

80% Health District employees," according to Browne's post.

Morrow County Health District spokesperson Scott Gallagher explained Hughes is not looking to partner with the health district but instead take it over and the funding that goes with it.

According to health district meeting minutes of April 25, its 2022-23 budget is about \$14.6 million, and the district also was set to receive almost \$660,000 from Amazon, which operates several data centers in Morrow County at the Port of Morrow.

Boardman Fire not only ignores protocol when it jumps calls for ambulance service, according to Gallagher, it then bills the health district for the service.

Browne further stated in his

post the health district has refused to partner with Boardman Fire, which remains "committed to providing the best possible patient care and outcomes to our community. We have been doing this, within the constraints of the county's ASA Plan. We will continue to provide emergency services to our community while trying to bring forward a nationally adopted response model."

The health district also stated it has attempted to "resolve this issue and develop a partnership with BREF to enhance EMS services," but those efforts have been unsuccessful. Still, the health district stated it is working within the ambulance service plan's legal process "toward a reasonable, community-based resolution."

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Lots of games (with prizes).
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Sheriff Boat Rides
Face Painting
Lip Sync Contest
Teah Dance and light show in the grass 9-Midnight

FOOD FOOD FOOD
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & French Fries
Hosted by Community Women
Fresh Cut Watermelon & Cantaloupe from Sponsor Bellinger Farms
Pies & Ice Cream
Hosted by Family Worship Center
BBQ Chicken, Corn, Baked Potatoes and Coleslaw sponsored by NW World of Fabricators, and Hosted by Irrigon High Cheerleaders

BREAKFAST 6:30-9:30 hosted by: Columbia View Church
Coffee, Juice, Pancakes, Biscuits & Gravy, Ham, Sausage, and Eggs

DOWNTOWN PARADE @ 10AM

BEER GARDEN 4-8:30PM

MAIN-STAGE ENTERTAINMENT
Gems & Gents Cheerleading
Irrigon High Cheerleaders
Community Lip Sync Contest
Zach Grooms | Olivia Harms
The Sky Dogs
Street Dance with Desert Sounds Entertainment

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