

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES FOR KYTT-FM

QUARTERLY REPORT

FORTH QUARTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

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NEWS STORIES FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AIRED ON KYTT-FM

Unless otherwise noted on the scripts, General Manager, Rick Stevens, airs all news stories.

As of September 1, 2002, news airs on KYTT-FM at 0700, 0800, 1000, 1100, and 1700.



Rick Stevens, G.M.

5 APRIL, 2022

Date

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES FOR KYTT-FM

QUARTERLY REPORT

FORTH QUARTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

CRIME

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS: None

ATTACHMENTS: Reported News related to local area Crime

SALEM, Ore. - One of the two inmates who escaped from Oregon's only prison for women in early October has been captured in Texas.

Brandy Woodward and Shelly Radan walked away from the Corrections Commissary Building in Salem the morning of October 11, 2021, while part of a work crew based out of Coffee Creek Correctional Facility..

Woodward was arrested in Texas on Tuesday evening, 92 days after her escape.

Oregon State Police are now working with Texas law enforcement to extradite Woodward back to Oregon.

Radan remains at large.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.13.22

Crime

EVENT HALL-SHOOTING

6 people shot outside Oregon concert; suspect not in custody

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Police in Oregon set up a tip line and are asking for witnesses to come forward with any information about a shooting that injured six people, one critically, outside a concert in Eugene.

Officers responded to the WOW Hall after reports of a shooting near the venue's rear entrance around 9:30 p.m. Friday and found chaos.

The gunfire erupted in a parking lot behind the venue.

No arrests had been made, and investigators have not determined whether the shooting was targeted or random.

Police Chief Chris Skinner said investigators hadn't received much information from possible witnesses...

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

11/17/22 Crime

PORTLAND HOMICIDES-2021

2021 was a record year for homicides in Portland

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — In 2021 Portland, Oregon, recorded 90 homicides amid a surge in gun violence, shattering the city's previous high of 66 set more than three decades ago.

The number of homicides in Portland surpassed more populous cities including San Francisco and Boston — and were more than double the number of slayings last year in its larger Pacific Northwest neighbor Seattle.

City police and officials say last year's increase — which disproportionately impacted Portland's Black community — was fueled by gang-related arguments, drug deals gone array and disputes among people living on the streets and exacerbated by the pandemic, economic hardships and mental health crises.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.18.22 Crime

1.18.22

Oregon is getting its first glimpse of the scale of fraud perpetrated against the state's unemployment insurance system during the height of the pandemic.

A report released by the state's employment department says it paid out more than \$24 million in fraudulent claims in 2020, the first 10 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oregon overall paid \$7.4 billion to 581,000 people in 2020, meaning about 0.3% of the claims were fraudulent.

A law passed in the 2021 legislative session allows the employment department for five years to wave overpayments caused by unintentional errors.

While other states have been forthcoming about the amount of fraud perpetrated, Oregon Employment Department acting director David Gerstenfeld until now has repeatedly declined to publicly discuss the amount of fraud that occurred on the state's unemployment insurance system.

Gerstenfeld cited the department's desire to not give fraudsters information about how to commit it.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1-19-22 Crime

EVENT HALL SHOOTING-IDS

People shot outside Oregon concert identified

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Police have identified six people shot outside a concert Friday in Oregon, and confirmed they are all either in stable condition or out of the hospital.

The Register-Guard reports five people from Oregon and one person from California were gathered at a porch area behind a music and community events venue in Eugene called WOW Hall before the shooting around 9:30 p.m.

Police say three of those injured are hip-hop artists who had traveled from Pendleton, Oregon, to perform.

Police had no new descriptions Tuesday of the suspect, who remains at large. Police say detectives are still trying to discern if the shooting was targeted or random.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1.19.22

Crime

EUGENE, Ore. — Eugene Police are seeking information after a chase on a bike path Sunday morning, led to an arrest and the discovery of a 17 girl who'd been reported missing.

The incident started when 45-year-old Timothy Emra, was spotted allegedly assaulting a female passenger in his car.

Police attempted to stop the vehicle, which fled and resulted in a high-speed chase concluding on the Owosso Bike Path

The passenger was a teenage female, who had been missing since August.

Police haven't said anything about how the suspect and the 17-year-old girl ended up together.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.25.22 - Crime

COVID-RELIEF FUNDS-FRAUD

Oregon man pleads guilty to stealing COVID-relief money

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Federal officials say an Oregon man has pleaded guilty to perpetrating a scheme to steal money intended to help small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Attorney's Office — District of Oregon says 47-year-old Benjamin Tifekchian of Portland on Tuesday pleaded guilty to bank fraud. After Congress in 2020 passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Tifekchian made false claims and successfully obtained more than \$884,000 in a Paycheck Protection Program loan.

Prosecutors say Tifekchian used some of the money to pay for gambling and vacations before Bank of America froze the loan funds, suspecting fraud.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE::

1.26.22 Crime

COQUILLE, Ore. - The man accused of murdering four people in North Bend in June 2021 was back in Coos County court on yesterday.

Oen Nicholson told Judge Martin Stone he wants to dismiss his assigned public defender and represent himself.

The judge warned Nicholson of the disadvantages of representing himself.

He then ordered a competency exam at the state hospital in Salem

Nicholson is accused of killing his father, as well as a Florida couple and a woman in a marijuana dispensary in North Bend in June 2021.

He also faces charges related to the kidnapping of a woman in Springfield and forcing her to drive him to Wisconsin, where he turned himself in to police..

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

2.8.22

Crime

~~The~~ Coquille Police are looking for a vehicle that struck and killed a man on West Central Boulevard. The crash was reported at 1:30 a.m. yesterday.

Officers are looking for a 2014-2018 white Jeep crossover style vehicle in connection with the crash, which may have visible damage to the front end of the vehicle.

If you have information about the vehicle or the driver, contact the Coquille Police Department at 396-2114.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

2.17.22 *Crime*

PORTLAND PARK SHOOTING

Police: 1 killed, 5 hurt in shooting during Portland protest

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — One person was killed and five others were wounded in a shooting at a Portland park where a march was planned to protest police violence.

Police say the shooting at Normandale Park Saturday night happened during a confrontation between an armed homeowner and armed protesters.

Officers found one woman dead, and two men and three other women were taken to the hospital.

Their conditions haven't been released....

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

2.21.22 *Crime*

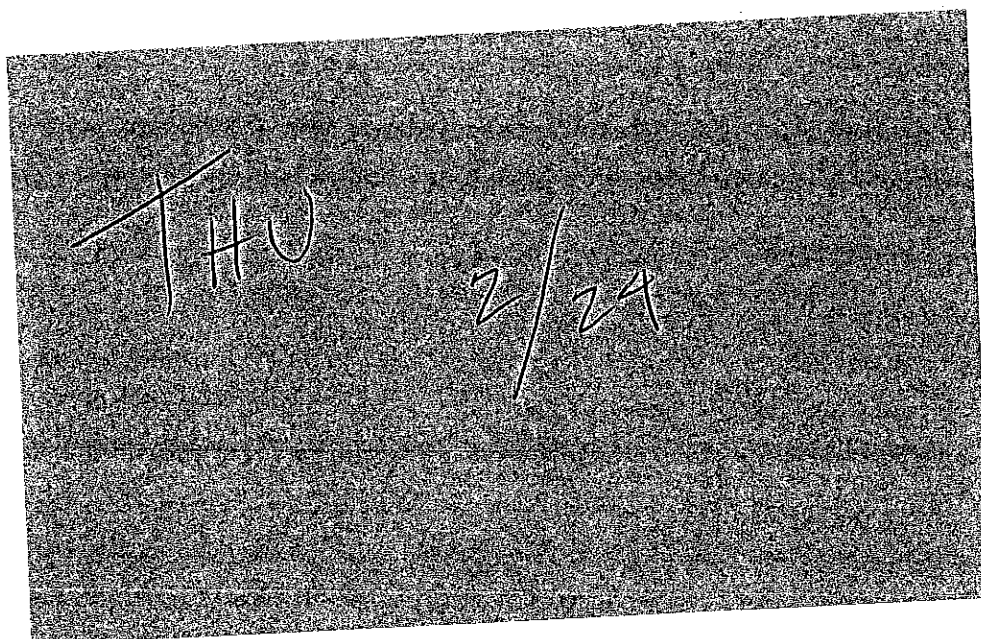
The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office filed murder and attempted murder charges Tuesday for the man suspected of shooting five people at a park in Northeast Portland on Saturday night.

Benjamin Jeffrey Smith, 43, allegedly confronted participants at a protest Saturday night before pulling out a handgun and shooting multiple people in the crowd. Brandy "June" Knightly, 60, was killed and four others were injured.

The shooting ended when a person in the crowd fired back at Smith, wounding him in the hip.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office ultimately decided to bring "no complaint" against the person "based upon our review of facts and evidence."

Portland police officers have remained at the hospital with Smith since the shooting and subsequent surgery, court records state.



WAGE THEFT

Probe: Restaurant owners shortchanged employees nearly \$170K

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — An investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Wage and Hour division has found that KKOKI Korean BBQ restaurant owners in Salem, Portland and Eugene shortchanged 118 employees nearly \$170,000.

The Statesman Journal reports the investigation report says managers took part of workers' tips, paid overtime only after workers worked 86 hours rather than 40 hours per week and that the employer failed to keep accurate employee records.

A total of \$169,728 was recovered, representing \$84,864 in back wages and an equal amount in liquidated damages.

Additionally, the report says the division issued \$30,199 in penalties for the "willful nature of the employer's violations," Kkoki Korean BBQ owners were not available for comment.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

3,4,22 crime

Assessor Scam Reported

DCSO release – DOUGLAS COUNTY, Ore. – The Douglas County Sheriff's Office has become aware of a new scam in which scammers are posing as employees from the Assessor's Office.

It has been reported that an individual contacted a resident at their home indicating the supposed employee was there to collecting past due taxes.

This is a scam and Douglas County will not send anyone to your home to collect taxes. It is the practice of the Assessor's Office for employees to provide residents with a business card and present their employee identification card.

True Douglas County Assessor employees will only arrive at your property during business hours Monday – Thursday.

If you ever question the validity of the person's affiliation, you can call the Assessor's Office at (541) 440-4222..

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

3.4.22. *Criner*

LIVE SCORPION IMPORTS-PLEA

Oregon man pleads guilty to importing live scorpions

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon man has pleaded guilty in federal court to illegally importing and exporting hundreds of live scorpions.

The Oregon Department of Justice says Darren Drake pleaded guilty Monday to conspiring with others to commit Lacey Act violations.

Court documents say from September 2017 into March 2018, Drake imported and exported dozens of live scorpions from and to contacts in Germany without obtaining an import-export license from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Documents say one intercepted parcel had been falsely labeled as chocolates. Drake also mailed or received several hundred live scorpions from other U.S. states, including Michigan and Texas, in violation of federal mailing laws.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
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3-15-22 Crime

Charges have been dropped in a Cold Case murder investigation involving Nine-year old Hayley Mae Coblentz.

Two years ago, her body was found in a dufflebag alongside the Salmon River northeast of Lincoln City.,

She was originally called a Jane Doe until advanced DNA led to her mother and her spouse in Detroit Mi.

The pair were later arrested in connection with the death of Mayley Mae.

The mother, Twenty-eight year old Shawna Browning was first to be extradited back to Oregon and made a court appearance in Lincoln County at Newport.

Where Lincoln Co. District Attorney Lanee Danforth asked the Oregon Dept. of Justice to prosecute the case as Aggravated Murder.

They dismissed the charges before presenting the case to a Grand Jury, "pending further investigation." Then last Thursday, a motion was filed to dismiss all charges.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
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3.15.22 crime

PRISON NURSE-SEX ASSAULT

Ex-prison nurse charged with sex assault of women in custody

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice has unsealed an indictment that accuses a former Oregon Department of Corrections nurse of sexually assaulting a dozen women in custody at the state women's prison.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports 37-year-old Tony Klein pleaded not guilty Monday to 21 counts of "depriving the victims of their constitutional right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment."

The indictment alleges that in 2016 and 2017 Klein committed various forms of sexual assault including aggravated sexual abuse.

Klein also pleaded not guilty Monday to four counts of perjury related to a federal lawsuit over alleged sexual misconduct while he was a nurse at the facility.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.15.22 Crime

GHOST GUN OPERATION

Prosecutors: 'Ghost gun' manufacturing operation raided

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Prosecutors say a man was running a “massive” so-called “ghost gun” operation from his mother’s house in Salem, Oregon, and distributing counterfeit pills made of fentanyl in exchange for other guns.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports agents from the U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Salem police seized 63 firearms from the home Tuesday amid approximately 200 counterfeit oxycontin pills.

Authorities say Tyler Ray Harnden was arrested and indicted on drug and firearm charges.

It wasn't immediately known if he has a lawyer to comment on his behalf.

Ghost guns are homemade firearms that lack serial numbers used to trace them and are often purchased without a background check.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

3.18.22 Crime

Intro: In response to an uptick in threats against election workers after the 2020 election, Oregon lawmakers passed a measure recently that gives them greater protections.

The Bill increases the penalties for harassing election workers and shields their personal information.

Chris Walker is Jackson County Clerk, in charge of elections for the county. She says elections always are tense – especially presidential elections since roughly half of the population is going to be disappointed.

:11 "What we have not experienced as we have since the 2020 election is the amount of anger directed toward elections officials themselves, and that was kind of new territory for us."

Tag: Walker has witnessed threats herself. In the weeks after the 2020 election, graffiti that said "vote don't work" and "Next time bullets" was found painted on the parking lot near her election office in Medford.

Under the measure, the maximum penalty for harassing an election worker is punishable by 364 days in prison and a 6,250 dollar fine.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

3.28.22 Crime

NORTH BEND, Ore. — A woman has been arrested and charged with attempted murder following a pedestrian hit and run on Tuesday.

The incident took place around 5:20 p.m. when a Lexus SUV, driven by 31 year old Kelsey Culver struck the pedestrian 41-year-old Kyle Hagquist of Coos Bay.

According to Police reports, Culver then fled the scene in the vehicle and was later observed driving erratically, hitting another vehicle and ultimately striking a construction container and utility trailer in front of the Bachelors Inn, in Coos Bay.

Coos Bay Police arrested Kelsey Culver, while Hagquist was being transported to Bay Area Hospital before he was Life-flighted to RiverBend Hospital in Springfield.

Culver has been charged with Attempted Murder, First Degree Assault, and Felony Hit and Run.

This investigation is continuing.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.27.22 Crime

COQUILLE, Ore. — As expected, a 31 year old Coos Bay woman was arraigned Friday for the hit and run fatality involving a pedestrian in the parking lot of Pony Village Mall near the Mini Pet Mart.

According to the Coos County District Attorney's office, Kelsey Culver was charged with second degree murder for allegedly hitting and killing 41-year-old Kyle Hagquist.

The incident happened Tuesday

Records show Culver has over a dozen previous violations from 2017 to 2021 for driving while suspended or revoked.

Her next court appearance is March 30 where the judge is expected to set a plea date.

Culver's bail is set at \$2 million.

The case is expected to go to a grand jury.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.28.22 *Crime*

SALEM HOMELESS CRASH UPDATE

Salem police say the driver who crashed into a homeless camp over the weekend had a blood alcohol level three times the legal limit.

Four people died as a result... two others were hospitalized.

Enrique Rodriguez appeared in Marion County Court yesterday ... on numerous charges including four counts of first degree manslaughter.

He was held without bail and is due back in court next week.

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Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.29.22

Crime

PORTLAND PROTESTS-PLEA

Man gets 10 years for violent actions during Oregon protests

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A man from Indiana accused of hurling Molotov cocktails at police and breaking windows during the Antifa inspired riots in Portland in 2020 has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Malik Muhammad initially faced dozens of charges in state and federal court stemming from the riots, after traveling from Indianapolis to Portland.

He pleaded guilty to 14 felonies including attempted murder Tuesday as part of a plea agreement.

Muhammad also pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court on Monday to two counts of unlawful possession of a destructive device in connection with the same protests.

No additional prison time is expected in that sentencing...

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE::

3.30.22

Crime

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES FOR KYTT-FM

QUARTERLY REPORT

FORTH QUARTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

EDUCATION

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

James Dobson Family Commentary – Airs weekdays on KYTT-FM at 1340 (60 seconds)

Family News In Focus – Airs weekdays on KYTT-FM at 0800 and 1955 (2 minutes)

Focus On The Family – Airs weekdays on KYTT-FM at 1200 and 2030 (28 minutes)

ATTACHMENTS: Reported News related to Education

OREGON CITY, Ore. — Students at Oregon City High School walked out in protest Monday after parents went before the school board Friday to complain about a disturbing video played during an assembly last week.

According to accounts shared with board members and school administrators by parents, the video showed a student admitting to physically & emotionally abusing another student.

Students who walked out said staff ignored their objections to using the story at the "Visions" assembly on Mental Health last week.

Interim Superintendent Kyle Laier apologized at Friday's meeting, saying systems designed to make sure students are protected failed and that students deserved better.

The board said an outside investigator will be looking into the decision to air the story during the assembly.

Meanwhile, the administration says it's offering counseling resources to students and parents...

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

2.9.22 Education

PORTLAND, Ore. (KOIN) — Oregon has a teacher shortage. And the problem is getting worse.

The State legislature is exploring ways to attract and retain teachers, and Lawmakers one of their strategies is to recruit some of the 30,000 people in Oregon who have active teacher licenses but aren't teaching

HB4030 is one of the Bills being discussed.

Portland Democrat Michael Dembrow, who chairs the Senate Education Committee.

House Bill 4030 proposes allowing teachers with out-of-state licenses to work without getting licensed in Oregon, reduces the number of background checks and creates a state teaching jobs portal so teachers can apply in multiple districts at one time. The bill also provides funding to help substitute teachers and teaching assistants get certification.

There were meetings with teachers unions, education groups, teachers and administrators last fall to brainstorm ideas to recruit and retain more school employees.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

2.15.22

Education

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES FOR KYTT-FM

QUARTERLY REPORT

FORTH QUARTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

FAMILY

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

Unshackled – Airs on KYTT-FM Sundays at 2130 (30 minutes)

James Dobson Family Commentary – Airs weekdays on KYTT-FM at 1340 (60 seconds)

Family News In Focus – Airs weekdays on KYTT-FM at 0800 and 1955 (2 minutes)

Focus On The Family – Airs weekdays on KYTT-FM at 1200 and 2030 (28 minutes)

ATTACHMENTS: Reported News related to Family

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) has increased the income limits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program to 200% of the federal poverty level, or \$2,147 a month for an individual or \$3,660 for a family of three.

This change took effect in Oregon on Jan. 1, 2022, and approximately 18,000 new households are expected to be eligible to enroll in SNAP..

Oregonians can apply for medical, food, cash, and child care assistance in one place online at ONE.Oregon.gov, over-the-phone at 800-699-9075, or in-person at a local office.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1/14/22 Family

Intro: Finding and affording child care is no cake walk for Oregon families right now.

A new report details the pressures and some potential policy fixes.

The average Oregon family spends 30-percent of its monthly income on child care.

According to the U-S Department of Health and Human Services, families should spend no more than seven-percent.

Jyoni Shuler is with Our Children Oregon, which is taking a closer look at these issues.

:17 "We're seeing that this lack of providers, the burnout there, as well as the lack of slots and availability to access, is impacting every single socioeconomic group.

Tag: Shuler says wages for child-care workers are among the lowest of any profession..

Nearly one in seven child-care centers in Oregon faces staffing shortages.

Shuler adds the pandemic has created additional hurdles, both for families and providers.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.14.22

Family

And finally, everyone can fish, clam and crab for free in Oregon on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 19-20.

No fishing/shellfish licenses or tags are required those two days. Both Oregon residents and nonresidents can fish, clam and crab for free.

All other fishing regulations apply including closures, bag limits and size restrictions. See the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for rules and remember to check for any in season regulation changes, especially for salmon and steelhead fishing, at the ODFW website.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

2.16.22 FAMILY

This weekend everyone can fish, clam and crab for free in Oregon.

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 19-20, no fishing or shellfish licenses or tags are required those two days.

Both Oregon residents and nonresidents can fish, clam and crab for free.

All other fishing regulations apply including closures, bag limits and size restrictions.

See the ODFW website for information about Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

2.18.22 Family

SALEM, Ore. — Over the last 10 years, Oregon has had the sixth-highest number of domestic violent extremism incidents of all U.S. states, despite being ranking 27th in the nation by population.

The report released yesterday by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office found the state can and should do more to prevent future domestic violent extremism incidents.

Oregon is one of 16 states in the U.S. that has no legislation at all defining or specifically criminalizing domestic terrorism or domestic violent extremism at the state level.

The report says: "Enacting laws doing so could "provide the state with mechanisms to mitigate future risk,"

It also highlighted how law enforcement agencies can work to prevent and respond to extremist threats through coordinated networks. And suggests the state do more to create public awareness of the threats.

Secretary of State Shemia Fagan "The rise in domestic terrorism is an immediate threat to Oregonians and we cannot simply wait for the next incident to occur,"

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.31.22 Family

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES FOR KYTT-FM

QUARTERLY REPORT

FORTH QUARTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

HEALTH CARE

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS: None

ATTACHMENTS: Reported News related to Health Care

SALEM – The Oregon Health Authority has ordered 6 million home test kits to be given away free to help detect the coronavirus.

The kits, each containing two tests, will be sent to health agencies, schools and community organizations to distribute.

They also will go to farm and agricultural workers, health care workers, shelters and early learning centers.

Commercially-available home test kits have been in short supply, with some pharmacies and other retailers reporting they are selling out as soon as they get stocks in.

The state stock will be in addition to the federal government’s announced 500 million free at-home tests. A website to request those tests is expected to be operating soon.

Jonathan Modie, lead communications officer for the Oregon Health Authority.

“We would expect these tests to be used pretty quickly. We anticipate this order of tests to last us for the next three months, although it’s difficult to predict,” according to

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1.6.22

healthcare

VIRUS OUTBREAK-OREGON-CRISIS CARE

Oregon issues hospital crisis care standards as COVID surges

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon health authorities have published new interim guidelines for hospitals to follow if a surge of COVID-19 patients forces them to activate crisis standards of care.

The policy will be used to help decide which patients get urgent, life-saving care if there aren't enough hospital beds, staff or critical medical equipment.

The standards are based on similar guidelines developed in Arizona, Massachusetts and Washington amid the pandemic.

The policy replaces a previous one that was criticized by groups that said they discriminated against the elderly, the disabled and those with serious pre-existing illnesses....

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
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1.12.22 *heathcote*

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Researchers: COVID hospitalizations in Oregon are peaking

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The number of people hospitalized for COVID-19 in Oregon will peak this weekend near current levels, and then steadily recede to pre-omicron levels by the end of March.

That's according to a weekly report by Oregon Health and Science University.

Meanwhile, the percentage of tests for COVID-19 that were positive dropped this week to 19% from an all-time high the previous week of 24.5%, according to Oregon Health Authority data.

In Oregon, the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 dipped slightly and the number of COVID-19 patients in ICU beds also dropped.

Public Affairs News Reporting

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27.22 healthcare

OR Measure Puts Nursing Students 'On Deck' to Address Shortage

Intro: In it's final week, the Legislature passed House Bill 4003, a measure that will allow nursing students to gain a license so they can work with limited duties and gain experience in hospitals.

Idaho and Washington already have similar nurse intern licenses. Jana Bitton, who heads the Oregon Center for Nursing, says there was a shortage of nurses before the pandemic, but COVID-19 has made the problems worse.

:19 "A lot of people that I've talked to, within the nursing community and outside of the nursing community, all have horror stories of themselves or a family member or a friend who's become ill, with COVID or with something else, and having to go to the emergency room and sitting through extraordinarily long waits to be able to see a provider."

Tag: Bitton says the shortage is greater in certain work settings and rural parts of the state. Some critics have balked at the idea of student nurses providing care. The Oregon Nursing Association says the bill is a great first step, but more is needed to alleviate the shortage.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
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3.7.22 healthcare

FLU SPIKE

As pandemic restrictions ease, the Oregon Health Authority says there's been a spike in seasonal flu cases.

Oregon's flu season typically runs October to April, which means cases should be waning... but, with mask restrictions lifted in most situations, hospitals are seeing more people with influenza-like symptoms.

The O-H-A also reports fewer Oregonians got their flu shot this year ... leading them to speculate we could see a late-season surge in the flu.

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Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3/21/22

healthcare

WYDEN ON MENTAL HEALTH 1

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden told the Finance Committee this week ... he wants to break down barriers faced by those seeking mental health treatment.

Wyden is a ranking member of the committee.

He says insurance red tape ... coverage limits ... and a general disconnect between physical and mental health care.

SOT 1 (:13) We're not talking about any kind of blame game on primary care docs. They're trying to do their best in a difficult time; see dozens of patients every day. Truth is, patients need more options.

Wyden says one in three people who died by suicide saw their primary care doctor within a month of their death.

The Oregon Democrat asked his committee to discuss fresh strategies to help patients receive primary care and mental health care at almost the same time.

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Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.31.22 healthcare

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES FOR KYTT-FM

QUARTERLY REPORT

FORTH QUARTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

ECONOMY / JOBS

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS: None

ATTACHMENTS: Reported News related to Economy / Jobs

OREGON-BROWN-WORKFORCE PLAN

Gov. Kate Brown has \$200 million workforce development plan

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is proposing a \$200 million legislative package to bolster the state's workforce during the pandemic.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the program, titled "Future Ready Oregon," aims to prioritize key populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and existing disparities.

They include Oregonians of color, women, low-income individuals, rural communities, veterans and those who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated.

Three specific sectors would benefit from the program: Health care, manufacturing and construction.

The total \$200 million would be composed of both state general fund monies made up of personal and corporate income taxes, as well as American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

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1.13.22

Empl.

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1% in December, edging down from 4.2% in November. This was the 20th consecutive month of declines in Oregon's unemployment rate. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped from 4.2% in November to 3.9% in December.

Nonfarm payroll employment in Oregon rose by 8,200 in December, following a revised gain of 9,200 jobs in November.

Leisure and hospitality added 2,600 jobs in December, following a gain of 3,700 in November. Despite these gains, leisure and hospitality still accounts for a large share of Oregon's jobs not recovered since early in the pandemic.

Manufacturing added 900 jobs

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the December county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Jan. 25,

and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, Mar. 8.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.25.22 jobs

NEWPORT, Ore. (AP) — After starting on time for the first time in years, Oregon's Dungeness crab season is seeing a record-breaking haul.

KGW reports crabbers have brought in about \$80 million this season, which began Dec. 1, according to Tim Novotny with the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission.

It's the most revenue since the 2017-2018 season, which brought in \$74 million, according to the commission.

Crabbing season lasts until August. Novotny says more than 15 million pounds of crab have been collected so far this season.

There were only 12 million pounds of crab caught in all of last season.

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Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE: 2.14.22 Economy

Inflation is on the rise at a historic pace in the United States.

While consumers across the country are paying more for goods and services now than they were a year ago, exactly how much more they are paying depends largely on where you live.

In Oregon, the cost of living is 30.1% higher than it is on average nationwide, according to the Composite Cost of Living Index published by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center.

Of the five specific consumer categories factored into the index - groceries, housing, utilities, transportation, and health care - housing ranks as the most expensive in Oregon relative to national prices, costing about 72.6% more than average.

Meanwhile, utilities are the least expensive consumer category relative to national averages, with prices about 9.8% lower than they are nationwide.

Overall, the cost of living in Oregon ranks as the fifth highest in the Nation.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

2.21.22 Economy

For the past 6 months the state unemployment rate has remained pretty consistent.

That trend continued in the most recent jobs report released Tuesday by state officials.

Surprisingly, it comes as one of the most powerful factors on the state's economy over the last two years — the COVID-19 pandemic — has been a rollercoaster of rising and falling cases and hospitalizations.

At the end of last summer, the state joblessness rate was 4.5%. In January 2022, it was 4.3%, according to new numbers out Tuesday from the Oregon Employment Department.

That relatively flat line — just above 4% over the past several months — is in stark contrast to the sharp spike in unemployment when the pandemic first hit Oregon in March 2020, leading the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate to peak at over 13%.

Oregon's unemployment rate for January was slightly above the national average of 4.0%.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

3.9.22

Employment

DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Gov. declares emergency in Klamath County as drought worsens

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has declared a state of emergency in Klamath County as southern Oregon remains in an ongoing drought that shows no sign of letting up.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the declaration directs state agencies, including the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission, to provide assistance to water users in the region and to seek federal resources to help residents and wildlife.

Snowpack in the Klamath Basin sat at just 60% of normal as of Monday, which prompted the declaration.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.8.22 Environment

FEB EMP (SOT 2)

Oregon's economy continues to recover from pandemic-related losses.

Statewide unemployment fell to 4-percent in February ... from 4.2-percent in January.

Employment Economist Anna Johnson says employers added 12-thousand-300 jobs, last month.

SOT 2 (:13) Oregon saw stronger job gains in February. The state's labor force grew and more Oregonians have found jobs. We've recovered about 86% of the jobs lost in spring 2020, compared with 90% in the US.

The largest gains were in Leisure and Hospitality ... Construction ... and Private Healthcare.

Oregon's statewide jobless rate is just 2-tenths of a percent higher than the national rate.

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Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.23.22 Economy

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES FOR KYTT-FM

QUARTERLY REPORT

FORTH QUARTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

ENVIRONMENT

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS: None

ATTACHMENTS: Reported News related to local area Environment

COQUILLE, Ore. - A Flood Warning remains in effect through Thursday afternoon on the Coquille River near Coquille.

The river hit 21.04 feet Tuesday and is forecast to crest Wednesday at 21.06 feet.

The National Weather Service said...."At 21.0 feet, that River is at flood stage. Adding.... Expect flooding of farmland and low-lying areas throughout the flood plain along the Coquille River,"

Flood Watch remains in effect for the South Fork Coquille River at Myrtle Point.

The river hit 30.96 feet midday Tuesday.... Forecasters say: "At 30.0 feet, Agricultural and pasture land begins to flood. Impacts on cattle grazing are possible," forecasters said.

A Flood Watch also remains active through Wednesday morning for central Douglas County, Curry County and other parts of southwest Oregon and northern California.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.6.22

Environ.

ASTORIA, Ore. — The National Weather Service is warning to be extra careful out on Oregon beaches as sneaker waves are possible the next couple of days.

Meteorologist Miles Hega says: "It's not the height of the waves. It's the power of the waves that make it dangerous." The ocean can look calm, but it can fool you. The waves can rush up the beach and knock you down and pull you into the ocean," said.

The entire Oregon coast is subject to sneaker wave activity for the next few days. Remember not to turn your back on the water and stay further away from logs sitting on the sand...

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.12.22 Environ.

PORTLAND, Ore. (KOIN) – They’re bumpy, transparent, and bioluminescent – and they’re washing ashore on Oregon’s beaches.

Pyrosomes, or “sea pickles” as some people refer to them, are once again appearing along the Oregon coast.

These cylindrical or cone-shaped colonies of creatures are certainly an odd thing to spot on a walk along the beach.

Tiffany Boothe from the Seaside Aquarium. “While they are typically found off the coast in the summer months, we usually won’t see them in the winter unless we get some big winter storms.”

They’re harmless, but marine experts don’t recommend allowing pets to snack on them, Pyrosomes could make them sick.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1.31.22 Environ

COOS BAY, Ore. - The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission has set a new record for the highest grossing season ever.

So far, the fleet has landed \$78.1 million - and the season is not over.

The previous record was set during the 2017 – 18 season at a value of \$74.2 million.

Crab Commission Executive Director Hugh Link told KCBY TV. "From the first on-time start in seven years, to an all-time highest starting price, this season has already been a tremendous success."

As of Tuesday, the fleet had landed a little over 15 million pounds.

And when all is said and done, The commission estimates the catch will be worth \$156 million in overall economic activity to the state.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1.2.22 Environment

PORTLAND, Ore. (KOIN) — USGS Hazard Notification statement Monday, Cascades Volcano Observatory announced their scientists have tracked an increased rate of ground uplift in the Three Sisters volcanic region..

Scott Burns, a geology professor at Portland State University, told KOIN that while episodes of increased uplift have been observed in this region before, the cause is what local scientists are excited about because the last major volcanic eruption in Oregon, which was 2,000 years ago, was right there in that area.

Burns said: “We believe that the magma is rising about four miles below the surface.

Despite the excitement, USGS and Burns have said that the public is not in any immediate danger. The volcano status is currently listed as “green,” and there is no sign of an imminent eruption.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

2-7-22 Environ.

The city of Salem has issued a fine of more than \$138,000 for the removal of 100-plus trees in south Salem.

The Statesman Journal reports according to the city, 48 of those trees were Oregon white oaks, which are protected.

The fine was issued to the property owners, property manager and a local tree service connected to the vacant property.

City ordinances require city approval before removing some trees on private property.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE::

2/16/22 Environ.

The Oregon Court of Appeals heard arguments Tuesday in a case that has major implications for how the state manages forestland and whether counties can depend on timber revenue from state forests.

The state of Oregon is challenging a 2019 jury verdict that required the state to pay more than \$1 billion to 13 counties including Coos who've lost money as logging declined.

At issue is whether Oregon breached a contract with these counties by failing to deliver sufficient revenue from harvesting timber on state forestland — and whether such a contract ever existed.

The counties donated about 700,000 acres of forestlands to the state in the 1930s and 1940s, when they didn't have the resources to make the land profitable.

The state agreed to manage the forestlands "so as to secure the greatest permanent value of those lands to the state" and kick some of the profits back to the counties.

The phrase "greatest permanent value" and what exactly that means is central to the case.

Oral arguments concluded Tuesday morning. The court will now deliberate and decide on the case at a later date.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

2.23.22 Environ.

KLAMATH DAM REMOVAL

Major hurdle cleared in plan to demolish 4 California dams

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Federal regulators have issued a draft environmental impact statement saying there are significant benefits to a plan to demolish four massive dams on the Klamath River to save imperiled migratory salmon.

That sets the stage for the largest dam demolition project in U.S. history.

The issuing of the statement Friday by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission clears a major regulatory hurdle for the project and paves the way for public hearings on the document before a final draft is issued as soon as this summer.

That would allow preparations to begin in earnest for taking down the dams. The aging dams were built before current environmental regulations.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

2.28.22 Environment

AP-US-NORTHWEST-DROUGHT-FORECAST

Climatologists: Drought to worsen in Oregon, Idaho this year

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Climatologists in the U.S. Pacific Northwest warn that much of Oregon and parts of Idaho can expect even tougher drought conditions this summer than in the previous two years.

Water and climate experts from Oregon, Washington and Idaho said at a news conference called by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that parts of the region should prepare now for severe drought and wildfires.

Drought covers 74% of the Pacific Northwest and nearly 20% is in extreme or exceptional drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

A high pressure ridge off the U.S. West Coast scuttled winter storms.

3/4

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3/4/22 Environment

COOS BAY, Ore. – It's not a new topic but the prospect of having a "wind Farm" off the Coos Bay coast is in the conversation again

The Biden administration has set a goal of utilizing sustainable offshore wind power by the year 2030.

And Coos Bay is one of three targeted areas off the Oregon Coast. Bandon & Brookings being the others

Shaun Gibbs, the Executive Director of the South Coast Development Council told KCBY TV he understands why we're being considered.

VOXPOP

Next step is identifying areas for leasing. If selected, and all permits are granted construction of the turbines could take place as soon as the next 3 to 5 years.

The Wind turbines would be positioned some 28 miles offshore.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3, 9, 22 Environment

PORTLAND, Ore. — As we move further into spring in Oregon, state climatologists are concerned about the ongoing drought.

With the state now in its third year of drought, the northwestern portion of the state had some welcome news - above average rainfall in the fall and winter months.

Larry O'Neill, Oregon State Climatologist. We're doing pretty good for that part of the state, but as for the rest...

He says: "Places in central Oregon and southern Oregon, should expect severe water supply issues including lack of irrigation water," adding. "These multi-year droughts - this is just very unusual in historical records."

Parts of Oregon are already under high levels of drought, and it is only March.

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Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.22.22 environ.

A report, released last week by the Environmental Integrity Project listed Oregon as having the most miles of polluted or 'impaired' waterways of any state in the nation.

More than 120,000 miles of polluted or "impaired" rivers and streams, according to a new analysis.

The report also looked at lakes. In Oregon, 95% of them are too polluted to be used for drinking water. And like the analysis of the rivers, that is the highest percentage in the country, followed by Georgia and Kansas in that order.

According to maps from the state Environmental Quality Department, Pollution is most pronounced in the western half of the state and the northeast corner.

The rankings were based on the latest water quality reports submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency.

States submit the reports every two years, a requirement under the Clean Water Act.

Oregon's next water quality study to be sent to the EPA will be done by mid-May, according to the state Environmental Quality Department.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

9.24.22 Environ.

MATTRESS RECYCLING BILL

Oregon is now the fourth state to enact a mattress recycling program.

The law approved in the 2022 Legislative session went into effect last week.

It requires mattress manufacturers to set up and operate a recycling program ... to make it easier for Oregonians to get rid of their unwanted mattresses.

The goal is to establish drop-off locations in every county ... in an effort to reduce illegal dumping and create jobs..

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.28.22 Environment

WILDFIRE WEBINARS

The Oregon State Fire Marshal will host a series of webinars, this spring, to get people ready for wildfire season ... the first is tonight (Thu).

They'll provide tips to help prevent wildfire, protect property and be ready for potential evacuations.

Tonight's event focuses on the home and what can be done to protect the first 100 feet around it - often referred to as "defensible space"

That webinar begins at 6 p-m.

To register:

Wildfire Risk Reduction Webinar - What is the Home Ignition Zone?

Thursday, March 31st, 2022

6:00PM – 7:00PM

Register through Eventbrite

The webinar will be recorded for those unable to attend.

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Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.31.22

Environment

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES FOR KYTT-FM

QUARTERLY REPORT

FORTH QUARTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

PUBLIC SAFETY

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS: None

ATTACHMENTS: Reported News related to Public Safety

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Positive COVID tests are Up but Hospitalizations are not...

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon reported more than 9,700 new cases from the holiday weekend With the surge attributed to the omicron variant.

The Oregon Health Authority says 18.2% of COVID-19 tests administered over the long weekend were positive for the virus, the highest rate to date.

Hospitalizations, however remain at less than half the number at the previous peak.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1.7.22 Pub Safety

Sometimes it's hard to tell when one weather system ends and another begins. Rain to snow to fog to ice to high winds to maybe a teasing hint of sun and back to rain again.

Oregon has been like that this week with lots of everything everywhere all the time. Even for Oregon it feels like it won't stop.

And Transportation officials caution that travel conditions remain challenging unsettled across the state, including coastal highways and mountain passes...

Go to Tripcheck.com to check your route before you travel advance.

With all this rain travelers need to be prepared for delays caused by high water, rising rivers, downed trees or slides. Consider packing a bag with supplies like water, food, a charged phone and other necessities that might be needed in a lengthy closure.

And if you're out on the roads, look out for the crews who have been working so hard everywhere in recent days to keep the roads safe and clear. Give crews a wide berth so they can get the job done.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.7.22

Public Safety

SALEM, Ore. - Gov. Kate Brown intends to again deploy Oregon National Guard troops to support hospitals during the pandemic.

The Governor announced Friday that she will "be deploying up to 500 Oregon National Guard members to support frontline health care workers as Oregon hospitals face a surge of hospitalizations due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant."

Beginning today, Guard members will be deployed to hospitals around the state to provide needed logistical support as materials handlers and equipment runners, as well as assisting with COVID-19 testing and other necessary non-clinical services to support hospital operations.

Brown deployed the National Guard last fall to McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center in Springfield, as well as Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg and other facilities as the Delta surge of COVID-19 challenged hospitals.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1.10.22 Pub Safety

SALEM, Ore. – An Oregon meat packing company is recalling more than 14 tons of ground beef that's potentially contaminated with E. coli.

Clackamas-based Interstate Meat Distributors urged customers in Oregon, California, and other western states to steer clear of more than 28,000 pounds of beef produced on December 20th. It was sold at Winco, Walmart, Fred Meyer, and Albertsons.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service said the products have an establishment number "EST. 965" inside the USDA mark of inspection or printed next to the time stamp and use or freeze-by date.

The USDA warns against eating the products. Instead, you should either throw them away or return them to the place of purchase.

For more information or to view product labels, visit the USDA's website.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1.11.22 Pub Safety

With the growth of the highly contagious Omicron variant and the demand for Covid-19 tests rising throughout Oregon, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum reminded Oregonians to watch for testing sites that seem suspicious, or vendors that are selling at-home tests for sky-high prices.

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) asks Oregonians to report any dubious testing sites or vendors selling at-home tests at inflated prices to the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline at 1-877-877-9392 or www.OregonConsumer.Gov.

"The huge demand for Covid-19 testing of all kinds—at home tests, rapid antigen tests, PCR tests—brings bad actors and some businesses trying to make a quick buck out from the shadows. We see it all the time in moments of desperation like this testing urgency," said Attorney General Rosenblum. "We are keeping a vigilant eye on the marketplace and working with OHA to ensure testing sites are in compliance with state laws."

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Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1.13.22 Pub Safety

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon is rolling out a new website and hotline to help track people who test positive for COVID-19 using an at-home test kit.

The new opt-in method for tracking coronavirus cases comes with a shift in how the Oregon Health Authority investigates coronavirus cases.

OHA will move away from individual investigation and contact tracing calls to focus on investigating outbreaks in high-risk settings.

State health officials said they hope the opt-in approach will quickly get information — like resources on how to safely isolate and quarantine — to people who tested positive or were exposed to COVID-19.

While not required, the OHA strongly recommends people report their at-home test results and let close contacts know they may have been exposed, so they can help limit the potential spread.

Oregon's COVID-19 Case Support Hotline, 866-917-8881, will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday..

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.13.22

Pub-Safety

PORTLAND, Ore. (KATU) — The first-ever, Pacific-wide Tsunami Advisory caused by a volcanic eruption, rather than an earthquake, should serve as a wakeup call for coastal residents.

That's what Scientists are saying in the wake of Saturdays event.

Experts said the largest waves had spared the Oregon coast, as compared to areas farther south in California.

While the waves seen along the Oregon coast may not seem like a big deal, experts caution that under a Tsunami Advisory, anything can change in a second.

Harold Tobin, director of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network and professor of the University of Washington said: "It just shows that we have to be vigilant. This is a good reminder and a wake-up call that tsunamis are a possibility," adding "This volcanic eruption is a historic one and experts will be studying it for years to come..

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

1.17.22 Pub Safety

1.17.22

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon Health Authority is holding two public hearings Monday to discuss making masking inside schools and health care settings permanent, as well as to take public comment on vaccine requirements for educators and health care workers.

Last week, the OHA held a similar meeting to discuss making the state's indoor mask mandate permanent. The opposition to that proposal showed up in force.

And while Health officials say that if adopted, the mandates wouldn't be in place forever. Some Republican lawmakers challenged officials to set benchmarks that would determine when the rule would be lifted.

Health officials stand by their position, saying other than vaccination, masks are the best way to keep people safe and protected from COVID-19.

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Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

1.24.22 Pub S vti

VIRUS OUTBREAK-MASKS SCHOOLS

Oregon Health Authority extends mask rule in schools

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon Health Authority has adopted permanent rules requiring masks in school settings.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the permanent rule replaces a temporary one that was set to expire on Jan. 28.

Oregon health and education officials have required masks in schools as one mitigation strategy meant to limit the spread of COVID-19, so students can stay in school full time.

Oregon education officials say any repeal of the making rules depend on the course of the coronavirus.

Health officials said that COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths, transmission data, vaccination rates, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all play a role in the mask requirement decision-making.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

2.3.22 Pub Safety

The Oregon Health Authority is reporting that COVID-19 hospitalizations in Oregon are declining faster than expected which is pushing the state closer to lifting its indoor mask mandate.

In a news release last week, the Oregon Health Authority said it would lift the indoor mask mandate on March 31, or potentially sooner, "if hospitalizations decline to the levels projected by the end of March sooner than expected."

Peter Graven, the director of the Office of Advanced Analytics, said "We will look at the data at that time to ensure we are expected to continue a downward trajectory in daily hospitalizations, and if that is the case, whether it is safe and prudent to lift the requirement prior to that date.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

2.17.22

Safety

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown will rescind her statewide COVID-19 emergency declaration on April 1.

In addition, officials said yesterday that Oregon's mask mandate indoor public places and schools will be lifted on March 19.

Dr Dean Sidlinger....

VOXPOP

Both announcements come as COVID-19 hospitalizations and case numbers continue to decrease in the state.

The emergency declaration, which was first announced in March 2020, has been the legal underpinning for the executive orders the governor has issued throughout the pandemic — including orders surrounding reopening the state, vaccine mandates, childcare, liability protections for schools and higher education operations.

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Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

2.25.22 Pub Safety

Oregon will lift mask mandates for most indoor public spaces and schools on tonight at 11:59pm.

However, in accordance with federal requirements, masks must still be worn in some settings including public transit and health care facilities.

Under the state's latest guidance, businesses, individual school districts and local governments and public health authorities can decide whether to extend mask requirements.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3-11-22 Pub Safety

Two counties in southern Oregon have declared states of emergency related to cannabis, paving the way for a moratorium on new hemp licenses.

Jackson County commissioners declared a local state of emergency Thursday while Josephine County commissioners declared one Wednesday, The Mail Tribune reported. A new Oregon law requires the state to deny applications for new hemp licenses in counties that declare a cannabis emergency.

Law enforcement agencies found a slew of problems at illegal marijuana grows they busted in 2021, including workers living in squalid conditions, water theft, improper use of pesticides and other chemicals, garbage, electrical wiring hazards and evidence of illegal drug trafficking.

Agencies believe organized criminal networks, including foreign drug cartels, are financially backing many of the illegal grows.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

3.11.22 Pub Safety

The mask mandate is officially over in Oregon, regardless of vaccination status, putting the decision to mask up in the hands of businesses and individuals.

The state rules do not change federal requirements, which still include masking on public transportation and other settings.

Health officials say there's a possibility another new variant could make masks necessary again, but the state is in a better place now than it was ahead of last summer.

Public Affairs News Reporting
KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm
DATE:

3.14.22 Public Safety

PORTLAND, Ore. (KOIN) — The Oregon Health Authority reported a decrease in COVID cases as of yesterday.

Across Oregon, there are 215 hospitalized patients with COVID-19, which is 27 fewer from Wednesday's report. In Coos County there are currently 11 reported active cases.

OHA also noted there are 32 COVID-19 patients in intensive care unit beds, a decrease by four from yesterday's report.

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.18.22 PubHlth

OREGON -

Governor Kate Brown is ending Oregon's COVID state of emergency April first.

The requirement for state government employees to be vaccinated is also coming to an end with Governor Brown's emergency powers.

Center for Government Reform Director Jason Mercier says, "thanks to our collaboration with the Legislative Assembly and state agencies, the emergency declaration itself is no longer necessary to our ongoing COVID-19 response."

Public Affairs News Reporting

KYTT-FM: 7 & 8am & 5pm

DATE:

3.31.22 public Safety

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES FOR KYTT-FM

QUARTERLY REPORT

FORTH QUARTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

Unshackled – Airs on KYTT-FM Sundays at 2130 (30 minutes)

ATTACHMENTS: Reported News related to Substance Abuse