## **KKNU-FM 93.3**

# **SPRINGFIELD, OREGON**

# QUARTERLY POSTING OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS, NEEDS AND INTERESTS

Second Quarter, 2023: April 1 through June 30

Posted:\_July 10, 2023

### KKNU-FM: Springfield, Oregon, 93.3 mhz

#### McKenzie River Broadcasting Co., Inc.

Each quarter, on January 10, April 10, July 10 & October 10, we place in our public inspection file a list of what are considered to be the most significant Problems, Needs and Issues of the Springfield-Eugene, Oregon, community.

Along with this list are the programs that were aired to deal with these problems, needs and issues.

#### ASCERTAINMENT METHODS

To ascertain these problems, needs and issues, McKenzie River Broadcasting Co., Inc., employs a Public Affairs Director who, within the natural course of news gathering, is made aware of problems, needs and issues in the community. The views of citizens of the community and civic leaders regarding community problems, needs and issues are also ascertained during meetings and interviews. Problems, needs and issues are also ascertained during interaction with members of the public.

#### **PROGRAMMING**

To air information about these problems, needs and issues, McKenzie River Broadcasting Co., Inc., relies on the following methods:

- Bona Fide Newscasts: These include news stories and segments that target these problems, needs and issues.
- 2. Community Forum: This is a 15-30 minute weekly program that offers in-depth examinations of community problems, needs and issues.

	McKENZIE RIVER BROADCASTING ISSUES LIST
	KKNU-FM / KMGE-FM / KEUG-FM
	Second Quarter – April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023
	*Note: Major breaking news stories during the quarter that fall under these categories will
	be added as is appropriate and reflected in daily news and public service postings
1	ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, FINANCES, INFLATION, BUSINESS, GROWTH,
	DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, UTILITIES, COLLEGE & PRO SPORTS, EVENTS,
	ATTRACTIONS, HOLIDAYS, ENTERTAINMENT, LOTTERY: Economic recovery from
	pandemic, inflation, possible recession; Rising housing, fuel, food, and other prices;
	Unemployment, workforce training; Legislature; Economy; Economic, downtown development,
	urban renewal, urban density; Affordable housing; UO-OSU Athletics; Other sports events; Rural
	development, urban growth boundary; Road improvements; Local tech; Personal finance;
	Consumer prices; Legal cannabis; Immigration economics; Retirement concerns; County
	courthouse, City hall; Agriculture and farms; Technology; Energy prices, development;
	Cybersecurity and breaches.
2	SOCIAL SERVICES, LOW-INCOME, HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS, CHARITY: Legislative
	package; Homelessness and Safe Sleep sites issues; Neighborhood, business, and community
	impacts; Crime, substance abuse, and homelessness; CAHOOTS and other alternate
	enforcement; Affordable housing; Homeless veterans, individuals, families, youth; "The Working
	Poor"; Minimum wage and living wages; Community agencies; Mental health; Older adults:
	Protection, health, housing, finances /
3	CRIME, SAFETY, POLICING, LAW ENFORCEMENT, ILLEGAL DRUGS: Drug & alcohol
	abuse, opioid epidemic; Addiction treatment; Mental health; Police funding and policing
	guidelines; Community enforcement, social service funding shift; CAHOOTS; Illegal cannabis
	farms and businesses; Traffic safety; Cybersecurity; Severe weather, storms, natural disasters;
	Human trafficking; Youth protection; School safety; Child abuse; Gangs; Terrorism, Fires
4	HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Mental health; Opioid epidemic, drug abuse; Legal
	cannabis; COVID-19 pandemic easing, lifting of restrictions, vaccines, treatments, long COVID;
	Other infectious diseases; Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) and CCOs, ACA; Prescription drug
	prices; Obesity, diabetes & healthy eating; Food and product recalls; Abortion and reproduction;
	Childcare; Women's health; STDs, other illnesses & diseases; Environmental health, wildfire
	smoke, overall air quality; Safe water; Assisted suicide.
5	POLITICS, ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENT, COURTS: Legislative session and local government;
	Oregon revenues, Legislative Emergency Board funding; Federal funding, Congressional
	appropriations, state and local program funding; Racial justice & policing; School funding; Biden
	Administration, Congressional, and federal and state courts decisions impacting Oregon;
6	Secession movements; Cybersecurity, data breaches /
6	SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, & EDUCATION: Schools and students, post-pandemic learning and
	assessments; Community college and higher education funding and program adjustments; College affordability; Curriculum, academic standards; Student honors; Student activism;
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	Teacher contracts; New schools; Families; The childcare shortage.

- DISASTERS, RECOVERY, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, WILDFIRES, WILDFIRE

  RECOVERY, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, WEATHER, CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE,

  FORESTRY, WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, RECREATION: Wildfire recovery; Community and residential "hardening" against wildfires; Climate change; Drought; Winter weather snowpack and rain; Disaster and severe weather preparedness; Air quality; Climate change and health; Agriculture, Electrical grid; EVs; Natural gas referendum; Power generation; Offshore drilling; Wind, solar, and other "green" energy; ; Ocean health, Fisheries; Forest, wildlife, habitat; Hazardous materials; Pipelines; Oil trains; Cannabis & hemp; Pollinators; Pesticides, herbicides; Predator control including wolves, cougars, coyotes.
- RACIAL JUSTICE, RACE, RACISM, BIPOC (BLACKS, INDIGENOUS, PEOPLE OF COLOR), LATINX, IMMIGRATION, CIVIL RIGHTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, DISABILITIES, LEGAL, COMMUNITY, FAMILY, CHILDREN, YOUTH, OLDER ADULTS, RELIGION, WOMEN, LGBTQ, GENDER ISSUES, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, ANIMALS, PETS: Racial equality and administration of justice; Civil rights, Civil liberties; Older adults; Families and children; Youth programs & protection; Domestic-sexual violence; Immigration-DACA, LatinX community; LGBTQ; Fair housing; Privacy, cybersecurity; Religion, churches; Community and charitable events; Older adults; Pets, animal rights.
- TRANSPORTATION: Infrastructure needs and projects; Road and gas fees and taxes; Pedestrian, biker, rider safety; Hiking-biking trails; Airlines; Eugene's airport expansion; Lane Transit District; Hybrid, electric vehicles; Spring-summer travel; Rail safety; Transportation systems ridership recovery.
- MILITARY, VETERANS, WAR ON TERRORISM: Veterans, jobs, mental health (PTSD, suicide, etc.) and homelessness; Military families; Homeland and local security; Balancing terrorism with civil rights; National Guard deployments; Oregonians in the military; Hacking and privacy.

The 2nd Quarter, 2023, Issues List was formulated by Tracy Berry - KKNU-FM and from previous quarters' ascertainments, conversations, phone calls, and emails with listeners and community leaders. As always, the list is updated to reflect developing issues over the course of the quarter.

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/03/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

PANDEMIC, HEALTH, GOVERNMENT: Workers, patients and visitors in health care settings are no longer be required to wear protective masks starting today. The change by the Oregon Health Authority is part of a coordinated West Coast policy shift that also is occurring today in Washington state and California. Pandemic-related mask mandates were lifted months ago in many other workplaces. But the state kept the rules in place for health care settings to protect staff and vulnerable patients. As of today, masks are no longer be required in hospitals, mobile clinics, ambulances, outpatient facilities, dental offices, urgent care centers, counseling offices, school-based health centers, complementary and alternative medicine locations. Instead, it is up to individual healthcare workers and patients to decide whether to mask up—although some health care settings may continue to require masks now that the state requirement has been lifted. Oregon Health Authority leaders say they've seen continued gradual decreases in COVID-19 cases, along with seasonal influenza and RSV infections. They say that's eased the strain hospital emergency departments and intensive care units. State health officials continue to recommend that people at higher risk for severe disease, or who live with someone at higher risk, consider wearing masks in health care and other public settings to better protect themselves and those around them.; The Oregon Health Authority this month begins reviewing income eligibility for approximately 1.5 million Oregon Health Plan and Medicare Savings Program members, now that the federally declared COVID-19 public health emergency is coming to an end. During the public health emergency, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) extended coverage for all Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) members. This extension ended on Friday. Now, state administrators need updated information to determine whether a member remains eligible for coverage for OHP and other Medicaid-funded services and supports. State health officials urge OHP members to review any notices they receive from OHA about their health benefits and respond promptly with any requested information. / TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, SAFETY, EDUCATION: They began showing up around the area on Friday and you might see them zipping around town this spring. The first shipment of a fleet of between 200 and 300 bright yellow electric scooters arrived in Eugene over the past few days. They are part of a one-year pilot program between the city of Eugene, the University of Oregon, and Cascade Mobility. They will have similar operations to the PeaceHealth Rides bike-rental program. Users will use a mobile app to rent

the e-scooters at close to two dozen locations and, when finished, drop them at designated spots. The scooters come from a company called Superpedestrian. Workers for Cascade Mobility are managing the scooters and will redistribute them around town and on campus, as needed. U-of-O officials say they've put some operational guidelines in place to enhance safety for pedestrians and scooter riders. That includes creation of no-ride zones, slow-ride zones, and a top speed of 15 mph. Officials say the e-scooters are equipped with technology that regulates their speed through certain zones and keeps the scooters within their geographic rental boundaries. First-time users may download the Superpedestrian mobile app, available for iPhone and Android devices. You'll also need to listen to a required safety message before your first rental. Once the e-scooter program is fully deployed, officials say 600 e-scooters will be available citywide, including 100 three-wheel scooters with seats. The cost to unlock an escooter is \$2, along with a rental fee of 39 cents per minute. The clock runs on the rental until the e-scooter is parked within a designated zone. Once parked, the user gets \$1 back. PeaceHealth Rides, meantime, is continuing to maintain its fleet of 350 rental bicycles. / COMMUNITY, RECREATION: The members, family, and friends of the McKenzie River Guides held their annual banquet Saturday evening at the McKenzie Discovery Center on Leaburg Lake. The guides are getting ready for another big season on Oregon's rivers, including the gorgeous McKenzie Valley. It's a good time to start thinking about booking your spring, summer, and fall outings with these knowledgeable guides and their crews. Fundraising also is continuing for the new visitor center for the McKenzie Discovery Center, located at the old fish hatchery site off the highway at the lake. The center's exhibits highlight the natural and human history of the area, including its rich connection to the river, its fish, and wildlife. / EVENTS: Bit of a chilly start to the regular season of Eugene's Saturday Market and the Lane County Farmer's Market. But both attracted good crowds on Saturday, despite occasionally heavy rains. The Farmer's Market got off to an early start during the winter at its new pavilion at 8th and Oak Streets. It's operating every Saturday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. now and mid-December. The Saturday Market features locally made handmade crafts, artwork, home goods, and apparel along with popular booth booths and entertainment. It's open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / CRIME: We learned heading into the weekend that a Springfield woman has been sentenced to one year plus one day in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised probation. It comes after 54-year-old Anne Hankins last fall admitted to falsifying bank statements and financial summaries to influence the sale of her ownership stake of a once-popular but now-defunct Country music festival. Hankins in September pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count money laundering. She also faces possible restitution, something that will be determined at a court hearing in two months. Hankins is the former president and minority owner of the Willamette Country Music Concerts, LLC, which operated an annual music festival outside Brownsville. Prosecutors say Hankins committed the financial fraud to help pay restitution ordered for a previous bank fraud conviction. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/04/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WEATHER, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, WILDFIRES: We've avoided the sorts of devastating storms that have slammed California the past couple of months. But Oregon continues to receive a healthy dose of mountain snowfall including an additional 2-4 feet over the weekend. And that's reflected in the latest snowpack summaries. According to the latest measurements from the National Resource Conservation Service—an arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture the snowpack across the Willamette Basin and what's known as its "snow water equivalent" has leapt from 140 percent to 178 percent of median. Many other parts of the state are seeing above-normal snowpacks. But experts say a single winter won't be enough to offset some of the prolonged effects of years-long droughts in Central and Eastern Oregon. That, they say, would take a few more years of healthy snowpack along with plenty of rain. But even though the snowpack across the state is robust, our rain-year precipitation totals since October 1st are lagging a bit. Here in the Willamette Basin, we are at 89 percent of normal. We need some wet spring storms to help raise those numbers and ensure enough runoff through the summer to keep reservoirs at healthy levels are provide ample irrigation for farmers and plentiful drinking water for many communities. The measurements are taken daily from automated SNOTEL sites. The equipment includes what's known as a "snow pillow" along with a storage precipitation gauge and a temperature sensor. There are close to 800 such sites across the Western states. Many enhanced SNOTEL sites also are equipped to take soil moisture and soil temperature measurements at various depths, as well as solar radiation, wind speed, and relative humidity. / GOVERNMENT, PANDEMIC: Oregon Governor Tina Kotek is ending the pandemic policy of reimbursing state employees for travel expenses if they chose to work remotely including from other states. Under the revised guidelines, state workers will continue to be allowed to do their jobs remotely if approved by their agencies. But starting September 1, they will no longer be reimbursed for the commute. Earlier this year, state officials estimated more than 6,300 employees were still working remotely. An estimated 430 of those workers had relocated to states such as Texas and Florida that did not have income taxes, and were charging Oregon agencies for their commuting expenses for required in-person meetings. Officials have not said how much the state provided in reimbursements. Critics attacked the policy last year after Willamette Week and other news outlets reported that the state was picking up some workers' travel costs. The furor over the

reimbursements prompted state lawmakers to consider legislation that would institute similar restrictions. It cleared the Oregon Senate and was being prepared for House consideration when state officials announced the policy change. / EDUCATION, SAFETY, POLITICS: Oregon lawmakers this week are continuing work on a bill that would require schools to send electronic notifications to parents as soon as possible after a safety threat occurs. The proposal cleared the state House unanimously last month. Two Democratic lawmakers are chief sponsors of another bill that would require all public-school classrooms to have panic-alert devices that would contact law enforcement or emergency services when activated. If passed, the panic alert bill would make Oregon the fourth state along with Republican-led Florida and Democratic-led New Jersey and New York to enact such a law. Several other states are considering similar legislation. Oregon is one of many states considering enhance school security measures. It comes in the wake of an elementary school shooting in Tennessee last month and a number of earlier incidents. Most have bipartisan support, with lawmakers seeing them as a way to boost school security while avoiding political gridlock on the hot-button issue of gun control. But some experts say teacher safety training is more effective and less expensive than the new technologies, which also can require upgrades or ongoing maintenance that may not be funded. / ENVIRONMENT, POLITICS: It's a fresh effort to reduce the amount of plastic waste in the environment. Members of the Oregon Senate have approved a bill that now heads to the state House. It would ban the use of polystyrene foam containers for takeout meals. Vendors also would be prohibited from using containers whose components include chemicals from a toxic group of compounds knowns as PFAS, which have been dubbed "forever chemicals." Such compounds are applied to some takeout containers prevent grease and other substances from seeping through cardboard containers. Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the proposal also would prohibit vendors from using or selling single-use Styrofoam coolers or foam packing peanuts. But it would not affect other products, such as the foam packaging in some egg cartons. / RECREATION, ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT: Planning your summer and early-autumn outings in some popular wilderness areas? A reminder that overnight permit reservations begin at 7:00 a.m. this morning for the Central Cascades Wilderness Permit System. Central Cascades Wilderness Permits are required for all overnight use within the Three Sisters, Mt. Washington, and Mt. Jefferson wilderness areas from June 15 through October 15. The permit system is managed by the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests. Today, 40 percent of Central Cascades Wilderness Overnight Permit reservations will be offered for advanced reservation on the website www.Recreation.gov or its app, which is available for Google Android and Apple iOS devices. The remaining 60 percent of overnight permits will become available through a rolling 7-day window on Recreation.gov once the permit season begins. Overnight trips can run up to 13 nights—14 days maximum—for groups no larger than 12 individuals. The processing fee for an overnight permit remains \$6.00. Permit availability is based on your starting trailhead and starting date. Overnight permits are not available at local Forest Service offices, nor can you secure them outside of the official reservation system. Day-use permits also are required on 19 of 79 trails within the Three Sisters, Mt. Washington, and Mt. Jefferson wilderness areas during the permit season. However, there are no day-use permits available for advance

reservations ahead of the season. Rather, day-use permits are offered for reservation during 10-day and 2-day rolling windows that begin on June 5. Permits for the 10-day rolling window will account for 40 percent of the permit quota while the permits made available for the 2-day rolling window will amount to 60 percent of the permit quota. This change was made to reduce the number of "no-shows" and increase the overall opportunity for people to get day-use permits.

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/05/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

LEGAL, GOVERNMENT, HEALTH, WOMEN: Washington state has purchased a three-year supply of a leading abortion medication in anticipation of a court ruling that could limit its availability. Washington's Democratic governor, Jay Inslee. says he ordered the Department of Corrections, which has a pharmacy license, to buy 30,000 doses of the generic version of mifepristone. The bulk pill purchase also comes as Washington state's attorney general pursues the issue from another angle: He's helping to lead a multistate lawsuit with Oregon and others in federal court meant to further ease restrictions to the medication. Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum says the suit accuses the FDA of singling out mifepristone for excessively burdensome regulation despite evidence that the drug is safer than Tylenol. The lawsuit asks the court to find certain FDA restrictions unlawful and to stop the federal agency from enforcing or applying them to mifepristone. Abortion remains legal at all stages of pregnancy in Oregon, which has worked with California and Washington to promote the West Coast as a "safe haven" for the procedure. The drug mifepristone, when used with a second pill, has become the most common method of terminating pregnancies in the U.S. The anticipated ruling in a Texas lawsuit brought by a Christian group would affect states where abortion is legal as well as those that outlaw it. It came in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision last year to strip away the constitutional right to end a pregnancy. / FINANCES, GOVERNMENT, FAMILY, LOW-INCOME, CHILDREN: The deadline to file state and federal personal income tax returns is just two weeks away. This year, the deadline falls on April 18. Officials with the Oregon Department of Revenue say more than 1.1 million residents have already filed their state personal income tax returns—with another 1.1 million returns expected in the next two weeks. Of those 1.1 million taxpayers, more than 820,000 have received refunds, with other refunds still pending. If you still need to file your state return, remember that the quickest way to get it processed and receive any refund is by filing electronically. Sending a paper return through the mail will a delay a refund. You might qualify for free tax help. And if you are an Oregon personal income tax return filers with an adjusted gross income of \$73,000 or less might qualify to file both their state and federal taxes electronically for free. There are four approved tax preparation software products that partner with Oregon to offer free electronic filing. Taxpayers that don't meet the income requirements for guided preparation can file for free using Oregon Free Fillable Forms. Free Fillable Forms performs basic calculations and

are ideal for taxpayers who don't need help preparing their returns and want the convenience of filing electronically. The IRS offers a similar option for filing federal taxes electronically. Groups including the AARP, CASH Oregon, and the United Way also provide free tax preparation services to qualifying taxpayers. Low- to moderate-income taxpayers might be missing out on a bigger refund if they're not claiming the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Eligibility information is available at the IRS website. Taxpayers who are eligible for the EITC can also claim Oregon's Earned Income Credit. / CRIME: A stolen backhoe was located vesterday mired in mud at a location just west of Eugene. Lane County Sheriff's investigators say the machinery belonged to Wildish and had been stolen overnight from a jobsite near the intersection of Roosevelt Boulevard and the Beltline Highway. It was spotted yesterday morning off K.R. Nielsen Road near the West 11th Avenue. Deputies say the backhoe was badly stuck in the mud. It appeared the thief or thieves had tried to use the rear arm to pull on nearby railroad tracks in an effort to get unstuck. A very large tow truck was needed to extricate the backhoe and the Port of Coos Bay Railroad had to dispatch a track inspector to ensure that the rail line had not been damaged. Know anything about the case? The Lane County Sheriff's Office would like to hear from you. / SAFETY: It was a busy day yesterday for Eugene-Springfield Fire crews. At one point, they responded to two Springfield house fires reported within a period of just 20 minutes. The blazes were reported in the 2300 block of 17th Street and on H Street near Mill Street. No injuries reported. / WILDFIRES, GOVERNMENT: It's a big push to boost firefighting capacity across the state. The Office of the Oregon State Fire Marshal has awarded \$25 million in new engines to 76 local agencies. The goal is to ensure there's a network of equipment available to fight major conflagrations and provide mutual aid during wildfires and other events. Six Lane County agencies were among the recipients. They are Eugene Springfield Fire, Lane Fire Authority, Oakridge Fire Department, Coburg Rural Fire Protection District, South Lane Fire & Rescue, and Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue. Engine deliveries are expected to begin late this year and continue into the first half of 2024. / COMMUNITY, WILDFIRE RECOVERY: April is Arbor Month across America and here in Oregon, the state's Department of Forestry last week announced our newest "Tree Cities." The designations highlight communities that have made strong new commitments to protecting and expanding their tree canopy. On of the more interesting honors went to the Southern Oregon city of Talent as the Oregon's "Tree City of the Year." And it comes after a heartbreaking period of adversity. In 2020, a fast-moving wildfire destroyed about 40 percent of the city of Talent, leaving thousands without homes and killing a heart-breaking number of its trees—about one in every four. Before the fire, Talent city officials did not have an accurate inventory of their urban trees. But with help of grants from the Oregon Department of Forestry, community planners used special inventory software to record about one-third of its street and park trees—close to 1,500, in all. That allowed officials and residents to begin work to restore their urban forest and determine what mix of new trees was needed where. They're also working to plant trees where none previously grew—including in areas with large amounts of concrete and asphalt. Trees and their canopies can help cool those areas on hotter days. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/06/23

TIME OF BROADCAST

5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

HEALTH. COMMUNITY, LOW-INCOME, EDUCATION: A \$1.5 million federal grant is helping to jumpstart creation of a primary care clinic and career technical education program in Cottage Grove. When services commence later next year. the South Lane Clinic will help provide primary care close to 5,000 people unable to access or afford basic medical or dental care. The clinic will be located at 1275 South River Road in Cottage Grove, inside Lane Community College's Cottage Grove Center, and close to both Cottage Grove High School and Bohemia Elementary. The project is a collaborative effort by the Community Health Centers of Lane County, Lane Community College, PeaceHealth, South Lane School District, and other community partners. They were joined at an event yesterday in Cottage Grove by new Fourth District Representative Val Hoyle, along with LCC President Stephanie Bulger, Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch, and others. The clinic also will serve as a health and dental care training site for Lane Community College and South Lane School District students. The South Lane Clinic will provide a wide range of medical, behavioral, reproductive, alternative, and oral healthcare. It will include an 8,000 square-foot primary medical clinic with ten exam rooms and a procedure room. The 1,600 square foot dental clinic will include three dental stations, two private operating rooms, and a dental lab. Lane County will operate and provide health services through a long-term lease agreement and also will offer assistance in areas such as transportation, housing, medication, and care coordination. / HEALTH, SAFETY: There are continuing concerns that two types of recalled eyedrops might still be in consumers' homes. The eyedrops were manufactured at a plant in India which FDA officials say had a host of sterility problems. The contaminated eyedrops and are linked to 68 bacterial infections in the U.S., including three deaths and eight cases of vision loss. Four people have had to have their eyes surgically removed because of infection. The outbreak is considered particularly worrisome because the bacteria driving it are resistant to standard antibiotics. CDC officials are concerned the bacteria will spread and cases may be reported for weeks and months to come. The affected brands were sold under the Purely Soothing and EzriCare labels. / EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, FAMILY, BUSINESS: How do you save money for college? For some, it's one returnable bottle at a time. Three years ago, leaders with the Oregon College Savings plan and BottleDrop created a program that allows individuals and families to use their Oregon Bottle Bill redemptions of bottles and cans to set aside the money toward college. It might not seem like

much at the start, but that small change has a way of adding up. A bit more than three years in, coordinators say participants have set aside a combined \$1 million. That's more than 10 million beverage containers have been redeemed and recycled. Participants set up automatic fund transfers from their BottleDrop account to one or more Oregon College Savings Plan accounts. So far, more than 5,000 Oregonians taking part to help save for higher education expenses. Some families have partnered with relatives, neighbors, and friends—all of whom set up their BottleDrop accounts to funnel redemption proceeds to a single student's savings. One family says that group approach has already set aside \$3,500 for their 7- and 11-year-olds. As an added benefit, they say the kids are learning about the power of long-term savings. In addition to saving for education, Oregonians also have the option through the program to contribute to a tax-friendly Oregon ABLE Savings Plan account to help people with disabilities and their families save money. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/07/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WILDFIRES, HEALTH, EDUCATION: A new research effort at the University of Oregon will study how persistent wildfire smoke affects health, lives, and livelihoods. Oregon U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden vesterday announced \$800,000 in funding from the Environmental Protection Agency to officially launch the Center for Wildfire Smoke Research and Practice. The goal is to help Oregon communities be better prepared for wildfire smoke and find ways to reduce its impacts. Wyden and Merkley note that smoke from burning forests and rangelands affects portions of Oregon every summer. As wildfires have grown increasingly large and devastating, so have the impacts from their smoke. And it's not just from blazes in Oregon. Our state has seen the impacts of haze from wildfires in California, Washington state, and British Columbia. Data from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality shows unhealthy air quality days attributable to wildfire smoke has sharply increased since 2015, as smoke can stretch across the entire state, posing a major challenge for many communities, businesses, and agricultural operations. The smoke—which leads to poor air quality—threatens the health of those with respiratory diseases, asthma, who are pregnant, have weakened immune systems, or are unhoused. The initial research push will focus on community and household planning and preparation, ways to better inform the public about smoke risks, and upgraded emergency response during smoke events. Coordinators say the new UO research center will serve as a hub for sharing data and information as residents, businesses, governments and agencies work to better prepare for future wildfire smoke events. The \$800,000 in EPA funding is part of a larger effort to help make Oregon's forests more resilient, support rural communities, protect public lands and the environment, and bolster important programs for tribes and others. FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT: Federal regulators yesterday voted to officially close the Chinook salmon fishing season along much of the West Coast after near-record low numbers of the fish returned to California's rivers last year. The closure applies to adult fall-run Chinook and deals a blow to the Pacific Northwest's salmon fishing industry. The Pacific Fishery Management Council approved the closure of the 2023 season for all commercial and most recreational Chinook fishing from Cape Falcon in northern Oregon to the California-Mexico border. Limited recreational salmon fishing will be allowed off southern Oregon this fall. Otherwise, recreational fishing is expected to be allowed in Oregon only for Coho salmon during the summer and for Chinook after Sept. 1. Salmon

season is expected to open as usual north of Cape Falcon, including in the Columbia River and off Washington's coast. Much of the salmon caught off Oregon originate in California's Klamath and Sacramento river systems. The Chinook salmon population has declined dramatically after years of drought. Many in the fishing industry say Trump-era rules that allowed more water to be diverted from the Sacramento River Basin to agriculture caused even more harm. Though the closure will affect tens of thousands of jobs, few are opposed to it. Many who operate fishing boats say they want to take action now to guarantee healthy stocks in the future. They hope California's unusually wet winter after years of drought will bring relief. But there also are concerns that flooding could kills eggs and young hatchlings. / LAW ENFORCEMENT, CRIME: Eugene Police on Wednesday received a report of the discovery of what's known as a "skimming" machine at a local convenience store. Such devices, which are placed over legitimate credit- and debit-card readers, can steal information that can be exploited by thieves. The skimmers are usually fairly small and are sometimes found at ATMs, grocery stores, fuel pumps, or other retail card locations. The devices use Bluetooth to transmit your bank card's account information to the thief's phone or computer. They can then take the account information from the card and use the credit/debit card, make duplicate cards, or sell it on the black market. Eugene Police are visiting convenience stores and other local businesses to advise owners and employees about the skimmer device, share photos, and offer safety tips. They also advise you, as a customer, to be alert to any payment devices that do not look solid or appear improperly installed. They might have been tampered with. If you believe you have been victimized, call the bank or credit card company that issued the card. There is a number for reporting fraud on the back. Be sure to do this promptly to avoid more charges.; What's known as an "officer-involved" shooting overnight west of Eugene. Officials say a man who raised a weapon and advanced toward a sheriff's deputy died after the law enforcement officer fired his weapon in response, striking the suspect. It happened shortly before midnight at a residence off Fisher Road. Dispatchers has received a call about an extremely intoxicated man, with the caller saying the man could be combative when intoxicated and needed to go to the hospital. While they were on the way, deputies learned the suspect previously had been arrested for menacing with a knife. When they arrived, investigators say the man was holding what appeared to be a firearm in one hand. Officials say a deputy told the male multiple times to drop the weapon, but instead the man raised the weapon and advanced toward the deputy, leading to the deputy to fire in response. Deputies called for assistance and began administering lifesaving measures but said the man did not survive. No deputies or other personnel were injured. Investigators learned that the weapon that the male had raised was a realistic-looking pellet gun designed to resemble a handgun. As is required in these cases, the Interagency Deadly Force Investigation Team is reviewing the incident and the deputy is on paid leave.; They say they seized dealer-level quantities of methamphetamine, fentanyl, and drugs that included a combination of fentanyl and heroin, along with drug-packaging paraphernalia. Earlier this week, members of the Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team arrested a Eugene resident during a narcotics investigation in the town of Oakland. 51-year-old Michael Stewart Bethel was taken into custody and law enforcement recovered about a quarter pound of

meth and dealer-level quantities of heroin. Eugene Police said Bethel was already on their radar, They used a search warrant at Bethel's residence in the 2600 block of Janelle Way to recover the additional quantities of drugs along with two firearms, one of which was reported stolen from Springfield in 2021. Bethel is a felon and is prohibited from possessing firearms. / GOVERNMENT, ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT: State officials want to see more jobs tied to the tech industry. Yesterday, members of the Oregon Legislature approved a bill that authorizes the governor to expand urban growth boundaries to provide additional land for chipmakers to build factories. It's a renewed effort to attract semiconductor companies. The legislative bill also provides close to \$200 million in grants to chipmakers. Those supporting the push say it makes Oregon more competitive. But opponents say the changes amount to an attack on a halfcentury-old statewide policy that limits urban sprawl and protects farmland and forests. The governor is expected to designate a maximum of eight sites for expansion along their urban growth boundaries. Two will exceed 500 acres, but the other six sites will be smaller. The land will be set aside for semiconductor factories, called fabs, and their related businesses. Last year, state officials and lawmakers were stung by chipmaker Intel's decision to build a massive \$20 billion complex—not in Oregon but in Ohio, where suitable zoned land is more plentiful. Intel is the state's largest corporate employer. / HEALTH, CHILDREN, YOUTH, LOW-INCOME, GOVERNMENT, PANDEMIC: For the first time in three years people on the Oregon Health Plan and the Children's Health Insurance Plan, the state's Medicaid programs, could lose their coverage if their family income has gone up. The plans cover about one in three Oregonians, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting. Federal rules require states to periodically verify the incomes of people on Medicaid and remove them if their income exceeds the program limits. Income checks were suspended during the pandemic but are resuming this month, following a timeline set by Congress to wind down COVID-19 pandemic emergency measures. Oregon now has until June 2024 to process eligibility redeterminations for all 1.5 million Oregon Health Plan and Children's Health Insurance members. The Oregon Health Authority has estimated that between 90,000 and 300,000 of those people could lose eligibility for Medicaid coverage due to income changes. It's the largest benefits renewal process the state has ever attempted. Some of those who lose Medicaid coverage will qualify for Medicare, which is federal health insurance for people 65 and older. Others will qualify for subsidized plans in the individual health insurance marketplace established by the Affordable Care Act. But Oregon is also pursuing a plan that could radically remake the state's insurance marketplace over the next several years, shifting federal subsidy dollars out of it and using the money for a state-run Basic Health Program for people who make just a little too much to qualify for Medicaid. But before any of that happens, state officials have to sort through who is still eligible for Oregon's Medicaid insurance programs. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/10/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

LEGAL, WOMEN, HEALTH, POLITICS: Competing rulings by two federal judges over the availability of an abortion pill on Friday created legal confusion and opened a new front in the battle over the procedure in the United States. A federal judge in Amarillo, Texas, put on hold federal approval of mifepristone, one of the most commonly used medications to end pregnancies. Another federal judge in Spokane, Washington, ruled differently in a separate case and ordered the federal government not to restrict the drug's availability. Some analysts predict the U.S. Supreme Court will side with anti-abortion advocates on the abortion pill issue after the court last June struck down Roe v. Wade. Mifepristone, when used with a second pill, has become the most common method of terminating pregnancies in the U.S. Abortion remains legal in Oregon, which has worked with California and Washington to promote the West Coast as a "safe haven" for the procedure. People can call the anonymous hotline from any state, including Oregon, for free legal advice and hear back from a lawyer within 48 hours. Lawmakers in Oregon and Washington also are considering bills to shield abortion providers and patients from criminal liability. Oregon's bill would allow physicians to provide abortion to anyone regardless of age and would bar them in certain cases from disclosing that information to parents. Washington state earlier this year purchased a three-year supply of mifepristone in anticipation of the Texas federal court ruling that could limit its availability. Abortion has been legal in Washington since a 1970 statewide ballot referendum. The bulk pill purchase also comes as Washington state's attorney general leads a multistate federal lawsuit with Oregon and others meant to further ease restrictions to the medication. Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum says the suit accuses the FDA of singling out mifepristone for excessively burdensome regulation despite evidence that the drug is safer than Tylenol. The lawsuit asks the court to find certain FDA restrictions unlawful and to stop the federal agency from enforcing or applying them to mifepristone. / WILDFIRES, UTILITIES, GOVERNMENT: The state of Oregon has no legal authority to order utilities to shut down their electrical lines ahead of potentially hazardous weather events. But The Oregonian and OregonLive report that hours before Oregon became engulfed by the 2020 Labor Day fires, then-Governor Kate Brown's chief of staff and the state's fire protection chief encouraged three utilities to preemptively shut off electricity to prevent catastrophic blazes amid an historic windstorm. That's according to a deposition last week of the former state fire protection chief. The revelation comes just

ahead of a trial set for April 24 alleging that the utility PacifiCorp was negligent in causing several fires across the state. / FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT: California officials say they want federal disaster relief for the state's salmon fishing industry after the 2023 fishing season for fall-run Chinook salmon was closed for much of the West Coast. The efforts announced came after the Pacific Fishery Management Council unanimously approved the closure of the 2023 season for all commercial and most recreational fishing of the fish along the coast from Cape Falcon in northern Oregon to the California-Mexico border. Much of the salmon caught off Oregon originates in California's Klamath and Sacramento river systems. The Chinook salmon population has declined dramatically after years of drought. Many in the fishing industry say Trump-era rules that allowed more water to be diverted from the Sacramento River Basin to agriculture caused additional harm. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/11/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

TRANSPORTATION, WEATHER, SAFETY: The Oregon Department of Transportation last night issued a travel advisory for drivers in some rural parts of Eastern Oregon, Officials say rapid snowmelt is causing flooding on some secondary highways in that region. That includes some roadways in Grant, Harney, Malheur and several other counties. Officials warn that as snow continues to melt water levels can change rapidly. They encourage Eastern Oregon drivers who encounter high water not to attempt to drive through it because it is difficult to determine how deep the water is, or how strong its current. They ask drivers to find alternate routes or wait for the high water to recede.; A landslide north of Vancouver, Washington, Monday afternoon temporarily closed the northbound lanes of Interstate 5. At least two vehicles were stuck in debris that slid down onto the freeway Monday afternoon near Woodland, Washington. Crews cleared the mud and other debris early yesterday evening and reopened travel lanes. The landslide followed days of sometimes-heavy rain. / CRIME, SAFETY, TRANSPORTATION: Interstate 5 in Salem was closed for the better part of six hours yesterday after an Oregon State Police trooper exchanged gunfire with a man who had been allegedly holding the driver of a semitrailer at gunpoint. It happened shortly before 9:00 a.m. The suspect died in the incident. In a news release issued by the Salem Police Department, which is investigating the incident, Trooper Andrew Tuttle said he had stopped his patrol vehicle to help the driver of a disabled semitruck. Tuttle says when he spotted the gunman, the suspect immediately began shooting at the trooper. Tuttle said when he returned fire, and the gunman ran into tall grass along the interstate. The suspect was found with gunshot wounds and, despite receiving medical assistance, died at the scene. Police identified him as 31-year-old Felipe Amezcua Manzo. Police said Tuttle suffered a minor injury. He is currently on administrative leave, which is standard in cases of law enforcement officers using deadly force. A vehicle connected with Manzo was found nearby. Police received a warrant to search it and have not yet disclosed what they recovered. / LABOR, HEALTH: A group of local nurses, healthcare providers, and politicians held a rally yesterday outside PeaceHealth's Riverbend Medical Center. They say large numbers of nursing vacancies are slowing hospital admissions, the delivery of medical care, and emergency response times. The nurses are members of the Oregon Nurses Association, the union that represents close to 1,500 nurses at both the PeaceHealth Medical Center and its Home Care Services. Across the state.

nurses have rallied in recent months for increased staffing as they continue talks on new contracts. At the same time, hospitals have said they are dealing with financial challenges in the wake of the pandemic. The ONA is one of the big backers of a legislative proposal to create minimum staffing ratios at hospitals for nurses and nursing assistants. / HEALTH, COMMUNITY: It's another way to provide critical assistance to those experiencing a cardiac emergency. Eugene Police officials say all 48 of their patrol vehicles now are equipped with automated external defibrillators—or AEDs. The Eugene Police Foundation and PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center Foundation partnered to purchase the units. Officials say they are compatible with Eugene Springfield Fire's advanced life support devices. Police officers are not medics, but they often arrive first at emergency calls where someone is in medical distress or dying. Officials say the AEDs can assist a patient until EMTs arrive, in some instances reducing the chances of death or permanent disability. / GOVERNMENT, HOMELESSNESS, HOUSING: Oregon Governor Tina Kotek yesterday outlined how the state is distributing its first allocation of emergency funding to help reduce homelessness. The funding includes \$15.5 million to Eugene-Springfield and greater Lane County to help rehouse 247 households and create 230 shelter beds. It's part of an initial \$85 million being distributed through Oregon Housing and Community Services. Some of the funding will go to eviction prevention programs, with additional money heading to a statewide incentive program for landlords who participate in local rehousing efforts.

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/12/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

INFLATION: Consumer inflation eased in March, with less expensive gasoline and lower food prices providing some relief to households that have struggled under the weight of surging prices for nearly two years. Government numbers released this morning reveal that consumer prices rose just 0.1 percent from February to March, the smallest increase since December. Measured from a year earlier, prices were up just 5 percent in March, the smallest rise in almost two years. Much of the drop resulted from price declines for goods such as fuel, used cars and furniture which had soared a year ago after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Price increases in the economy's vast service sector — ranging from rents and restaurant meals to haircuts and auto insurance — are keeping core inflation high, at least for now. That trend is widely expected to lead the Fed to raise its benchmark interest rate for a 10th straight time when it meets in May. Still, there were positive signs in the report that suggest inflation pressures are cooling. Rental costs were up by one-half of one percent from February to March, but while that's still high it was the smallest increase in a year. Grocery prices fell 0.3 percent. That was the first such drop in two-and-a-half years and was a welcome respite for Americans suffering from painfully elevated food costs. Used car prices, which were an early driver of high inflation, fell 0.9 percent, the ninth straight monthly decline. Gas prices, which dropped 4.6 percent just from February to March, have tumbled 17 percent over the past year. When the Fed tightens credit with the goal of cooling the economy and inflation, it typically leads to higher rates on mortgages, auto loans, credit card borrowing and many business loans. The risk is that ever-higher borrowing rates can weaken the economy so much as to cause a recession. / ATTRACTIONS, ECONOMY: Leaders of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival say the organization is in a financial crisis and at risk of canceling its season. They've sent a letter to patrons and donors as they conduct an emergency fundraising campaign to attract the \$2.5 million they say is needed to stabilize their finances. The award-winning Oregon Shakespeare Festival was founded in 1935 in Ashland and is a big contributor to the Southern Oregon economy. It attracts more than 100,000 visitors during a typical season. Many of those theatergoers spend money across several days on meals and lodging, as well as additional travel, local attractions, and adventures in the outdoors. But the theater industry across the U.S. has been walloped by the pandemic and inflation. Attendance and donations are down. And fewer people are willing to spend thousands of dollars to reach the Oregon Shakespeare

Festival's stages. Festival organizers say the \$2.5 million in additional funds would allow them to finish their 2023 season and plan for the following year. But they have already canceled an annual Christmas production and say they need at least \$1.5 million by June to preserve their planned summer and autumn shows. OSF's spring season opens next week. State lawmakers also are considering a bill that would send emergency money to arts organizations across the state, including several million to the Shakespeare Festival. But that proposal is still being reviewed by a legislative committee. / ILLEGAL DRUGS, HEALTH, SAFETY: Federal drug-control officials say a veterinary tranquilizer mixed with the powerful opioid fentanyl is an "emerging threat" to health and is contributing to thousands of drug-related deaths. The Office of National Drug Control Policy announced the designation for the xylazine-fentanyl mixture this morning, the first time the office has used it since the category for fast-growing drug dangers was created in 2019. Xylazine was detected in about 800 drug deaths in the U.S. in 2020. But by 2021, it was a factor in more than 3,000 fatalities according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Xylazine was approved for veterinary use in 1971. Sometimes known as "trang," it's been showing up in illicit drugs in major quantities over the past several years. Investigators believe it's being added to other drugs to increase profits, including to the opioid fentanyl. And unlike some opioids where Narcan can help reverse overdose symptoms, there are no known antidotes for the xylazine-fentanyl combination. The drug mixture causes a slowing of breathing and heart rates, sometimes to deadly levels. Repeated use can lead to skin abscesses and ulcers and eventual amputation. Withdrawal is painful.; New data details the nation's worsening tide of sexually transmitted infections, but health officials are hoping an old drug will help the fight. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention yesterday released data about some of the most common infectious diseases in the U.S. The numbers show chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis infections have been accelerating across the country. But experts with the CDC are considering recommending the antibiotic doxycycline to be used after sex as a form of "morning after" pill to prevent those infections. The pills are already used to treat some of those infections after they develop. Researchers say taking doxycycline soon after unprotected sex could sometimes prevent infections from occurring at all. Experts believe STDs have been rising because of declining condom use, inadequate sex education and reduced testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Millions of Americans are infected each year. Rates are highest in men who have sex with men, and among Black and Hispanic Americans and Native Americans. Sexually transmitted diseases can affect overall health, damage reproductive organs. Syphilis can be passed from pregnant moms to their fetuses, leading to infant health problems such as deafness and blindness. But doxycycline can't cure every infection. The drug can cause side effects like stomach problems and rashes after exposure to the sun. Some research has found it ineffective in heterosexual women. And widespread use of doxycycline as a preventive measure could contribute to mutations that make bacteria resistant to the drug, as has happened with other antibiotics. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/13/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

FINANCES, GOVERNMENT: The deadline to file your income tax returns is Tuesday. Whether you do them by yourself, go to a tax clinic or hire a professional, navigating the tax system can be complicated. For those who make \$73,000 or less per year, the IRS offers free guided tax preparation that does the math for you. If you have questions while working on your tax forms, the IRS also offers an interactive tax assistant tool that can provide answers based on your information. Beyond the popular companies such as TurboTax and H&R Block, taxpayers can also hire licensed professionals, such as certified public accountants. The IRS offers a directory of tax preparers across the United States. The IRS also funds two types of programs that offer free tax help: VITA and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly program (TCE). People who earn \$60,000 or less a year, have disabilities or are limited English speakers, qualify for the VITA program. Those who are 60 or older qualify for the TCE program. The IRS has a site for locating organizations hosting VITA and TCE clinics. Experts recommend pulling together all of the documents you need and then giving yourself a chunk of time to sit down and get it done. You can either file your taxes online or on paper. However, there is a big time difference between the two options. Paper filing can take up to six months for the IRS to process, while electronic filing cuts it down to three weeks. If you run out of time to file your tax return, you can file for an extension. However, it is important to remember that the extension is only to file your taxes, not to pay them. If you owe taxes, you should pay an estimated amount before the deadline so you avoid paying penalties and interest. If you expect to receive a refund, you will still receive your money when you file your taxes. The deadline to file for an extension also is Tuesday, which will give you until Oct. 16 to file your taxes. You can file for an extension through your tax software or preparer of preference, the IRS Free File tool or via mail.; Tax season is prime time for tax scams, according to the IRS. These scams can come via phone, text, email and social media. The IRS uses none of those means to contact taxpayers. It's always good practice to keep a record of your tax returns, just in case the IRS audits you for an item you reported years ago. Experts recommend keeping copies of your tax return documents for up to seven years. / POLITICS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, SAFETY, LEGAL, CIVIL LIBERTIES: Debate continues this week at the state capital over Oregon's gun-related legislation. One of the most sweeping bills would increase the purchasing age to 21 for AR-15s and similar types of firearms, impose penalties for possessing undetectable guns,

and allow for more limited concealed-carry rights. The Joint Ways and Means Committee sent the broad gun safety bill to the House floor for a vote last week after a wrenching debate. An extraordinary number of Oregonians — about 1,000 submitted written testimony supporting or opposing the 17-page measure. In a nod to hunters, the bill does not prohibit a person at least 18 years of age from possessing a single-shot rifle; several types of shotguns; a repeating rifle that has a bolt, lever, pump, or revolving action; a rifle with an attached magazine for .22caliber rounds; or a muzzleloader rifle. Passage by the House would send it to the Senate for consideration. The Oregon bill would also make the manufacture or importation into the state of an undetectable firearm a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and/or a fine up to \$250,000. Possession of a so-called ghost gun, such as one made with a 3D printer, would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail and/or a fine up to \$6,250. In 2021, the Legislature gave local school districts the authority to prohibit firearms on school grounds. The new bill would expand that, giving locally elected governments the ability to adopt rules restricting firearms and concealed carry in their facilities and adjacent grounds. / SAFETY: A reminder: You have options where you travel, trains so not. On Tuesday mid-morning, Eugene Police and Eugene-Springfield Fire responded to a report from Union Pacific Railroad dispatchers of a crash involving a pedestrian and a train near the 4200 block of Franklin Boulevard. That's a short way west of the Knickerbocker Foot Bridge. Officers say a 37-year-old Eugene man, Thomas James Streitz-Waters, was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries. Investigators say Streitz-Waters had been walking next to the tracks and had his headphones on—and did not hear repeated blasts of the train's horn. The pedestrian was cited for Criminal Trespass.; If you were driving on Interstate 5 just south of Eugene on Tuesday night, yeah, that was money you might have seen blowing across the pavement. Oregon State Police say the cash was being thrown out of a vehicle by a 38-year-old man, Colin Davis McCarthy. But KEZI-TV quotes relatives who say McCarthy emptied their bank accounts before tossing the money. They're asking people who stopped and collected it to return it to the Oregon State Police. Investigators say the combination of darkness, loose cash, and cars stopping while occupants got out to chase the currency made for a dangerous situation. They spoke with the man and monitored the area until the hazard eased. / WILDFIRE RECOVERY, BUSINESS, ENERGY, GOVERNMENT: Thousands of Oregonians lost their homes and businesses during the Labor Day Wildfires of 2020. Many are still rebuilding. The Oregon Department of Energy has a program available to help wildfire survivors ensure those structures are energy efficient. Those features can save money over the long term and make new homes and businesses a lot more comfortable. The Oregon Department of Energy is offering incentives of between \$3,000 to \$18,000—or more, in qualifying instances. Owners of commercial buildings, multifamily homes, sitebuilt dwellings, and new energy efficient manufactured homes can qualify. If you have already rebuilt, are currently rebuilding, or will soon rebuild, you are encouraged to apply. Applications are due at the end of May, so now is the time to begin the process. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/14/23

TIME OF BROADCAST

5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY: Volunteers and local agencies are partnering today on what they say is an emergency clean-up of tons of trash on Willamette River Islands in the heart of Eugene. They say unhoused campers have left the garbage and other debris. There are concerns it will wind up back in the river and wash up on islands and riverbanks downstream. The effort, led by Eugene City Councilor Randy Groves, the non-profit Willamette Riverkeeper, Eugene/Springfield Fire, Eugene Parks and Open Spaces, and the Lane County Sheriff's Office, is timed to clear the trash ahead of another big rainstorm in next week's forecast. Willamette Riverkeeper is among the organizations and individuals lobbying for a revised local camping ordinance. The group would like to see camping and campfires prohibited on public and private lands in Eugene's urban area that are within 100 feet of the high-water mark and on all islands. / HOMELESSNESS, LOW-INCOME, CHARITY, WEATHER, SAFETY: It was a long, cold winter here in Lane County. And that led to the longest operating season in the history of the Egan Warming Centers. They're managed by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, with funding from Lane County and support from community members, service providers, nonprofits, faith-based and social communities. Its emergency shelters serve unhoused adults and youth on nights when the low temperature is forecast to be 30 degrees or below. The Egan Warming Center is named in honor of Major Thomas Egan, who froze to death during a cold spell in 2008. For the 2022-2023 winter season, Egan's network opened its Eugene and Springfield shelter sites on 31 nights — the most in the program's 14-year history. The warming centers tallied 7,500 overnight stays by 1,465 people. But officials say many overnight guests were struggling with heath issues, trauma, or opioid addiction. According to Egan Center managers, 760 trained volunteers helped staff seven sites for a combined more than 19,500 hours during the winter season. The volunteers open the warming centers in the evening—providing sleeping pads and blankets, warm drinks and meals, hospitality, basic first aid, and donated gloves, socks, and other winter gear. But coming off the pandemic, there was a big drop in volunteers—many of whom were older. Coordinators hope to recruit and train more for the next cold season. Program officials also are working to find additional sites to host next winter. / GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYMENT, DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION: Oregon Governor Tina Kotek yesterday signed into law a bill intended to create more jobs tied to the tech industry. It authorizes an expansion of urban growth boundaries to

provide additional land for chipmakers to build factories. It's a renewed effort to attract semiconductor companies. The plan provides \$190 million in grants to chipmakers. Another \$10 million will help eligible communities prepare the new manufacturing sites. The remaining \$10 million will help universities in the state apply for federal research grants related to semiconductor development. Those supporting the push say it makes Oregon more competitive. Opponents say the changes amount to an attack on a half-century-old statewide policy that limits urban sprawl and protects farmland and forests. This week, they suggested—only somewhat in jest—that if backers are so eager to convert open space to manufacturing that they instead redesignate a few high-profile golf course properties for semiconductor manufacturing, including Pumpkin Ridge, west of Portland. The governor will designate a maximum of eight sites for expansion along their urban growth boundaries. Two will exceed 500 acres, but the other six sites will be smaller. The land will be set aside for semiconductor factories, called fabs, and their related businesses. Last year, state officials and lawmakers were stung by chipmaker Intel's decision to build a massive \$20 billion complex—not in Oregon but in Ohio, where suitable zoned land is more plentiful. Intel is the state's largest corporate employer. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/17/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

CRIME: Eugene Police announced on Friday they have arrested a suspect in Thursday night's suspected arson that damaged part of a downtown furniture store. Investigators say 24-year-old Trenton Austin Fisk was taken into custody after reports that a man had broken windows of Brenner's Furniture on West 8th Avenue and possibly started a fire.; Eugene Police on Saturday evening arrested a man they say went through a red light at the West 11th Avenue and Beltline Highway intersection, nearly striking a Eugene Police sergeant's vehicle. They say the suspect. 35-year-old Thomas Alexander De La Garza continued east at speeds estimated above 100 miles per hour, swerving to avoid multiple collisions with other vehicles in the area. Bystanders helped police locate the suspect hiding behind a liquor store off Bailey Hill Road. Investigators say a police K-9 helped find three items allegedly buried by De La Garza: a key fob, loaded handgun magazine, and a handgun holster. Police say they did not locate a firearm. ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY: Volunteers and local agencies partnered Friday on an emergency clean-up of tons of trash on Willamette River Islands in the heart of Eugene. Unhoused campers left the garbage and other debris. The clean-up crews wanted to prevent it from winding up in the river and washing ashore downstream. / EVENTS: This is National Dance Week. It's part of an effort to increase awareness about dance and encourage everyone to participate. In Eugene, celebrations kicked off over the weekend at the Farmers' Market Pavilion. More performances take place during the lunch hour at Kesey Square at Broadway and Willamette Streets. The events will feature a different local artist or dance organization each day. The shows are presented by Artistic Encounters. On Saturday afternoon, watch for pop-up street performances at spots across downtown Eugene—everything from tap dance to freestyle routines. The popular community group Thrill the World will roam the streets and surprise passers-by with spontaneous routines. / PETS, LOW-INCOME, COMMUNITY, CHARITY: They say people should never be forced to give up their pets because of financial hardship. The Greenhill Humane Society last week held the grand opening of a new warehouse which will become home to the shelter's expanded Community Pet Food Pantry. The temperature-controlled storage is located at Greenhill's shelter off Green Hill Road west of Eugene. Fueled by donations, it will allow the agency to receive and store more pet food and supplies and distribute some of the items to local non-profits to help people struggling financially and having a tough time purchasing pet food. Greenhill started its Community Pet

Food Pantry close to a decade ago. The program expanded significantly in 2020 after the Holiday Farm Fire and has continued to grow during the pandemic and other crises. The shelter has shared food donations directly with cash-strapped pet owners during its days of operation. Over the past three years, Greenhill has distributed more than 75 tons of pet food to local non-profits, teaming up both with Greater Good Charities' GOODS Program, the United Way of Lane County, and the Ride United program. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/18/23

TIME OF BROADCAST

5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

CRIME, BUSINESS: The owner of a Eugene furniture store damaged in a Thursday night arson says he feels sad and frustrated in the wake of the incident. And while noting that everyone deserves a safer downtown, he says that with little or no consequence for those who commit such crimes, there is no easy way to prevent such acts in the future. David Fendrich of Brenner's Furniture says he's grateful to Eugene Police and Eugene-Springfield Fire for their prompt response to the incident on West 8th Avenue in downtown Eugene. Eugene Police arrested a 24-vear-old man. Trenton Austin Fisk, in connection with the case. Witnesses said he was breaking windows of the business before the fire started. Brenner's has operated in downtown Eugene for more than 90 years. Its owner says he's thankful for the outpouring of support and compassion he and staff have received in recent days. But Fendrich adds it will take a month or longer to clean up after 12 minutes of vandalism. He notes that, like other business owners who have experienced similar damage, there will be the added expense of installing more safeguards for future protection. And he says remaining closed for an extended period harms employees and their families. He asks people to urge members of the city council, local government, and state representatives to act on behalf of downtown Eugene businesses and citizens. / FINANCES, GOVERNMENT: Today is the deadline to file your 2022 income tax returns. According to estimates, almost one-quarter of Americans wait until the last minute to file their taxes. The IRS says it has answered two million more calls this tax filing season than a year ago, with the average phone wait time now at four minutes. That's down considerably from 27 minutes for the 2022 tax season. Additionally, the agency served 100,000 more taxpayers in-person and digitized 80 times more paper forms than in 2022 and cleared the backlog of unprocessed 2022 individual tax returns. The federal tax administrator is promoting its improved customer service and giving credit to a big boost in funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act that Democrats pushed through Congress last year. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/19/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

CRIME, BUSINESS: A trio of new police security cameras have been activated in downtown Eugene. A fourth is on its way. They're intended to help deter crime and assist investigators when crimes occur. The installation and activation came less than one week after a high-profile vandalism and arson at a downtown furniture store. But Eugene Police say the project has been in the works since last year. The cameras were installed at West 8th Avenue and Olive Street; at Broadway and Olive Street; and at Broadway and Willamette Street. The fourth camera will soon arrive at East 8th Avenue and Oak Street. The project was funded through a Justice Assistance Grant. The cameras were purchased through the company Overwatch Solutions at a cost of \$9,495 apiece. Police say officers and other investigators will be able to access the cameras using a desktop computer or mobile device. Should a crime occur, they say the footage would assist in identifying and apprehending suspects. / EDUCATION, COMMUNITY, DEVELOPMENT: A new North Eugene High School is continuing to take shape off Silver Lane. And as construction enters its final phases, members of the Eugene School Board tonight discuss the future of the old North Eugene High. Two options are on the table: Keep the complex and repurpose it or tear it down and reclaim it for green space. Neither option is inexpensive: District staff say the cost of bringing the aging North Eugene High building up to code and remodeling it for a new use is somewhere around \$34 million. Supporters of nearby Kelly Middle School and Eugene Gakuen—the district's Japanese Immersion School—have expressed an interest in relocating to the North campus. Demolishing the building and reclaiming the parcel as green space for sports and recreation comes to around \$12 million. That would include creating a pair of grass fields that could be used for soccer and other activities. HEALTH, PANDEMIC, OLDER ADULTS: U.S. regulators on Tuesday cleared another booster dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for older Americans and people with weak immune systems. If the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention signs off today, those spring boosters could begin within days. The Food and Drug Administration also took steps to make coronavirus vaccinations simpler for everyone, saying that anyone getting a Pfizer or Moderna dose — whether it's a booster or their first-ever vaccination — will get the newest formula, not the original shots. FDA officials say those 65 or older can opt to roll up their sleeves again for another booster as long as it's been at least four months since their first dose of the so-called bivalent vaccine that targets omicron

strains. And most people who are immune compromised also can choose that extra spring booster at least two months after their first, with additional doses in the future at the discretion of their physician, the agency said. It's too soon to know if younger, healthy people will eventually be offered yet another shot but the extra dose for the most vulnerable is one of several steps FDA is taking to simplify COVID-19 vaccinations going forward. / DISABILITIES, RECREATION, CHARITY: Pretty impressive accessibility effort underway in some Oregon State Parks: electric all-terrain wheelchairs. The non-profit Oregon Parks Forever has partnered with the non-profit David's Chair Outdoor Mobility Systems. Starting in early May, the special chairs will be available for reservation and use at a couple of locations on the Northern Oregon Coast, with hopes to expand the offerings if the pilot effort is successful. The chairs, a high-tech wheelchair with tank treads, allow visitors to access Oregon's beaches, traveling across sand and even moderately rocky stretches, to get to the water's edge. That makes it possible for those with mobility challenges to enjoy the coast, whether they use a regular wheelchair or scooters, walker, cane, or crutches. Over the next couple of years, the partners are working to locate hosts at American Legion, VFW, Elks and Tourism related entities along the Oregon Coast and the I-5 corridor where a chair and trailer can be stored and made available for free use by visitors with mobility challenges. The goal is to find locations for a total of ten chairs. / HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS: Oregon's pioneering experiment with the legalized use of psilocybin mushrooms has taken a step closer to reality. The state has issued licenses to the first "facilitators," who are trained to accompany clients as they take doses of the hallucinogenic substance. Oregon voters approved the regulated use of psilocybin in a 2020 ballot measure, and anticipation has been building for the day when a person can gain access to the so-called "magic mushrooms." Research indicates the drug can have therapeutic value, particularly among those suffering from conditions including PTSD. But the rollout of the state-managed psilocybin program is a gradual one. For example, about 100 people recently completed a \$7,900, six-month course at a retreat near Portland to learn how to become facilitators and earn a certificate. That enables them to then take a test administered by the health authority to receive facilitator licenses. But as of Tuesday, only three facilitator licenses have been issued. Similarly, state officials have granted licenses to three manufacturing facilities. And while the Oregon Health Authority has approved various forms of psilocybin for use—including whole dried mushrooms, ground homogenized fungi, extracts, or edible products—there is no approved laboratory for the required testing for potency. Officials also have not yet licensed any service centers — where such treatments would occur. Those facilities would offer customers access to psilocybin in controlled, calming environments accompanied by music, eve masks and mats, Officials with Oregon Psilocybin Services, which is part of the health authority, said this week they anticipate issuing licenses to service center and lab applicants "in the coming months." Among the things officials say are slowing things are applicants needing to work with their cities and counties on zoning, or ensuring the proposed premises meet state requirements. / HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, YOUTH, SAFETY: Somewhat encouraging news from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Oregon Health Authority: CDC data from 2021 indicates that for a third year in a row, suicide deaths among Oregon youths decreased. It comes after state and

local leaders joined with schools and families in a multiyear effort to address youth mental health and identify suicide risk factors. The 2021 numbers—the most recent available—mark a 26 percent decrease in the number of suicide deaths among youth and young adults (age 24 and younger), from a peak in 2018. Still, in 2021, 95 Oregon youth died by suicide. Analysts say Suicide remains the second-leading cause of death among people ages 5 to 24. The CDC data also show that death by suicide among people of all ages in Oregon increased in 2021, with 889 total deaths. Oregon has the 17th highest rate of suicide in the U.S., at 19.5 per 100,000.

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/20/23

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NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

EDUCATION. COMMUNITY, DEVELOPMENT: The days are numbered for the old North Eugene High School building. Members of the Eugene School Board last night voted to demolish it and convert the site to green space for recreation and sports. Cost was a big factor: District staff say bringing the aging building up to code and remodeling it for another use carried a price tag of close to \$34 million. Demolishing the building and creating a pair of grass fields that could be used for soccer and other activities came in around \$12 million. Families and staff at nearby Kelly Middle School and Eugene Gakuen —the district's Japanese Immersion School—had argued for preserving the North campus and moving into the renovated building. But board members said costs were prohibitive. This fall, North Eugene High's students and staff move into the new high school complex. which is in the final phases of construction farther west along Silver Lane. / GOVERNMENT: Some Oregon taxpayers were unable to make tax payments late on Tax Day, April 18, because of what state officials say was a vendor internet service outage. It affected state government websites from about 9 p.m. to midnight on Tax Day. The outage made it impossible for people to access the Oregon Department of Revenue's website and its internet portal, Revenue Online. Both sites are online now. And yesterday, officials with the Department of Revenue said they will accept tax payments through midnight tomorrow night (April 21) without assessing late penalties or interest on any taxes owed. If you go online and see penalties and interest when you view your account on Revenue Online, officials say to pay the tax amount only. If you receive a bill with penalties and interest related to Tuesday night's outage, contact the state revenue department for a waiver. / EMPLOYMENT: Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.4 percent in March, down from 4.7 percent in February. Analysts say that for the past 20 months since August 2021, Oregon's unemployment rate has remained relatively steady and near historic lows. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in March and 3.6 percent in February. In March, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 2,400 jobs, following a revised loss of 2,700 jobs in February. In March, Oregon's job gains were largest in health care and social assistance (+1,600 jobs) and professional and business services (+1,200). The only major industries to cut a substantial number of jobs were retail trade (-900 jobs) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-500). Health care and social assistance added jobs at a rapid pace over the past year. Since March 2022, it added 8,300 jobs, which was a 3.1 percent increase.

Nearly all the gains over the year were in social assistance, which added 5,400 jobs since March 2022 and is now 2,500 jobs above its pre-pandemic high. Hospitals added 800 jobs in March, following little gain during the prior 11 months. Professional and business services grew rapidly over the past three years. It added 8,900 jobs, or 3.4 percent, since March 2022. Retail trade hovered close to 210,000 jobs throughout the past two years, with a slight downward trend over the past year. Since March 2022, the broad retail trade sector lost 1,600 jobs (-0.8 percent). Most retail components cut between 100 and 600 jobs. / BUSINESS, CRIME: Twenty-one states have now legalized the recreational use of cannabis by adults. But legal marijuana growers along the West Coast are struggling with oversupply, low prices, and limited outlets for selling their product. Oregon's top cannabis regulator recently warned of an "existential crisis" in the industry. It's an open secret among some licensed growers that some of their products are being funneled to out-of-state illegal markets just to stay financially afloat. In California, officials say major cannabis player MedMen has millions in unpaid bills, while the Canadian cannabis company Curaleaf has shuttered most of its cultivation operations in Oregon, California, and Colorado. The West Coast dominated marijuana production long before individual states began to legalize it. But now, producers say they're living with what many call the failed economics of legal cannabis. There is a vast supply, thanks to great growing conditions and a wealth of expertise, but any surplus remains officially trapped within each state's borders due to the federal ban on marijuana. No one in the industry expects a fractured Congress to help out anytime soon. Efforts to legalize the drug nationwide—allowing pot businesses to deduct expenses—or even just easing banking restrictions that frequently cut them off from loans or credit, have stalled. Some are pinning their hopes on the faint chance that the Biden administration might clear the way for trade among states that have legalized the drug. They argue that would allow the West Coast — with its favorable climate and cheap electricity for indoor growing — to help supply the rest of the country. In Oregon, where sales began in 2015, large growers have achieved some economy of scale that could give them a leg up in a broader market. But in the meantime, the state's oversupply is considered the nation's worst. In February, the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission reported marijuana businesses were sitting on about 3 million pounds of unused cannabis, as well as 75,000 pounds of concentrates and extracts. The oversupply has been terrific for cannabis consumers. When legal sales began in Oregon, a pound of cannabis might have gone for \$3,000 wholesale; today, that same pound might be \$100 to \$150, according to a wholesale distributor. / WEATHER, ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT: Governor Tina Kotek has issued drought declarations in Eastern Oregon's Wasco and Harney counties. The declarations unlock a number of emergency tools for water users, including assistance to farms, ranches, and communities. The U.S. Drought Monitor classifies North-Central Oregon's Wasco County as being in abnormally dry to severe drought, with 23 percent of Wasco County in moderate drought and 49 percent in severe drought conditions. The National Weather Service says the county has only received between 25 – 75 percent of its average precipitation, leading to lower streamflows. Nearly all of Southeastern Oregon's Harney County is experiencing drought conditions with a portion of the county experiencing extreme drought conditions. Conditions are not expected to improve. Harney County is averaging just 55 percent of average streamflow, while the

Malheur Lake Basin is at 71 percent of average. The extreme conditions are expected to affect local growers and livestock, increase the potential for fire, shorten the growing season, and decrease water supplies. / HEALTH, OLDER ADULTS, PANDEMIC: Older Americans and people with weakened immune systems can get an extra COVID-19 booster dose this spring. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention yesterday signed off on a more flexible booster schedule for people who remain at the highest risk from COVID-19 — giving them the choice of a second "bivalent" Pfizer or Moderna booster, the most up-to-date formula. The move came a day after the Food and Drug Administration took steps to make coronavirus vaccinations simpler for everyone. From now on, anyone getting a Pfizer or Moderna dose — whether it's a booster or their first-ever vaccination — will get an updated version rather than the outdated original shots. People 65 or older who already had one Pfizer or Moderna updated booster can roll up their sleeves again as long as it's been at least four months since that last shot. The schedule is a little different for people with weak immune systems. Most can choose a second Pfizer or Moderna updated booster at least two months after their first. Under the latest FDA and CDC guidelines, they also could get additional doses if and when their physician decides they need one. Anyone who's gotten their original vaccinations but hasn't had an updated booster yet can still get one. Only 42 percent of Americans 65 and older — and just 20 percent of all adults — have gotten one of those updated boosters since September. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/21/23

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NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

GOVERNMENT, HEALTH, WOMEN, LEGAL: Oregon Governor Tina Kotek has directed the state to obtain a supply of mifepristone, the most commonly used abortion medication in the U.S. The announcement comes amid concerns that a court ruling could restrict access to the drug. Kotek said in a statement that regardless of the U.S. Supreme Court's expected decision about mifepristone's availability, patients in Oregon will have access to the medication for years. The state is partnering with Oregon Health & Science University to obtain 22,500 doses. In doing so, Oregon joins Washington, California, New York, and Massachusetts in buying bulk amounts of abortion medication in recent weeks. Maryland's governor says his state will do the same and New Jersey's governor says a purchase is being considered. According to federal numbers, mifepristone was approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration over two decades ago and has been used by more than 5 million women to end their pregnancies. Research shows such medication-induced abortions are safe and effective and that complications afterward, such as infection, are rare. The lawsuit over mifepristone was filed in Texas last year by conservative Christian legal group Alliance Defending Freedom, representing the pill's opponents, who say the FDA's approval of mifepristone was flawed. The U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering whether to allow restrictions on the drug to take effect while the legal challenge continues. The conservative group filed the lawsuit after last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade took away the constitutional right to end a pregnancy. A federal judge in Washington state, meanwhile, has ordered the FDA to preserve access to mifepristone under the current rules in 17 Democratic-led states including Oregon and the District of Columbia that filed a separate lawsuit. President Joe Biden's administration has said the rulings conflict and create an untenable situation for the FDA. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: State health officials say coronavirus infections continue to decline, the public health emergency has ended, but the virus is continuing to circulate. They warn that new strains just arriving in the U.S. have the potential to create a modest surge in cases in May or June. One strain, an omicron sub-subvariant dubbed "Arcturus" brings with it a new symptom that has mostly shown up in younger patients overseas: Red, scratchy, itchy eyes—also known as "conjunctivitis." The strains do not appear to cause more severe disease in most people, but they continue to pose a risk to older adults with weakened immune systems and those who are immunocompromised because of other health issues. This week, federal officials

approved another booster dose of the bivalent Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines that were rolled out last fall for older Americans and people with weak immune systems. Oregon health care providers and pharmacists are awaiting the final paperwork that will allow them to offer those doses. That approval should come in the next few days. Those 65 or older can opt to roll up their sleeves again for another booster as long as it's been at least four months since their first dose of the so-called bivalent vaccine that targets omicron strains. And most people who are immune compromised also can choose that extra spring booster at least two months after their first, with additional doses in the future at the discretion of their physician. It's too soon to know if younger, healthy people will eventually be offered yet another shot but the extra dose for the most vulnerable is one of several steps being taken to simplify COVID-19 vaccinations going forward. / RECREATION: Tomorrow is the first day of National Park Week. To celebrate, there are no entrance fees to national parks tomorrow. That means free access to places like Crater Lake and the Lewis & Clark National Historic Park in Oregon and other spots across the U.S. / RECREATION, ENVIRONMENT: Join thousands of Oregonians this Earth Day for the Oregon Spring Cleanup. With the support of SOLVE, community leaders and partner organizations host restoration events, urban litter cleanup projects, and beach cleanups. Volunteer registration is now live, and all Oregonians are encouraged to sign up for this statewide cleanup event. Most Oregon Spring Cleanup events will occur on Earth Day, April 22, but SOLVE volunteers have been taking part in projects all this week. Each volunteer project is aimed at caring for Oregon's water resources, from source to sea. That involves removing invasive plant species, nurturing native plants, and collecting litter. Last year, during the 2022 Oregon Spring Cleanup, more than 3,500 volunteers removed 44,000 pounds of litter and debris statewide. Each piece of litter removed during these projects prevents it from entering a nearby river, waterway, or storm drain, and making its way to the sea and shore. / BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT: An updated analysis released yesterday by state officials finds there likely has never been a better time to be a cannabis consumer in Oregon. Josh Lehner with the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis writes that prices are at record lows, falling significantly as supply and the number of retailers has grown over the past couple of years. The numbers were released on what's become known as "4-20 Day," a holiday of sorts for cannabis users. The report finds that wholesale prices for usable marijuana are down 54 percent, while retail prices are down 30 percent since March 2021. Extract prices are down 15 percent and are also at record lows. The numbers indicate that consumers over the past year appear have used and consumed cannabis products at about the same level as during the past two years. But with low prices, they have pocketed the savings or spent it on other items in their budget due to high inflation. At the same time, if the volume of sales is relatively steady but prices are declining, state economists warn that means business revenues and tax collections are declining, as well—by up to \$25 million in the current biennium. / AGRICULTURE: Oregon's nursery and greenhouse industry remains the leading agricultural commodity in the state. Its value in 2021—the most recent year for complete numbers—was \$1.32 billion. That's up 10 percent from the previous year. Analysts say 74 percent or more of Oregon's nursery sales come from out-of-state. Cattle and calves are Number Two, valued at \$676 million. Grass seed rose to Number Three in the state rankings, valued at \$639 million. Most of the grass seed acreage is in the

Willamette Valley, which ag experts tout as the "grass seed capital of the world." Oregon's wine grape industry rebounded in production and value after contending with 2020's wildfires, extreme heat events, COVID-19 restrictions, and labor shortages. Total wine grape production in 2021 increased 53 percent over the previous year and the value of wine grape production increased by 72 percent to about \$271 million. / WILDLIFE: He's two years old and does a bit of wandering. The collared wolf known as OR125 was originally from the Indigo Pack in a corner of Douglas County. But recently, he was spotted in the Mosby Creek area outside Cottage Grove. State wildlife biologists say wolves at this age disperse from their pack in search of territory and a mate. They say he might just be passing through and because he has a collar it's easy to tell the difference between him and a coyote. Earlier this week, state officials said Oregon's population of gray wolves was growing slowly, although the animals continue to expand their habitat westward. Oregon's wolf total increased by three last year, from 175 to 178. Wildlife officials documented 20 wolf deaths last year. According to the report from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, 17 were killed by humans. Seven were killed illegally. Six of the wolves were killed legally for repeatedly harassing or killing livestock, two perished in car crashes, one was killed after it harassed horses near a family backcountry camping site and another was shot by a sheep herder when it was caught in-the-act of attacking his livestock working dogs. Wolves in Oregon are on the federal Endangered Species list. Officials with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife remind you that it is illegal to shoot a wolf except in defense of human life or in certain situations where they have attacked livestock. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/24/23

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NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

EVENTS, COMMUNITY, SPORTS: This is Eugene Marathon Week. The Pacific Northwest's largest marathon and takes place each spring on the last weekend of April. Thousands of participants are arriving in town. Things get underway on Friday with a Wellness Expo and evening panel. On Saturday, there's the Kids' Duck Dash and the Eugene 5k. The marathon and half-marathon begin at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday. The race starts outside Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus and wraps up inside the track stadium as runners cross the finish line. There's also a concluding festival at the facility with local and national vendors and food booths. The marathon and half-marathon courses wind through the communities of Eugene and Springfield. Much of the route follows the Willamette River. A reminder that parking around the University of Oregon is limited. While many campus lots allow public parking on weekends, read the signs carefully. The same goes for on-street parking meters, many of which are active on Saturdays. Many local parking garages, however, are free on weekends. While pre-race shuttles are available only to marathon and halfmarathon participants wearing their bibs, the post-race shuttles are open to participants and spectators. / LAW ENFORCEMENT: Saturday marked the 12th anniversary of the death of Eugene Police Officer Chris Kilcullen. He was fatally shot during a traffic stop off Highway 126 at 52nd Street in Springfield. Eugene Police and a group of family and friends paid tribute at the site, placing a commemorative wreath during a roadside gathering. Also on Saturday, Kilcullen's daughter Katie carried a flag honoring her father during the grand entry at the Oregon High School Equestrian Team event. A 12-year veteran of the Eugene Police Department, Kilcullen also served in the Rapid Deployment Unit, Crisis Negotiations Team, and Crisis Intervention Team. He received more than 85 commendations for his professional demeanor and positive interactions with the community. Chris Kilcullen worked with us here at New Country 93.3 while he attended college and prepared for his career with Eugene Police. He's remembered for treating people with respect, dignity, and compassion—and for his wry sense of humor. He is deeply missed. / BUSINESS: Bed Bath & Beyond — one of the original "big box" retailers known for its seemingly endless offerings of sheets, towels, and kitchen gadgets — filed for bankruptcy protection yesterday. It comes after years of dismal sales and losses and numerous failed turnaround plans. In the bankruptcy filing, the retailer said it anticipates closing all its stores—including here in Eugene—by June 30. Bed Bath & Beyond will

process returns and exchanges under usual policies until May 24 for items purchased prior to Sunday. Company officials anticipate that gift cards, gift certificates, and loyalty certificates will be accepted through May 8, but say the stores will stop accepting coupons on Wednesday. The store closings will put thousands of jobs at risk—including here in Eugene. The company employs 14,000 workers, according to the court filing. That's drastically down from 32,000 as of February 2022. For now, the company's 360 Bed Bath & Beyond stores and its 120 Buy Buy Baby sites as well as its websites will remain open to serve customers. / WILDFIRES, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, LEGAL: A legal dispute in Montana could drastically curb the government's use of aerial fire retardant to combat wildfires. It comes after environmentalists raised concerns about waterways that are being polluted with the potentially toxic red slurry that's dropped from aircraft. But a coalition that includes residents of Paradise, California — where a 2018 blaze killed 85 people and destroyed the town — says if the court rules against the U.S. Forest Service, it could put lives, homes, and forests at risk. The advocacy group that's suing the agency claims officials are ignoring a federal clean water law by continuing to use retardant without taking adequate precautions to protect streams and rivers. The group, Eugene-based Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, requested an injunction blocking officials from using aerial retardant until they get a pollution permit. The dispute comes as wildfires across North America have grown bigger and more destructive over the past two decades because climate change, people moving into fire-prone areas, and overgrown forests are creating more catastrophic megafires that are harder to fight. Forest Service officials acknowledged in court filings that retardant has been dropped into waterways more than 200 times over the past decade. They said it happens usually by mistake and in less than one percent of the thousands of drops annually, and that environmental damage from fires can exceed the pollution from retardant. Government officials and firefighters say fire retardant can be crucial to slowing the advance of a blaze so firefighters can try to stop it. Forest Service officials said they are trying to come into compliance with the law by getting a pollution permit but that could take years. But leaders of the environmental group say destructive retardant dumps that damages waterways should be illegal. / MILITARY: The Oregon National Guard and U.S. Navy on Friday held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open its Unmanned Aerial System Operating Facility in Eastern Oregon. The 12,400 square-foot facility, along with an aircraft storage building, are located at the edge of the town of Boardman. Construction on the \$13.3-million project started in 2021. It includes paved organizational vehicle parking and runway, a controlled waste facility and flammable materials facility. For two decades, the more than 6,800 surrounding acres have been used both for Tactical Unmanned Aerial System testing and flight, as well as a Multipurpose Machine Gun Range. The Naval Weapons System Training Facility in Boardman is used as the principal training grounds for testing U.S. Navy EA-18G Growler aircraft assigned to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and is used for drone testing. Additionally, the range has been used by the Oregon Air National Guard to conduct air-to-ground weapons systems applications. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/25/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WEATHER, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH: With the arrival of warmer Spring weather, pollen levels are beginning to rise. So, too, are allergy symptoms. This time of year, tree pollen is the primary culprit. In town, many local street trees also are in bloom, including birch trees and their relatives with their pollen-laden catkins. Elsewhere, native alder and maple trees lead the way. Grass pollen levels are lower but will climb in the coming weeks. If you suffer from seasonal allergies, there are steps you can take to help reduce your spring allergy symptoms, such as closing your windows and using an indoor air purifier. Those leftover COVID masks? If you wear them outdoors, they can filter some of the pollen. Consider changing your clothes when you come in from outdoors. And think about washing your hair before you turn in for the night. That way, you don't grind pollen into your pillowcase and later into your face. / COMMUNITY, EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT: Twenty years of rain, occasional snow, and ice; winter winds and summer sun. It's time to replace the aging roof atop the Downtown Eugene Public Library. The renovation begins May 1st and will continue throughout the summer. And, yes, library officials know that construction noise and the quiet of a public library don't exactly go together. They're working with the roofing crew to minimize the noise and inconvenience. At times, there will be some detours outside and inside the building at 10th and Olive Streets. But officials say patrons still will be able to access all the services and programs they know and love. Despite the construction, the library will remain open to the public with all services available during regular hours. Visitors can expect some level of inconvenience as the project is likely to cause noise, odors, and parking limitations at various times. Occasional street closures will be announced through street signs. Every effort will be made to minimize disruption, and the project will be completed as efficiently as possible. This renovation will ensure the Downtown Library remains a landmark in the community for years to come. / CRIME: Lane County Sheriff's deputies have arrested the suspect in Sunday's armed robbery at a local coffee business on Highway 58 in Pleasant Hill. Investigators say 40-yearold Brian Keith Gifford of Klamath Falls was located in the Junction City area after police there spotted a vehicle matching the description of the one sought in the case. An employee at the Pleasant Hill coffee business told officials a man pointed a handgun at her and demanded the cash inside the register. Deputies say that Gifford in the suspect vehicle, an older-model purple Ford Taurus, had been spotted earlier in the day behaving suspiciously at another business. /

COMMUNITY, UTILITIES, HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, EDUCATION: Tree planting in U.S. cities is nothing new. While many people love the beauty and cooling canopy of urban trees. Tree advocates say they can reduce dirty air in cities, reduce dangerously high temperatures, improve mental health, and provide nicer places for kids to grow up, study, and play. Each year, the Eugene Water & Electric Board's Greenpower customers vote to award Greenpower Grants to local organizations. Over the years, the grants have funded everything from solar installations to educational events for kindergarteners. On Saturday, Earth Day, the latest \$50,000 grant was announced to local nonprofit Friends of Trees in Eugene-Springfield. This is the third award for Friends of Trees. The new grant will fund the expansion of the group's Neighborhood Tree program in areas that have comparatively fewer trees than others. Many are in lower-income neighborhoods and business districts. On Earth Day, Friends of Trees hosted a tree planting event where 23 trees were planted throughout Eugene. At Fairfield Elementary, 9 trees were planted by a crew of 6 volunteers. It was one of the final planting events of the season before Friends of Trees moves on to their watering cycle for the year. Planting will pick back up in the fall. / EDUCATION: It's not just humans. New research at the University of Oregon finds that if you give a worm some weed, he or she might want a snack to go with. During the study, worms exposed to a cannabinoid become even more interested in the kind of food that they already prefer. The scientists say the effect is similar to craving potato chips and ice cream after a few puffs of marijuana, a phenomenon known scientifically as "hedonic feeding" but colloquially called "the munchies." The study, led by neuroscientist Shawn Lockery in the College of Arts and Sciences, points to worms as a useful tool for understanding more about the many roles that cannabinoids naturally play in the body. And it could help researchers develop better drugs that target that system. He and his team published their findings April 20 in Current Biology. When Lockery and his team started the research, recreational marijuana had just been legalized in Oregon, "so we thought, well heck, let's just try this," Lockery said. "We thought it would be amusing if it worked." The idea wasn't totally out of left field. Research in the Lockery lab focuses on the neurobiology of decision-making. He often uses food choice experiments, tempting the animals with bacterial blends to see which they prefer under different conditions. / ELECTIONS: Next month' special election on a variety of local contests is quickly approaching. Lane County Elections officials remind you that if you need to register to vote or update your registration ahead of the May 16 election, you need to do so no later than today. You may register online at www.oregonvotes.gov as long as you complete the form no later than 11:59 p.m. tonight. If you're registering by mail, the form must be postmarked no later than today. If you hand-deliver your voter registration form, it must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. at the Lane County Election Office at 275 W 10th Avenue in Eugene. Ballots will be mailed beginning April 27. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/26/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WILDFIRES, LEGAL: Proceedings began this week in a high-profile trial over some of the devastating Labor Day 2020 wildfires. In a \$1.6 billion class-action lawsuit, utility PacifiCorp is being sued for its role. The Portland-based utility. Oregon's second largest, has been implicated in multiple blazes, including the Santiam Canyon fires east of Salem; the Echo Mountain Complex near Lincoln City; the South Obenchain fire near Eagle Point; and the Two Four Two fire near the southwest Oregon town of Chiloquin. The fires killed nine people, burned across more than 1.875 square miles, and destroyed upward of 5.000 homes and structures. The suit claims PacificCorp was negligent in failing to shut off power as a precaution to its 600,000 customers during the strong windstorm that helped drive the blazes. An attorney for the plaintiffs contends the fires were predictable and preventable. But an attorney representing the utility disputed that, telling jurors that PacifiCorp had been on high alert and that its actions were similar to most other utilities that did not proactively cut power. Jurors in the Multnomah County trial will determine PacifiCorp's responsibility, if any, in four of those blazes. But no matter the outcome, The Oregonian and OregonLive report the case is likely to reshape the way Oregon's electric utilities respond to increasing wildfire risks amid climate change, consistent drought conditions, and a spike in the average number of acres burned annually. Those behind the lawsuit argue that prior to the Labor Day fires, the utility had been repeatedly warned by state regulators about deficient tree-trimming and vegetation management around its power lines. Lawyers contend the utility's employees also were told about increasingly alarming forecasts about the coming Labor Day windstorm and extreme fire danger, both from the National Weather Service and the utility's own contract meteorologist. But the utility's attorney argued that the plaintiffs are trying to blame PacifiCorp in hindsight and with an overly simplified version of what happened. He says jurors need to consider the context of climate change and the role that forest management has in causing and preventing wildfires. / COMMUNITY, SAFETY: The mowers are out on roads maintained by Lane County. They're clearing grass and brush from the shoulder and right-of-way typically the stretch from the edge of the pavement to a fence or private property line. In unincorporated parts of Eugene and Springfield that includes the planting area between the sidewalk and curb. Officials say mowing preserves clear lines of sight for drivers and reduces fire risk. If you're a driver, keep an eye out for crews. You are allowed to pass mowers on the left when it is safe to do so. But

remember that's only when it is safe to do so, and you must yield to any oncoming traffic. If you're a property owner along any of the roadways, help prepare by ensuring nothing is blocking the mower's path. That includes rocks, fixed objects, political signs, fencing that's fallen over, and any plants or ornamental vegetation that's spread onto the right-of-way. / FISHERIES: Oregon's governor has requested it and, this week, members of Oregon's Congressional delegation are lobbying for it. They're urging leaders of the Department of Commerce to issue a federal disaster declaration for the state's salmon fishing industry. This year's commercial season for fall-run Chinook is closed along much of the West Coast. A disaster declaration would release immediate federal aid. Many of the salmon caught off Oregon's coast originate in California's Klamath and Sacramento River systems. But that population has declined dramatically after years of drought and water diversions. The closure of the 2023 season is for all commercial and most recreational fishing of fall-run Chinook affects multiple coastal communities, businesses, families, and tribes. One estimate puts the potential financial loss in value for the sector at 82 percent. / EVENTS, ENVIRONMENT: Oregonians joined together during Earth Week for the annual SOLVE Oregon Spring Cleanup. Between April 15-23, thousands of volunteers participated in efforts to clean up litter and debris, remove invasive plant species, and restore natural habitats across Oregon's beaches, neighborhoods, and natural areas. SOLVE officials say more than 5,250 volunteers took part in the projects. During the 121 events, volunteers collected an estimated 81,714 pounds of litter and marine debris, and several acres of invasive plant species. / TRANSPORTATION, LAW ENFORCEMENT: They are legal in a handful of Oregon cities but soon could appear in a lot more. State lawmakers this week approved a bill that now awaits the governor's signature. It would allow every Oregon community to install photo radar cameras to catch speeders—if city officials are willing to pay for their operation. Currently, ten cities are allowed to install such cameras, including Eugene. Supporters say the photo radar not only catches speedsters in the act but slows drivers down and reduces the risk of deadly crashes. Backers say that protects drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The cameras could be used on residential streets and in school zones. Officials would need to clearly post signs announcing that traffic laws are being photo-enforced. And the cameras could only be used in a single location for four hours per day. / CRIME, ILLEGAL DRUGS: Investigators say two big seizures of illegal opioids during a pair of traffic stops during the past week underscore the scope of the illicit drug trade in and through Oregon. On Sunday along Interstate Five near Salem, Oregon State Police say they stopped a 22year-old man who had two duffle bags in his trunk. Federal prosecutors say the bags contained roughly 33 pounds of powdered fentanyl, 53 pounds of methamphetamine, more than one pound of heroin, and ten pounds of cocaine. On Friday in Eastern Oregon, State Police on Interstate 84 near La Grande arrested a 36-year-old Arizona man following a traffic stop. Prosecutors say troopers found more than 100,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl, two pounds of powdered fentanyl, and six pounds of cocaine. They say the suspect's 17-year-old daughter was in the passenger seat. / CRIME: Two-and-ahalf years in prison for the Eugene man convicted of an arson in May of last year that damaged the TJ Maxx store on Coburg Road. Investigators say 34-year-old Zachary Everett Oberle lit the fire as a distraction for his girlfriend to shoplift.

Damage to the store was estimated at more than \$92,000. He was located and arrested in November and last week changed his plea in the case to guilty. Eugene Police say during the investigation they served a search warrant at the girlfriend's apartment and recovered some of stolen property. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 04/27/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

CRIME, BUSINESS: Two weeks after it was damaged by a late-night arson, the owners and employees of downtown Eugene's Brenner's Furniture are reopening today and holding a literal Fire Sale. Crews from PureSpace, which specializes in restoration of locations damaged by fire, soot, smoke, and water, conducted an extensive cleaning of the store and its surviving inventory. Operators of Brenner's say the items being sold have been deep-cleaned and sterilized, show no signs of physical damage, and will be sold at a steep discount so they can completely restock the store next month. Eugene Police arrested a 24-year-old man, Trenton Austin Fisk, in connection with the case. Witnesses said he was breaking windows of the business before the fire started. / SAFETY: Oregon State Police say a 63-year-old Veneta man died Tuesday evening when his motorcycle struck a guardrail as he was merging onto the westbound lane of the Beltline Highway. It happened at the Highway 99 interchange. Investigators say Harlin Adair Grondsdahl died at the scene. The crash and investigation closed the onramp for more than three hours. ; Eugene Police say a 43-year-old pedestrian was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries Tuesday afternoon after being struck by a semi-truck. Witnesses told investigators the person was running across Highway 99 near Elmira Road when the crash occurred. The pedestrian was briefly pinned under the truck's cab. / CRIME: Eugene Police on Tuesday night arrested a 21-year-old man after he was spotted driving recklessly, tried to elude officers, and briefly disappeared into someone's yard. It started near the Four Corners area at Highway 99 and Roosevelt, where the Ford Mustang was first spotted speeding and hitting the center median. It ended in a neighborhood off Pattison Street with the help of a K-9 unit. 21-year-old Alejandro Ayala was arrested in the case and charged with DUII, Driving While Suspended, Reckless Driving, and Eluding by Foot. Investigators say Ayala had purchased the vehicle the previous week.; Tuesday evening, Eugene Police responded to the report of a woman who reportedly used a knife to break into a parked Toyota Camry on West 8th Avenue between Charnelton and Lincoln Streets and climbed into the back seat. Asked by a bystander whether it was her vehicle, she allegedly said that regardless of to whom it belonged, she now had taken possession of it. The car's owner arrived as a police officer was trying to speak with the woman and told police he did not know her. The woman refused police requests to exit the vehicle on her own, so officers unlocked the back door, pulled her out of the car, placed her in a police car, and drove er to jail. She's identified as 33-year-old

Kimberly Michelle Pratt of Eugene. / EDUCATION, COMMUNITY, CRIME, SAFETY, HEALTH, YOUTH: Spring weather is finally arriving. That means the unofficial start of party season in neighborhoods surrounding the University of Oregon. A new program from the Associated Students of the U-of-O and the campus police department aims to calm the gatherings before they become issues for neighbors. Under the ASUO's Party Registration Program, students planning to hold social gatherings attend a training session covering being a good neighbor, local ordinances and fines, and what to expect when a party is registered. Registered party addresses and contacts are shared weekly with Eugene Police dispatch. If a complaint call is received, dispatch calls the student host with a 20-minute warning to quiet the party down. When assistance is needed, the University of Oregon Police Department will be the first line of response to deescalate problems. If a second complaint is received, the UOPD will give an on-scene warning and provide the host with any assistance needed. The goal is to give students tools to manage events, provide an understanding of the expectations of the community and neighbors, and reduce the need for police response. In addition to working with students, residents of nearby neighborhoods received information about the new program through their neighborhood association newsletter. / VETERANS: It's known as Honor Flight. Every year across the country, organizations raise funds to take military veterans from the World War li through Vietnam eras to the nation's capital to visit war memorials and other historic locations, free of charge. The South Willamette Valley chapter of Oregon Honor Flight has another group of male and female veterans preparing to leave today. At noon at the Veterans' Affairs clinic on Eugene's Chad Drive, there will be an official send-off. In Linn County, there is a 1 p.m. send-off outside the Linn County Veterans' Services offices on Southwest 3rd Avenue. / EMPLOYMENT: It's not unusual for people to work two jobs at some point in their life. Most say they do it to earn extra money, meet expenses, or pay off debt although there are a small number who say their main reason for working two gigs is because they enjoy it. Working two or more jobs tends to be a temporary situation for most workers, often only lasting a month or two before they return to just a single job. According to numbers from the Oregon Employment Department, last year 97,000 Oregonians held more than one job. That's only about 4.6 percent of the total workforce. The pandemic might be one reason the number is relatively low. Oregon's multiple-jobholding rate reached a record high of 8.7 percent in 1995. And we might never reach that level again. Research shows people are increasingly less likely to take on a second job than they were in the past. / EMPLOYMENT, FAMILY, HEALTH, GOVERNMENT: More than 150,000 Oregon employers are filing their quarterly combined payroll reports that are due May 1. This also is the first time employers will include Paid Leave Oregon contributions. Paid Leave Oregon allows employees to take paid time off for some of life's most important moments. It covers leave for the birth or adoption of a child, for serious illness or injury, for taking care of a seriously ill family member, and for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or harassment. Contributions to the program by large employers and all employees, regardless of employer size, started January 1. Benefits will be available to employees in September 2023. Almost all employers and employees in Oregon are covered by and must contribute to the Paid Leave Oregon trust fund. The only exceptions are Tribal governments and federal employees. Small employers do

not contribute the employer portion but must still collect and submit employee contributions. If employers are reporting subject wages for Unemployment Insurance, then they need to report for Paid Leave Oregon as well. Even reimbursing employers who do not pay taxes for Unemployment Insurance are responsible for paying paid leave contributions. State officials are offering an open house at noon today, April 27, when employers can drop in and ask questions. Experts from the Oregon Employment Department will provide answers in real time about how to use Frances Online to file combined payroll for both Paid Leave Oregon and the Unemployment Insurance Program. / HEALTH, YOUTH: U.S. adults are smoking less. Cigarette smoking dropped to another new all-time low last year, with 1 in 9 adults saying they were current smokers. But ecigarette use rose to about 6 percent last year, or 1 in 17 adults. The preliminary findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are based on survey responses from more than 27,000 adults. Smoking and vaping rates are almost reversed for teens. Only about 2 percent of high school students were smoking traditional cigarettes last year, but about 14 percent were using ecigarettes, according to other CDC data. Cigarette smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer, heart disease and stroke, and it's long been considered the leading cause of preventable death. In the mid-1960s, 42 percent of U.S. adults were smokers. The rate has been gradually dropping for decades. That's thanks to cigarette taxes, tobacco product price hikes and smoking bans. /

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Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

EVENTS, SPORTS, COMMUNITY: It's Eugene Marathon Weekend. The Pacific Northwest's largest marathon is attracting thousands to town. Events get underway today with a Wellness Expo and an evening panel. On Saturday. there's the Kids' Duck Dash and the Eugene 5k. The marathon and half-marathon begin at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday. The races start outside Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus and wraps up inside the track stadium as runners cross the finish line. There's also a concluding festival at the facility with local and national vendors and food booths. The marathon and half-marathon courses wind through the communities of Eugene and Springfield. Much of the route follows the Willamette River. A reminder that parking around the University of Oregon is limited. While many campus lots allow public parking on weekends, read the signs carefully. The same goes for on-street parking meters, many of which are active on Saturdays. Many local parking garages, however, are free on weekends. Lane Transit District also is rerouting some buses during the races. You may ask the driver to stop near your destination. Pre-race shuttles are available only to marathon and half-marathon participants wearing their bibs, the post-race shuttles are open to participants and spectators. / CRIME: Eugene Police say a motorcyclist was hospitalized last night for life-threatening injuries after fleeing an attempted traffic stop. Investigators say the officer did not give pursuit. But officials say the motorcycle rider crashed in the southbound lanes just south of the Ferry Street Bridge and was reported to be under a vehicle. The crash closed both directions of traffic on the Ferry Street Bridge for several hours. / HEALTH, LOW-INCOME, GOVERNMENT: Some Medicaid recipients complain errors and confusion are leading to them being kicked off the federally and statefunded health coverage programs. Eligibility rules were greatly expanded during the pandemic, as states were prohibited from removing anyone deemed ineligible. Now that's ending, and Oregon and other states are undertaking an unprecedented review of the 84 million Medicaid enrollees nationwide. The federal government is requiring states to remove people whose incomes are too high for the programs offered to the lowest-income Americans, including the Oregon Health Plan. Millions are expected to lose insurance coverage. Advocacy groups have warned for months that confusion and errors will abound, wrongly leaving some of the country's poorest people suddenly without health insurance and unable to pay for necessary medical care. Some people say they have been mailed pre-populated application forms that include inaccurate income or

household information but leave Medicaid enrollees no space to fix the state's errors. In some states, notices arrived earlier this month telling enrollees they would lose coverage in two weeks. Some people might not realize they no longer have Medicaid until they go to fill a prescription or visit the doctor. Last year, members of Congress worried that some states were ill-equipped to properly handle the number of calls that would flood their lines during the Medicaid review process. They required states to submit data about their call volume, wait times, and what's known as the "abandonment rate" where callers give up and hang up. Officials with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services say they will try to work with states where call wait times are especially high. Some health care providers and their staff also are taking it upon themselves to let patients know about the complicated process they'll have to navigate over the next year. / HEALTH, YOUTH, CHILDREN, EDUCATION: Can school help reduce the rate of depression among children and teens? A new study out of the University of Oregon finds they can. The key, according to the research, is school-based depression prevention programs for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students. The work was commissioned by the U-of-O's new "Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health." It looked at data from 70 studies with a combined 44thousand participants and found that, on average, students in depression prevention programs had a 33 percent reduced risk of depression. The report also found that even when students show signs of depression, those who took part in prevention programs often had less severe depression symptoms. However, there was not enough data to say which students would benefit the most from the programs. Still, the researchers say the nation is experiencing an unprecedented youth mental health crisis. They hope studies like this can help schools fund and implement such prevention programs. Depression is one of the most common mental health challenges facing students today, affecting nearly five million youth in 2021, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Additionally, in a 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 44 percent of high school students reported they persistently felt sad or hopeless during the previous year, up from 28 percent in 2011. GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYMENT, FAMILY, HEALTH: State lawmakers yesterday voted to give the Oregon Employment Department the flexibility to further delay the state's long-awaited paid family and medical leave program if the agency is unable to collect enough money by August to adequately fund it. The bill is headed to the governor for her signature. The Oregonian and OregonLive report that the bill is intended to build in a delay if the program is not considered wellfunded enough to remain solvent. Reporter Jamie Goldberg writes that the bill drew bipartisan support amid concerns over the need to have a contingency plan. The program, known as Paid Leave Oregon, is set to begin paying benefits on September 3. But things could be delayed until December, and then potentially delayed again every three months, until the employment department determines the fund is solvent. Oregon workers were originally supposed to start receiving paid leave benefits in January, three-and-a-half years after lawmakers approved what was one of the most expansive paid leave programs in the country. But decisions by employment department leaders and the department's failure to meet key benchmarks led state lawmakers to delay the program by eight months, according to an investigation by The Oregonian and OregonLive. The newspaper's investigation concluded that the delay is costing Oregon workers

approximately \$450 million in benefits that they would have received if the program started on time, and that a further delay would cost Oregon workers even more. Starting January 1, workers began paying six-tenths of one percent of their gross wages every paycheck and employers began contributing an additional four-tenths of one percent to fund the program. That gave the state eight months to build up its trust fund before the program's scheduled launch. The agency set the contribution level at the maximum allowable rate with the expectation that it would have enough money to pay out six months' worth of benefits when the program launches in September. The program will cover leave for the birth or adoption of a child, for serious illness or injury, caring for a seriously ill family member and for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or harassment, according to the state. Most workers will be able to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave annually through the program, although those who are pregnant, have given birth or have health issues related to childbirth may be eligible for up to 14 weeks of paid leave, the state said. / WILDFIRE RECOVERY, HOUSING, COMMUNITY: Sunday morning at 6:30 p.m. Community Forum, we learn more about Homes for Good, which is Lane County's housing agency and at the heart of the effort to provide affordable, low-income housing and services. And it's one of the big drivers in the creation of more affordable housing for Lane County residents. We'll sit down with director Jacob Fox to hear about how it serves more than 5,000 lower-income households. Homes for Good also works to develop new housing units—including in more rural parts of the county. That includes a planned 80-unit development in Florence at the site of the former Siuslaw High School football field. There's also a big effort to assist residents in the wake of 2020's Holiday Farm Fire up the McKenzie. Homes for Good is rebuilding the Lazy Days Mobile Home Park, about a mile east of Blue River. It was destroyed by the blaze. The land's been cleared. Homes for Good has secured the funding to rebuild. Site work is underway to restore the wells, sewer, electrical, and other services. Nineteen modular homes are already built and being prepared for transport to the property. Ten "park model" trailers—a type of tiny home—also will be installed at the site. The effort will help bring some desperately needed housing back to the Blue River area. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 05/01/23

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Morning News

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ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

SPORTS: It was a busy weekend here in Eugene-Springfield. Tens of thousands turned out for Oregon Football's "Spring Game" at Autzen Stadium. They enjoyed sunshine and warm temperatures on Saturday. On Sunday morning, the clouds and cooler temperatures rolled in—ideal weather for the Eugene Marathon and Half-Marathon. Clint McKelvey won the Men's division, Sara Lopez the Women's category. McKelvey broke the finish tape in Hayward Field at two hours, 16 minutes, and 34 seconds. He knocked off a series of five-minute and 13-second miles to close out the race. Lopez won in two hours, 33 minutes, and 48 seconds. She had a finishing pace of five-minutes and 52-seconds. Both said they were surprised—but pleased—by their wins. Each said their main goal had been to beat the U.S. Olympic Marathon qualifying standards. / WILDFIRE RECOVERY: Another step forward in the recovery from 2020's devastating Labor Day wildfires. On Friday, the Bureau of Land Management reopened the last of the public lands it had closed after the Holiday Farm Fire. For more than two years, BLM crews worked to improve safety in the fire-damaged area up the McKenzie Valley. That included removing weakened, dead, and dying trees along the gravel portions of Goodpasture Road and Mt. Hagen Rd (Road 2611). But while the closures have been lifted, some hazards remain. BLM officials are asking visitors to remain aware of their surroundings, especially when walking or parking in areas with fireweakened trees. Officials remind you that conditions could still be dangerous. In addition to the possibility of falling trees and limbs, there is loose rock, wildfire ash and dust, and unstable soils. Burned areas also might be more fragile and susceptible to damage from use. / ECONOMY, BUSINESS, FINANCES: Regulators seized troubled First Republic Bank early today and sold all its deposits and most of its assets to JPMorgan Chase Bank in a bid to head off further banking turmoil in the U.S. San Francisco-based First Republic is the third midsize bank to fail in two months. It is the second-biggest bank failure in U.S. history, behind only Washington Mutual, which collapsed at the height of the 2008 financial crisis and was also taken over by JPMorgan. Recent bank failures might have you worried about your money. But there's no need for concern if your money is in a bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and you have less than \$250,000 there. If the bank fails, you'll get your money back. If you have more than \$250,000 in one bank, that amount is considered uninsured, and experts recommend that you move the remainder to a different financial institution. / CRIME: Life in prison plus 90 months. The man who pleaded guilty to

the August 2021 fatal shooting of a Pleasant Hill woman and wounding her husband was sentenced Friday. Lane County's District Attorney's Office announced earlier this month that Andrew Geronimi had changed his plea to guilty on charges of Murder, Attempted Murder, Assault, and Burglary. Investigators say Geromini, who was 34 at the time, fatally shot 30-year-old Caelen Bosisto in the chest and her husband, Stanton, in the head during the attack at their home. The couple's eight-week-old baby was at the home but uninjured. Family and friends scrambled to provide care while the infant's father recovered. Geromini was a fugitive from Michigan and officials said there was no connection between him and the victims. They say he was high on drugs when the attack occurred. KEZI-TV reports that on Friday, a judge handed down the life sentence plus 90 months. Senior prosecutor Erik Hasselman told a KEZI reporter that Geromini would not be eligible for parole for at least 37 years. Family members of the victims said they would do everything they could to make sure Geromini spends the rest of his life behind bars. / GOVERNMENT: Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan is in political hot water, with Republican lawmakers calling for her resignation and the Democratic governor seeking investigations because Fagan took a consulting job with a marijuana firm. Fagan released a statement late Friday saying she welcomed the governor's inquiry. The matter came to a head earlier that day after Fagan's office released an audit of the state's marijuana regulators, the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission. The audit called for the OLCC to "reform" some rules for marijuana businesses, saying they are "burdens" when combined with federal restrictions on interstate commerce, banking, and taxation. Fagan, a Democrat, recused herself from the audit because a spokesman says she is a paid consultant of an affiliate of marijuana retail chain La Mota. Fagan has not disclosed how much the consultancy pays. Willamette Week, a Portland newspaper, reported that La Mota's co-owner has hosted fundraisers for top Democratic Oregon politicians, including Fagan, while the co-owner, her partner, and their business allegedly owe \$1.7 million in unpaid bills and more in state and federal taxes. Her spokesperson denied that Fagan's outside work represented a conflict of interest and said Oregon Government Ethics Commission guidelines specifically allow public officials to maintain private employment. But hours after the audit press conference, Republican legislative leaders, who are in the minority in the Legislature, called for Fagan to resign over the consulting job. And Governor Tina Kotek, a Democrat, indicated later in the day that she, too, had concerns.

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30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS: Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan apologized Monday for taking a job as a consultant for a marijuana company part of an industry that her office just audited — that paid far more than her state salary. Fagan also revealed details of her consultancy, which paid \$10,000 per month, with bonuses three times that amount if she helped the company get licensed in other states. Fagan, a Democrat who is the state's second-highest ranking official, says she intends to hold onto her elected position despite Republican calls for her to resign. Governor Tina Kotek, a fellow Democrat, has requested investigations by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission and the Oregon Department of Justice. The matter came to a head after Fagan's office released an audit Friday that called for the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission to "reform" some rules for marijuana businesses, saying they are "burdens" when combined with federal restrictions on interstate commerce. banking, and taxation. But Fagan had stepped away from direct involvement in the audit of Oregon's marijuana regulatory agency because she is a paid consultant of an affiliate of marijuana retail chain La Mota. Fagan said Monday that ethics guidelines allow outside employment and that the consultancy did not represent a conflict of interest. Fagan's annual salary as secretary of state, a job that is responsible for running elections in Oregon and overseeing state audits, is \$77,000. Fagan told reporters she is divorced with two young children and has student loans and other bills that she says her secretary of state's salary is not enough to cover. Fagan said her consultant job had nothing to do with her elected position. Reporters, though, were skeptical. They asked why she would be hired as a pot consultant unless La Mota wanted her to leverage her position to expand their business in other states, especially when there are numerous bona fide marijuana business experts in Oregon. / POLITICS, HEALTH, LGBTQ: Abortion remains legal at all stages of pregnancy in Oregon, and state law already bars health insurance companies from discriminating based on gender identity. But Democratic lawmakers in the Oregon House yesterday approved a sweeping bill intended to protect abortion by boosting legal safeguards and expanding access and insurance coverage. The proposal, which heads to the state senate, also would protect health care for people who are transgender. The party-line vote came after six hours of debate, during which Republican House members sought to stall the proposal or send it back to committee. Supporters say the bill intended to push back against the flurry of anti-abortion and anti-LGBTQ measures in other

states' conservative legislatures. They say such legislation has compelled people to travel to states like Oregon in search of such care. The bill would implement a wide-ranging series of measures, including shielding patients and providers from lawsuits originating in states where abortion and gender-affirming care are now restricted. It would also require public universities and community colleges with student health centers to provide emergency contraception and medication abortion. The parts of the proposal that have proved to be the most contentious have to do with minors. Under the legislation, doctors would be allowed to provide an abortion to anyone regardless of age, and it would bar them in certain cases from disclosing that to parents. Democratic lawmakers have said such scenarios are rare. But critics said this could exclude parents from key aspects of their child's health care. Additionally, the bill would expand insurance coverage for gender-affirming health care by, among other things, barring insurers from defining such procedures as cosmetic. / HEALTH, SAFETY: There's a recall underway of two lots of two-, five- and 10-pound bags of Gold Medal Unbleached and Bleached All Purpose Flour. Testing revealed the potential presence of a form of salmonella. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been 13 reported illnesses in 12 states, including Oregon. While salmonella is killed by heat through baking, frying, sautéing or boiling products made with flour, you should avoid eating any raw products that contain the flour. And all surfaces, hands and utensils should be properly cleaned after contact with flour or dough. The bags have "better if used by" dates of March 27, 2024, and March 28, 2024. This recall affects two date codes of Gold Medal Unbleached All-Purpose Flour in the five- and ten-pound bags and two date codes of Gold Medal Bleached All Purpose Flour in the two- and five-pound bags. All other types of Gold Medal Flour are not affected by this recall. Consumers are asked to check their pantries and dispose of the product affected by this recall. Consumers who have had to discard products covered by this recall may contact General Mills Consumer Relations at 1-800-230-8103. / PETS, HEALTH, SAFETY: Veterinarians are growing alarmed by an apparent rise in marijuana poisonings among dogs that ingest discarded joints and edibles on city sidewalks. Canines are eating unfinished joints while strolling with their owners, and more are showing up in animal emergency rooms. The poison control center of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals says cases are rising. Last year, there was an 11 percent increase from the roughly 6,200 cases reported in 2021. Over the past five years, the rise has been about 300 percent. Twenty-one states, including Oregon, have legalized the recreational use of cannabis. One veterinarian says marijuana poisonings were once rare among pets, even when medical dispensaries started opening. Until recently, many occurred at home, when pets got into their owners' stashes. In many cases, owners are unaware that their dogs have eaten a leftover joint until they begin showing signs of toxicity. Even then, owners might not understand what is ailing their pets. Although dogs rarely die from marijuana poisoning, treatment can be expensive, sometimes requiring a trip to the animal emergency room, a stomach pump, and intravenous fluids. The stress on the patient and its owner is also enormous. / HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH: The U.S. surgeon general says loneliness poses health risks as deadly as smoking a dozen cigarettes daily, costing the health industry billions of dollars annually. Today's report from Dr. Vivek Murthy notes that about half of U.S. adults surveyed say they've

experienced loneliness. The surgeon general is calling on workplaces, schools, technology companies, community organizations, parents, and other people to make changes that will boost the country's connectedness. Loneliness increases the risk of premature death by nearly 30 percent, with the report revealing that those with poor social relationships also had a greater risk of stroke and heart disease. Isolation also elevates a person's likelihood of experiencing depression, anxiety, and dementia. Murthy says loneliness is a common feeling that many people experience, when the body sends a message that something we need for survival is missing. The crisis worsened when COVID-19 spread, prompting schools and workplaces to shut their doors, and sending millions of Americans to isolate at home away from relatives or friends. But research shows that Americans, who have become less engaged with worship houses, community organizations and even their own family members in recent decades, were already reporting an increase in feelings of loneliness. Plus, the number of single households has also doubled over the last 60 years. The loneliness epidemic is hitting young people, ages 15 to 24, especially hard. The age group reported a 70 percent drop in the time spent with friends during the same period. Murthy says social media is a key driver of the increase in loneliness. His report suggests that technology companies roll out protections for children especially around their social media behavior. The surgeon general is calling on workplaces, schools, technology companies, community organizations, parents, and other people to make changes that will boost the country's connectedness. /

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ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

SAFETY: It's been a busy couple of days for Eugene-Springfield fire crews, including a pair of fires involving multiple-story buildings. Yesterday afternoon, a fire was reported in the basement workshop of the Best Western hotel on Franklin Boulevard in Eugene. Officials say basement fires are risky on their own but become more challenging to battle when they are part of a high-occupancy building. Crews were able to contain the fire to the workshop area and also keep the blaze from spreading to nearby dry grasses. There were no reported injuries. The cause is under investigation. On Monday afternoon, crews responded to an apartment fire on the upper floor of an apartment building in the 200 block of Eugene's High Street. As the first units arrived, smoke and flames were coming from the unit's window and the blaze was elevated to two alarms to pull in more resources. One person was hospitalized with serious injuries. All other residents of the apartment building were evacuated safely. The cause of the fire is being determined. / CRIME: Investigators with the Florence Police Department and Lane County Sheriff's Office say two masked suspects appear to be behind incidents at a pair of Florence-area markets and should be considered armed and dangerous. On Monday night around 10:30 p.m., there was a report of an attempted burglary at the Cleawox Market located off Highway 101 south of Florence. The market's manager reported two masked men attempted to enter the vacant store after shooting through the front door with a shotgun. Security footage showed the suspects armed with a weapon that resembled an AK-47 style rifle. The suspects did not enter that store, but about half-an-hour later the Florence Police Department responded to the report of an armed robbery at the American Market located in the 2500 block of Highway 101. The suspects were wearing masks and armed with what appeared to be the same weapon used in the earlier incident. Investigators say the suspects stole cigarettes, other smoking devices, and an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspects were last seen heading northbound on Highway 101 in a white, two-door Dodge Dakota pickup with a California plate (53657H2). The suspects are described as white males. / GOVERNMENT: She took heavy criticism for being a highly paid consultant to a marijuana business at the same time her state agency was conducting an audit of Oregon's marijuana regulator. Yesterday, Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan announced her resignation amid sharp criticism from both Republicans and fellow Democrats for having that moonlighting gig. Fagan apologized on Monday for working for the marijuana company, but she indicated that she

intended to serve out the remaining 20 months of her term. But on Tuesday she bowed to pressure to leave her elected office, saying it was clear that her actions had become a distraction. Governor Tina Kotek will appoint a successor to Fagan, whose last day is Monday. The governor said it is essential that Oregonians have trust in their government, and that this is a first step in restoring that trust. / POLITICS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, SAFETY, MENTAL HEALTH, CIVIL LIBERTIES: The Oregon House on a party-line vote yesterday passed a gun control package that backers describe as a "common sense" effort to save lives and reduce mass shootings while preserving personal liberties. But opponents say the bill is unconstitutional and an affront to law-abiding gun owners. They promise immediate court challenges if it is adopted. The Oregonian and OregonLive report the bill now goes to the Senate floor, where it's expected to pass. The governor has expressed her support. House Bill 2005 would prohibit the possession or sale of homemade, unserialized, so-called "ghost guns." It would raise the age to 21 to buy or have guns except for certain hunting rifles. And it would allow cities or counties to bar people licensed to carry a concealed gun from doing so in public buildings and adjacent grounds. The bill's supporters, who say the plan makes communities safer while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners and Oregon's heritage and culture of hunting and recreation. Under the bill, 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds would be able to use several types of rifles and shotguns for hunting, including a single-shot rifle or doublebarreled shotgun. The restriction wouldn't apply to those serving in the military or police officers, whether working full time or in a police reserve program. Federal law already bans the sale of handguns to people under 21. Reporter Maxine Bernstein notes that the Legislative Fiscal Office puts the cost of the bill at \$356,816 to cover two additional full-time employees in the state police Firearms Instant Check System unit. They would help conduct criminal background checks required under the bill for anyone who wants to buy a frame of a gun. The money would cover the next four fiscal years, through June 2027. The state police estimated there would be approximately 1,000 additional background checks annually related to unfinished frame purchases. Currently, state police have a backlog of approximately 29,000 background checks for all gun purchases. / WILDLIFE, AGRICULTURE: Pretty exciting research effort underway in Southern Oregon to keep wolves away from livestock. The Capital Press reports researchers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture are using drones to discourage wolves from approaching and attacking cattle and other domesticated animals. Reporter Sierra Dawn McClain writes that the most effective tactic so far involves outfitting drones with audio recordings of human voices. If wolves approach livestock, the drones fly toward the wolves, shouting warnings such as, "Hey wolf, get out of here!" In initial experiments, when the wolves heard the recordings, they immediately turned and ran. Or, as one official drily remarked, "I think I can say unequivocally the wolves were not thrilled when the drones approached." The team is also using drones to conduct surveillance on wolves using aerial cameras. The project's lead researcher, with the oh-so-appropriate name of Paul Wolf says the effort is showing a lot of promise. Researchers started the study last summer after officials confirmed the Rogue Pack had killed several livestock. Over the better part of two months, they had 51 interactions with wolves. They ranged from preventing wolves from approaching livestock to breaking wolves away from a steer they were attacking. Ranchers are excited

about the project's potential, saying it appears to be the best tool we have out there so far. He said in areas where wolves are not federally protected, the use of a drone to scare a wolf away from livestock does not require a permit so long as the drone operator meets several requirements under Oregon's wolf management plan. In parts of Oregon where wolves are federally protected, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers permits on a case-by-case basis. It is expensive: Wolf is testing two types of drones, which cost about \$18,000 each. Funding for the trials came from county wolf committees, nonprofits and federal resources, including from spending packages passed by Congress. /

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CRIME, EDUCATION: It was a hoax—and a very disruptive one. Now, Eugene Police are asking for leads as they seek the person or persons behind yesterday's threat that led to the evacuation and an extensive search of South Eugene High School. It forced the school to cancel classes for the rest of the day. Those students who did not have access to their own transportation were shuttled to the Moshofsky Center at the Autzen Stadium complex to be picked up by their families. Hoaxes like this one can carry stiff criminal penalties. District officials thanked Eugene Police, the University of Oregon Emergency Management team, and the Springfield Schools for assisting during the disruption. / CRIME: Investigators say three teenagers from Redding, California, are the suspects in that pair of Monday night criminal incidents that targeted Florence-area markets. Officials with the Florence Police Department and Lane County Sheriff's Office say the 15-year-old and 17-year-old boys along with a 16-year-old female passenger in their vehicle are no longer believed to be in the area. Officials warn that the trio are considered armed and dangerous and that anyone encountering them should call 9-1-1. On Monday night, investigators say two masked males used a weapon resembling an AK-47-style rifle to shoot through the front door of a market south of Florence. A half-hour later, suspects matching the same physical, weapon, and vehicle description took part in an armed robbery at a market in Florence, stealing cigarettes, other smoking devices, and an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspects were last seen heading northbound on Highway 101 in a white, two-door Dodge Dakota pickup with a California plate (53657H2). Have information in the case? Contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office or the Florence Police Department. / POLITICS: Republican state senators in Oregon did not show up for work yesterday, denying majority Democrats the quorum they need to advance legislative bills and casting doubt on planned votes later this week on proposals related to gun safety, abortion rights, and genderaffirming health care. The office of Oregon Senate President Rob Wagner said 10 Republican senators and the chamber's lone independent were absent yesterday. That prevented the Oregon Senate from holding its scheduled session. He didn't say how long Republicans planned to continue their protest, but that the caucus will take it day by day. GOP lawmakers employed the same strategy in 2019 and 2020 to freeze legislation on capping greenhouse gas emissions, among other things. But this walkout could test a new voter-approved measure that bans lawmakers who have 10 or more unexcused absences from running for

reelection. On Monday, Republicans in the House stretched out Monday's vote on abortion and gender-affirming care legislation for nearly six hours through various motions that sought to send the bills back to committee, delay voting until next month, or postpone it indefinitely. The wide-ranging bill would implement a series of measures, including shielding patients and providers from lawsuits originating in states where abortion and gender-affirming care are now restricted. It would also allow doctors to provide an abortion to anyone regardless of age and bar them in certain cases from disclosing that to parents. The gun control measure would increase the purchasing age to 21 for AR-15-style rifles and similar guns, impose penalties for possessing undetectable firearms and allow for more limited concealed-carry rights. The two bills have been fiercely debated and hundreds of people have submitted written testimony both for and against them. If Republican senators deny a quorum for the rest of the legislative session, which ends in late June, they could theoretically kill the bills on gun control, abortion rights and gender-affirming care. Oregon has a two-thirds quorum rule, meaning that the state House and Senate need two-thirds of their members to be present to conduct business. In the Senate, that's 20 of its 30 members. Currently, 17 senators are Democrats, 12 are Republicans and one is an independent. / GOVERNMENT: The woman who will become Oregon's acting Secretary of State says her priority is to ensure citizens receive the service they deserve. Amy Myers is the Deputy Secretary of State. She's taking over during the transition after Shemia Fagan this week announced her resignation amid revelations that she took a highly paid consulting job with a marijuana business at the same time her state agency was conducting an audit of Oregon's marijuana regulator. Fagan's last day is Friday. Governor Tina Kotek will appoint a successor. Since December of 2020, Myers has managed the directors of the office's Elections, Audits, Archives, Corporation, and Internal Divisions. In her current job as the agency's deputy, she already possesses the same authority as the outgoing Secretary of State. In an open letter yesterday, Myers noted that hers is a resilient agency. She says Secretary Fagan put everyone in an unfortunate situation, but that Fagan's resignation will allow agency staff to continue their good work with less distraction moving forward. / TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, RECREATION: Oregon's network of electric vehicle charging stations is expanding tomorrow—and it will benefit those who visit one of seven state parks in Western and Central Oregon. The state has partnered with EV manufacturer Rivian to install the first batch of charging stations at seven parks including tomorrow's dedication at Silver Falls state Park, east of Salem. Electric vehicle maker Rivian, working through the nonprofit Adopt A Charger, donated the installation, design, construction costs for Waypoints Level 2 electric vehicle chargers. The Level 2 chargers are compatible with all electric vehicles and are powered by 100 percent renewable energy through Rivian's energy matching program. The chargers will improve recreational access for all EV drivers, not just Rivian vehicle owners. Plastics manufacturer Entec Polymers is a key donor, covering the cost of visitor EV charging for a limited time. Other charging locations include Tugman and Cape Lookout State Parks on the coast; Stub Stewart State Park and the Banks-Vernonia Trail in the Northern Coast Range; Rooster Rock in the Columbia Gorge; and Prineville Reservoir and Cove Palisades State Parks in Central Oregon. / HEALTH, OLDER ADULTS: Federal officials have approved the first vaccine for RSV, saying the shots will protect

older adults against a respiratory virus that is most notorious for attacking babies but endangers their grandparents' generation, too. The move sets the stage for adults 60 and older to be vaccinated this fall — but first, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must decide if every senior really needs RSV protection or only those considered at high risk from the respiratory syncytial virus. CDC's advisers will debate that question in June. The Food and Drug Administration decision clears the way for use of the company GSK's vaccine, called Arexvy. It is the first of several potential vaccines in the pipeline for RSV to be licensed anywhere. After decades of failure in the quest for an RSV vaccine, doctors are anxious to finally have something to offer — especially after a virus surge that strained hospitals last fall. For most people, RSV is a cold-like nuisance. But it can be life-threatening for the very young, the elderly, and people with certain high-risk health problems. It can impede babies' breathing by inflaming their tiny airways, or creep deep into seniors' lungs to cause pneumonia. In the U.S., about 58,000 children younger than 5 are hospitalized for RSV each year and several hundred die. Among older adults, as many as 177,000 are hospitalized with RSV and up to 14,000 die annually. In an international study of about 25,000 people 60 and older, one dose of the vaccine was nearly 83 percent effective at preventing RSV lung infections and reduced the risk of severe infections by 94 percent. If the CDC ultimately recommends the vaccination for some or even all seniors, it will add another vaccine for the fall along with their yearly flu vaccine - and maybe another COVID-19 booster. There still is no vaccine approved for children. But high-risk infants often receive monthly doses of a protective drug during RSV season. The FDA also is considering competitor Pfizer's similar vaccine for older adults. Pfizer also is seeking approval to vaccinate pregnant women, so their babies are born with some of mom's protection. / ECONOMY, INFLATION: The Federal Reserve continued its fight against high inflation Wednesday by raising its key interest rate by a quarter-point to the highest level in 16 years. But Fed leaders also signaled that they might pause their streak of 10 rate hikes. The increases have made borrowing for consumers and businesses steadily more expensive. The Fed's rate increases since March 2022 have more than doubled mortgage rates, and elevated the costs of auto loans, credit card borrowing, and business loans. Home sales have plunged, and other sectors have slowed. Analysts say the economy appears to be cooling, with consumer spending flat in February and March. They say that indicates many shoppers have grown cautious in the face of higher prices and borrowing costs. Manufacturing, too, is weakening. Even the surprisingly resilient job market, which has kept the unemployment rate near 50-year lows for months, is showing cracks. Hiring has decelerated, job postings have declined, and fewer people are guitting jobs for other, typically higher-paying positions. In the U.S., several factors are slowing inflation. The rise in rental costs has eased as more newly built apartments have come online. Gas and energy prices have fallen. Food costs are moderating. Supply chain snarls are no longer blocking trade, thereby lowering the cost for new and used cars, furniture, and appliances. Still, while overall inflation has cooled, "core" inflation — which excludes volatile food and energy costs — has remained chronically high. According to the Fed's preferred measure, core prices rose 4.6 percent in March from a year earlier, scarcely better than the 4.7 percent it reached in July. The rate hike comes after three banks collapsed this spring. Experts said all three had large amounts of uninsured deposits. Fed economists

have estimated that tighter credit resulting from the bank failures will contribute to a "mild recession" later this year, thereby raising the pressure on the central bank to suspend its rate hikes. /

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30 Seconds

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WILDFIRES, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY: More federal money to help prevent large future wildfires on the Willamette National Forest. Officials say they're receiving \$14.7 (fourteen) million to create additional fire breaks in vulnerable areas, removing fuels that could feed a fast-growing blaze. Willamette National Forest leaders say the initial effort will focus on boundaries such as roads or natural features that can be used as an effective fire break. Forest managers say they will work with communities and organizations, landowners, and industrial partners. Forest managers say the funding will accelerate work on those projects—removing trees, where needed. Officials say the enhanced fire breaks will make it easier to contain future fires, conduct safer prescribed blazes, improve firefighter safety, and support local mills.; Saturday, May 6, is National Wildfire Preparedness Day. Experts with the state fire marshal's office remind you this is a good time to prepare the outside of your home and create defensible space. Recent fire seasons have been longer and more severe in Oregon. Experts recommend you: sign up or update your information for local emergency alerts at ORAlert.gov; enable Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on cell phones; have a family emergency plan; assemble a disaster supply kit; talk with neighbors; be familiar with the three-level evacuation notification system and have your evacuation routes mapped out. Ways to potentially save your home from loss: clean roofs and gutters and inspect chimneys; add screens to your home's vents to keep embers from getting into your attic space; sweep porches and decks, prune low-hanging branches; clear flammable vegetation and debris away your foundation; plant fire-resistant landscaping; make sure the interior of your home has working smoke alarms that you test regularly. Visiting Oregon's natural areas? Make sure you are familiar with current fire restrictions or bans before you build a campfire, burn debris, or use equipment that could start a fire. / WEATHER, ENVIRONMENT: Snowpack remains above average across most of Oregon and rainfall is near normal in many regions, as well. That's the upshot of the latest Oregon Water Supply Outlook Report from the U.S Department of Agriculture. Snowmelt began the middle of last month and is replenishing streams, rivers, and reservoirs. That accelerated during the warm temperatures at the end of the month. But scientists and techs with the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service say it's still been a record year for the water contained in the state's snowpack. That is good news as we head for the heat of summer. April's rainfall came in at 142 percent of normal here in the Willamette Basin.

We're still a bit low when you add up all the precipitation since the start of the Water Year on October 1. But a few more good rainstorms could erase that gap. Many Willamette Valley reservoirs are at or near capacity. That's encouraging news for communities, farmers, fisheries, and people looking to play on or near the lakes. Experts say the drought has eased significantly in Coos and Josephine Counties and in much of Malheur County. But places like Central Oregon's Crook County remain in Extreme Drought. And drought declarations are already in place for six Central and Eastern Oregon counties, with two more in the region requesting such designations. Much of that is because, despite the winter and spring rains and snow, soil water content remains low. Officials say if you dig just a bit beneath the surface in many parts of Central and Eastern Oregon, you'll still encounter bone-dry soil a few feet down. Scientists say a single winter simply isn't enough to offset some of the prolonged effects of years-long droughts in the hardest-hit parts of state. That, they say, will take a few more years of healthy snowpack along with plenty of rain. / EVENTS: Should be a good crowd this evening at Hayward Field as the Oregon Track & Field teams host the Oregon Twilight meet. It attracts competitors from colleges and track clubs across the West. Things get underway shortly around noon with a full schedule of afternoon field events. Just after 5 p.m., there's a moment for competitors and spectators to honor Hayward Field officials. It takes a lot of people to run a successful track meet and this has been a busy group, managing years of U-of-O, national, and international meets. This evening's events include everything from the sprints to the 5,000-meter race. Be sure to be there at 6:50 p.m. for the "Kids Half-Lapper With The Oregon Duck." One of the big Twilight Meet highlights takes place at 7:50 p.m.: "The McChesney Men's 1,500." The event always attracts a fast field. / CRIME: Investigators say three teenagers from Redding, California, who are the suspects in that pair of Monday night incidents that targeted Florence-area markets have been located in Washington state. Officials say the 15-year-old and 17-year-old boys along with a 16-year-old female runaway who was passenger in their vehicle were spotted in Sumner, Washington. The boys were charged in connection with the Florence cases. Law enforcement officials say they recovered a firearm and the vehicle connected to the cases. On Monday night, investigators say two masked males used a weapon resembling an AK-47-style rifle to shoot through the front door of a market south of Florence. A half-hour later, suspects matching the same physical, weapon, and vehicle description took part in an armed robbery at a market in Florence, stealing cigarettes, other smoking devices, and an undisclosed amount of cash. / POLITICS: Most Republican members of the Oregon Senate failed to show up for a second straight day Thursday, delaying action by the majority Democrats on bills dealing with gun safety, abortion rights, and gender-affirming health care. The absences prevented a quorum. The state senate's Democratic leaders say they'll try again today. Republican lawmakers have used walkouts in the past, but this time — if they continue to stay away — they'll be testing a law approved overwhelmingly in a ballot measure last November that bans lawmakers with 10 unexcused absences from running for reelection. The boycott comes as several statehouses around the nation, including in Montana and Tennessee, have become battlegrounds between conservatives and liberals. The leader of Senate Republicans, Senator Tim Knopp, said during a news conference on Wednesday that Republicans are protesting because bill summaries are not being written in plain language. He

pointed to a 1979 state law which requires legislative bills be readable by anyone with an eighth or ninth-grade education, as measured by a readability test. But Democratic Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber says that's just a pretext, and noted that the vast majority of legislative bills have passed with bipartisan support, including on housing and attracting the semiconductor industry to Oregon. As part of an effort to get back on track, Senate leadership has added Saturday and Sunday morning sessions in an effort to reconvene. GOP lawmakers also employed walkouts in 2019 and 2020 to freeze legislation capping greenhouse gas emissions, among other things. Oregon has a two-thirds quorum rule, meaning the state House and Senate need two-thirds of their members to be present to conduct business. In the Senate, that's 20 of its 30 members. Currently, 17 senators are Democrats and 12 are Republicans, with one an independent. If Republican senators deny a quorum for the rest of the legislative session, set to end in late June, they could theoretically kill the bills on gun control, abortion rights, and gender-affirming care. /

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ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

ELECTIONS: We're slightly more than one week away from election day in Oregon. There are plenty of contests for school boards and other governing bodies, along with a handful of local ballot measures. You're encouraged to return your ballots as early as possible. Either by mail, to your local elections office, or to a designated drop box. Ballots must be received or postmarked by the 8:00 p.m. deadline on Tuesday, May 16. Remember to sign the back of your ballot return envelopes before returning them. The signature is a security measure used to verify identity. Election workers who have received training in handwriting analysis compare it to signatures in the voter registration record. A ballot may only be counted if the signatures match. If you forget to sign the envelope or your signature does not match, you will receive a notice from your elections office advising you of the issue and how to fix it. You have until the 21st day after the election to confirm your signature and have your ballot counted. If you think your signature has changed significantly since the last time you voted, contact elections officials. You may request official help if you have difficulty signing. Do this by completing a signature attestation form and returning it to Lane County Elections along with a new voter registration form. Completing these forms will allow you to use a signature stamp or other indicator that represents your signature. And remember, you may not sign another person's name, even if they give you permission to sign or you have a power of attorney. It is against the law in Oregon to sign another person's name on a return envelope and is considered forgery. / HEALTH, GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS: Oregon's pioneering experiment with the legalized use of psilocybin mushrooms has taken a step closer to reality. The Oregon Health Authority last week issued a license for the state's first psilocybin service center. It went to a local facility, EPIC Healing Eugene. Officials congratulated the center's Cathy Jonas not only for becoming the first licensed service center in the state, but for the center's strong commitment to client safety and access. Oregon voters approved the regulated use of psilocybin in a 2020 ballot measure, and anticipation has been building for the day when a person can gain access to the so-called "magic mushrooms." Research indicates the drug can have therapeutic value, particularly among those suffering from conditions including PTSD. Under the statewide model, clients 21 years of age or older may access psilocybin services. So far, Oregon Psilocybin Services has issued three manufacturer licenses, one laboratory license, five facilitator licenses, and 84 worker permits. More license approvals are expected

in the coming months. / SAFETY: On Saturday, crews with Eugene-Springfield Fire responded to a reported fire alarm at the Target store on Eugene's West 11th Avenue. They say the blaze was a rubbish compactor that firefighters were able to move away from the building. There were no injuries. There also was no significant damage to the structure, but crews stayed for a time to remove smoke from the building's interior and ensure there was no further damage to the building or its inventory. The cause of the fire is being investigated. / CRIME: Lane County Sheriff's investigators on Friday released more details about Thursday's single-vehicle fatal crash on Peninsula Road near Big Fall Creek Road. They say the silver Nissan Pathfinder left the roadway, striking a utility pole. The passenger in the vehicle died. The driver allegedly fled on foot but deputies, with help from Oregon State Police, located that person a short distance away and they were hospitalized for injuries. No names have been released. Officials are investigating intoxication as a possible cause of the crash. ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE: Several scaleless fish with fanged jaws and huge eyes that can be found more than a mile deep in the ocean have washed up along a roughly 200-mile stretch of Oregon coastline, and scientists and experts say it's unclear why they've shown up here. Within the last few weeks, several lancetfish have appeared on beaches from Nehalem, on the northern Oregon coast, to Bandon, in the south. In a Facebook post, Oregon State Parks officials asked beachgoers who see the fish to take photos and post them online, tagging the agency and the NOAA Fisheries West Coast region. Lancetfish live mainly in tropical and subtropical waters but travel as far north as areas like Alaska's Bering Sea to feed. Their slinky bodies include a "sail-like" fin, and their flesh is gelatinous — not generally something humans wish to eat, according to NOAA Fisheries. Reports of finding the, quote, "freaky looking" lancetfish on beaches date back to the 19th century. Some have also hypothesized recent incidents could be related to weather or climate patterns in the Pacific Ocean, he said. According to NOAA Fisheries, lancetfish can grow to more than 7 feet long and swim to depths of more than one mile beneath the surface of the sea. One woman found a dead one on a beach near Lincoln City in late April that was more than four feet long. / POLITICS: A walkout by most Republican members of the Oregon Senate stretched into a fifth day on Sunday. Majority Democrats say they'll try to convene again today. The state senate's GOP members are using the walkouts to deprive Democrats of the minimum number of members needed to conduct official business. The intent is to delay action on bills dealing with topics ranging from gun safety to abortion rights, to gender-affirming health care. Republicans have staged walkouts in some previous legislative sessions. But this year, lawmakers with 10 unexcused absences are disqualified from running for reelection, thanks to a new constitutional amendment overwhelmingly approved by voters in November. The boycott comes as several statehouses, including those in Montana and Tennessee, have become battlegrounds between conservatives and liberals. Oregon has increasingly been divided between liberal population centers like Portland and Eugene and its mostly conservative rural areas. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 05/09/23

TIME OF BROADCAST

5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

LOW-INCOME, COMMUNITY, CHARITY: On Saturday, May 13, your letter carrier will be doing more than just delivering the mail. They'll also be collecting food for the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. It is hosted by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Stamp Out Hunger takes place around the U.S. and is country's the largest single-day food drive. You can take part by collecting nonperishable food items and leaving them in a bag near the mailbox early on Saturday, May 13 A letter carrier or volunteer will pick up the donation and ensure it gets to your local food bank. In our area, which is FOOD For Lane County. Among the "most wanted" foods: Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon, corned beef); Canned and dried beans (pinto, navy, kidney, refried); Canned stew, chili, hearty soups and broth; Pasta, rice, cereal, corn meal; Canned tomato products (whole, paste, and spaghetti sauce). Donations not picked up by letter carriers may be dropped off at any post office through early next week. The Stamp Out Hunger food drive was created in 1993 by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Along with the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, the National Association of Letter Carriers has collected more than one billion pounds of food nationally since the drive's inception. / WILDFIRES, SAFETY: As Oregon's wildfire season nears, leaders of the Oregon Department of Forestry and other fire prevention experts are urging you to exercise caution when disposing of yard debris this spring. Wildfires already are occurring in parts of the state, particularly in Southwestern and Central Oregon. Debris burning is the leading cause of human-related fires on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Consider alternatives to burning, such as composting, chipping, or placing materials in your yard debris bin. Check with your local disposal company for recycling options. If you prefer to burn, consider waiting until the rainy fall and winter seasons. If your debris burn spreads out of control, you might have to pay for suppression costs as well as the damage to your neighbors' properties.; Wildfire season is already underway in some parts of the western U.S. and Canada. Yesterday, the Oregon Department of Forestry deployed 22 firefighters to Alberta, Canada. They'll be there at least two weeks. Alberta fire crews are responding to more than 100 active wildfires across the province. Of those, at least 14 are larger blazes. Some are threatening nearby communities and have forced close to 30,000 to evacuate. Oregon's assistance is part of a quarter-century agreement known as the Northwest Compact, which also sends Canadian personnel to Oregon and other northwestern states when our

crews are been taxed by multiple blazes. During the 2020 Labor Day wildfires, for example, more than 7,500 personnel from multiple Canadian provinces and 39 states answered Oregon's call. / EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE: Oregon State University has been selected as co-leader of one of 12 new U.S. Department of Agriculture regional food business centers. The center will support farmers, ranchers, and other food-related businesses in accessing new markets and leveraging federal, state and local resources. The \$30 center—a joint effort with several other academic institutions in the West—is part of a \$400 million initiative that focuses on small and mid-sized farm and food businesses at the local and regional level. The centers also will focus on historically underinvested and underserved communities. OSU officials say the funding is recognition of the work that's already underway to build a strong local food economy in Oregon. They say that effort involves many partners, including farmers, food businesses, grassroots organizations, and others. The emphasis will include strengthening local supply chains for meat and poultry businesses; better connecting and assisting foodbusiness entrepreneurs; supporting climate-resilient agriculture; and improving investment and infrastructure between food producers, processors, and distributors on the one hand and investors, banks, and other sources of capital that potentially can provide funding. / CRIME: Nearly three months ago, Hyundai and Kia unveiled software that was designed to thwart an epidemic of thefts of their vehicles, caused by a security flaw that was exposed on TikTok and other social media sites. But the installations are going slowly, according to auto safety regulators, and so far it has not solved the problem. Across the country, thieves are still driving off with the vehicles at an alarming rate. Data from seven U.S. cities gathered by The Associated Press shows that the number of Hyundai and Kia thefts is still growing despite the companies' efforts to fix the glitch, which makes 8.3 million vehicles relatively easy targets for thieves. Some U.S. cities have reported that 60 percent or more of their auto theft reports now involve Hyundais or Kias. Videos on TikTok and other sites that illustrate how to start and steal Kia and Hyundai models — using only a screwdriver and a USB cable have allowed the thefts to spread across the nation since late 2021. Authorities nationally have linked the thefts to disturbing increases in other crimes including at least 14 reported crashes and eight fatalities. The companies have tried to persuade social media companies to remove the videos that show how to steal cars, but new ones continue to surface. Hyundai and Kia have said they're accelerating their distribution of the software, with Hyundai saying it's reached 6,000 installations a day. The company says it's using direct mail, phone calls, digital advertising and social media to try to reach the affected owners. Of the 4.5 million Kia vehicles that are eligible for the fix, the automaker says it's installed the software on about 210,000 — nearly 5 percent. Kia says it has sent notifications to about 2.8 million of the affected owners and expects to have notified all of them by the end of this month. For Hyundai, the figure is about 225,000 out of 3.8 million vehicles — roughly 6 percent. Hyundai said he expects to have contacted all the affected vehicle owners by May 18.

DATE OF BROADCAST 05/10/23

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NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

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ECONOMY, INFLATION, FINANCES: New government numbers indicate consumer prices accelerated a bit in April after months of declines, and the data suggests rising costs could persist for months. But at the same time, the inflation rate over the past 12 months has eased since last summer. Prices rose 0.4 percent from March to April, up from 0.1 percent from February to March. Compared with a year earlier, prices climbed 4.9 percent, down just slightly from March's year-over-year increase. The nation's inflation rate has steadily cooled since peaking at 9.1 percent last June, but it remains far above the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target rate. Economists say the overall slowdown in U.S. inflation since last summer might turn out to have been a relatively easy phase of the nation's drive to conquer inflation. The supply chain snarls that left many grocery shelves bare and delayed the delivery of furniture, cars, electronics, and numerous other goods have been resolved. Gasoline prices have dropped since topping \$5 a gallon nationally after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, though they rose again in April after OPEC agreed to cut oil output. But the costs of services from restaurant meals to auto insurance, dental care to education — are still surging. A major reason is that companies have had to raise pay in those industries to find and retain workers. Federal Reserve officials say that fast-rising wages, while good for workers, have contributed to higher costs in services industries because labor makes up a significant portion of those industries' expenses. / CRIME: Officials with the Lane County Sheriff's Office say they have received multiple reports of a telephone scam that targets businesses and their employees. Investigators say the scammers call up and identify themselves to employees as managers or owners of the business. They say the business needs to pay some bills and they attempt to convince the employee to deposit cash into a third-party financial system such as a Bitcoin machine. In some instances, the scammers will spoof their phone numbers to make it appear they are calling from an official company phone. They might even provide fraudulent callback numbers with voicemail inboxes. Officials say scams such as this commonly originate from outside of the country and are very difficult to investigate. They urge you to use caution and trust your instincts if you believe you are falling victim to a scam. / LOW-INCOME, GOVERNMENT: Over the years, many of us have been contacted by our financial institutions to be told a new credit or debit card is being mailed to us because of a compromised payment terminal at a store or other business. Starting May 22, the Oregon Department of Human Services will begin

replacing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits for victims of electronic theft whose benefits were stolen from their Electronic Benefit Transfer or EBT cards. Electronic theft includes card skimming, card cloning, and other similar methods. This applies to SNAP benefits that were stolen electronically on or after Oct. 1, 2022. If you were affected, you'll need to request replacement benefits by June 21. If you're a victim of such theft in the next few weeks, report the theft within 30 days. / WILDFIRES, ENVIRONMENT, WEATHER: The winter and spring rains and snow helped. But Oregon's wildfire season arrives around this time every year. Yesterday, the governor and leaders of the state's wildfire-management agencies reminded Oregonians about the importance of preparing should a blaze begin burning in your area. Officials say drought intensity across the state is less severe than this time last year, though some parts of Central and Eastern Oregon continue to experience persistent droughts. The high volume of spring rain and heavy snow elsewhere might help delay the start of the wildfire season. But state officials say they're staying alert. They say they've beefed up early detection systems and added resources on the ground and in the air. They've strengthened mutual-aid agreements across the state and with outside agencies. Officials also have enhanced the sharing of and details in air-quality alerts related to wildfire smoke. And they are working to better educate residents and property owners on how to reduce risks and minimize wildfire damage. Still, there are challenges, including in dry parts of Eastern Oregon and in rural areas that largely rely on volunteer fire services. Officials also expect more competition for national resources as the Western states continue to grapple with more complex fire seasons. / CRIME, EDUCATION: Officials late yesterday afternoon lifted a precautionary lockdown of the Mapleton schools after investigators with the Lane County Sheriff's Office and other agencies searched the area. They said they believed there was no ongoing threat to the public. Shortly before 2:30 p.m., students reported seeing a man wearing black and armed with a rifle near the Mapleton Middle and High School track. They said the man possibly went into the tree line and that a loud sound, possibly a gunshot, was heard a short time later. At the end of the school day, students were bused to the old Banner Bank parking lot off Highway 126 to meet their parents and head home. / HEALTH, WOMEN: A federal task force is recommending that women start getting every-other-year mammograms at age 40 instead of waiting until 50. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has long said women can choose to start breast cancer screening as young as 40 but until now has made a stronger recommendation for the X-ray exams every two years between ages 50 and 74. This week's draft recommendation, if finalized, will not settle the issue since other health groups have differing guidelines for when women should start routine screening and whether they need it annually or every other year. The draft recommendation applies to women at average risk of breast cancer but not those at very high risk due to certain genetic or other factors. While cancer deaths have been declining for years, breast cancer remains the second leading cancer killer of U.S. woman, behind lung cancer. Health organizations have long had different screening recommendations, seeking to balance catching breast cancer early while avoiding too many false alarms, when the X-rays spot non-cancerous blips. The task force noted that nearly half of all women have dense breasts, which

means mammograms might not work as well, and called for more research into whether additional types of testing would help.  $\!\!/$ 

DATE OF BROADCAST 05/11/23

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NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

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RECREATION, SAFETY: The Lane County Sheriff's Office is partnering with Bi-Mart stores to help boaters prepare for the summer season. To help you prepare for a safe season, deputies will be at different Bi-Mart stores on Saturdays and Sundays starting over the next few weekends. Bring your boat—whether it's a drift boat, sailboat, or motorboat—to receive a free safety inspection. Go to the Marine Board or Bi-Mart websites for dates, locations, and times. ; Hot temperatures and cold water are in the weekend forecast. With the mercury on the rise, experts with the Oregon State Marine Board remind you to play it safe on and around the water: Wear a life jacket when boating, fishing, or swimming. Every year when the first warm temperatures arrive, many people decide to cool off by hitting the water. But local rivers and lakes are being filled right now with melting snowpack. That's keeping water temperatures chilly, which can be a dangerous situation for those who are unprepared. Because Oregon is considered a cold-water state, water temperatures remain cold (under 70 degrees) most of the year. Much of the time, lake and river water temperatures are in the low 50 degrees. The same goes for the surf and waters of the Pacific Ocean. Marine Board experts encourage you to wear a life jacket or personal floatation device and use it—don't just store it onboard. Dress for the water temperature, not for the air temperature. Cold water shock is a leading cause of drowning and of hypothermia from cold water immersion. Sometimes, a person falls off a boat, slips from shore, or leaps into the water for what they thought would be a refreshing swim. In 2022, there were 16 recreational boating fatalities. Ten of those victims were not wearing life jackets—seven were in paddlecraft and three were in motorboats. Officials say it's important to have life jackets and personal floatation devices that fit each person correctly. Lifejackets with foam flotation should be buckled snugly and should not rise above a person's ear lobes. When fitting everyone, but especially children and youths, try the "touchdown test." Have them lift their arms up next to their head and pull up on their lifejacket from the shoulders. If the flotation device rises to their ear lobes or higher, the life jacket is too large for them and could slip off during an emergency. When possible, officials urge you to boat with others for safety, whether paddling with friends or sharing a motorboat, sailboat, or fishing boat. / CRIME: Lane County Sheriff's deputies are investigating an armed robbery that occurred yesterday afternoon at a residence in the River Road area. Officials say they received a call around 1 p.m. from a resident in the 800 block of Willow Avenue,

stating that they had been struck on the head with a gun by a man claiming to be from the electric company. The female resident says she was assaulted, and that the suspect took jewelry, an undisclosed amount of cash, and the victim' cellphone. The suspect is described as a white male, roughly 40-45 years of age, about six feet tall with brown hair and a scruffy beard. The victim said the suspect had a large nose that bends slightly downward. He was last seen wearing a lime green hard hat, lime green vest, a face mask, blue jeans, and carrying a clipboard. The victim said he was armed with a gray and black handgun, possibly a revolver. Know anything regarding the case? Contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4150 and, when prompted, select Option 1. / CRIME, EDUCATION: Another frustrating day for a local school after someone called in a bomb threat—part of what might be a series of hoax calls to schools up and down the West Coast. Classes were canceled for students and staff at South Eugene High School after a pair of calls shortly after 9:30 yesterday morning. In one, investigators say a bomb threat was phoned in-similar to last week's hoax that caused a similar disruption at South High. A few minutes later, another hoax call, this one from what sounded like a male voice making threats and claiming he was in a school bathroom with weapons. Eugene Police searched the school thoroughly and found nothing. Not only do hoaxes like this disrupt education, but they also violate the law and can bring federal charges. / EDUCATION, COMMUNITY: This is the final term for students, teachers, and staff in the old North Eugene High School. This fall, everyone's moving into the shiny new high school just a bit farther down Silver Lane and the old school will be demolished. Are you a former student, staffer, or community member and want to take a final walk down memory lane? This evening from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., stop by for the old high school at 200 Silver Lane for a community send-off. Walk the halls and say goodbye to the building where students and staff have learned, worked, and connected since 1957. You'll be able to visit classrooms decked out to honor each decade of North Eugene High's history. Connect with fellow alumni and share stories. Bring some cash: There will be food, stickers, and commemorative T-shirts for sale. Among this evening's highlights: A 6:30 p.m. assembly featuring the pep band, cheer and dance teams, and bagpipers. At 7:30 p.m., the drama department will host a special alumni night for their spring production of The Addams Family. You can buy tickets in advance or when you arrive. / BIPOC, EVENTS: The Mother's Day Powwow is back this year at the University of Oregon with traditional dances, ceremonies, and a salmon bake. The annual celebration is a designated Oregon Heritage Event and is the oldest documented powwow in the state. The powwow, which runs Friday through Sunday, May 12-14, honors and celebrates mothers, native educators, and graduating seniors. The event connects Native and non-Native members of the U-of-O community and attracts tribes from across the region. The powwow is free and open to the public. Activities start at 7 p.m. Friday night and run through Sunday afternoon. / FINANCES, ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY: WasteWise Lane County and the nonprofit Toolbox Project are holding a "Fix-It Fair" on Friday, May 12, in Springfield. The free event takes place at the Academy of Arts and Academics at 615 Main Street in Springfield from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Friday's Fix-It Fair volunteers will focus on repairing clothing, textiles, and bicycles. The goal is to extend the life of household items—keeping more stuff out of the trash and saving you money. Fix-it fairs are all about reuse and repair: It's a chance to have your household

items repaired by volunteer fixers. Along the way, you learn how to perform such repairs yourself and will find out about local repair shops and other resources. Repairs take an average of 30 minutes, and attendees should only bring items that can be reasonably carried. Fix-It fairs have been very popular in Eugene. This is the first one to be held in Springfield. WasteWise, which is part of Lane County's Waste Management Division, is partnering with the ToolBox Project to offer Fix-It fairs in July in Springfield and Cottage Grove, and in September in Florence. Locations and times will be revealed soon. / PANDEMIC, HEALTH, COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS: The last of the state and federal pandemic emergency measures are coming to an end today and over the next few weeks. In Oregon, that means the lifting of protective measures that helped reduce COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. It also means the end or big reduction of expanded access to certain health and other services during the pandemic. Among the highlighted changes: Vaccination requirements: Effective today, state rules no longer require workers in health care settings to be vaccinated against COVID-19. A similar vaccination requirement for teachers and school staff in private and public education settings lifts on June 17, at the end of the last week of school. Exposure, isolation guidance: That five-day isolation period for those infected with COVID-19 also is no longer an official recommendation, both for members of the public and including in schools. Oregon public health officials say widespread population immunity due to vaccination and repeat infections has led to many with coronavirus having only minor symptoms or being largely asymptomatic. Officials say under those circumstances, the five-day isolation period does little to reduce transmission. Instead, officials say, the recommendation going forward is to stay home until you are fever-free for 24 hours and your symptoms are improving. While you are recovering, avoid contact with those who are at increased risk for severe disease, including older adults and those with underlying medical conditions. Consider masking for 10 days. School testing: Diagnostic testing resources for students and staff with symptoms or exposure to COVID-19 in schools will remain available through July 31, 2024. iHealth self-tests will remain available on request for K-12 schools and may be distributed to those in the school's communities until the current stock is depleted. Weekly opt-in "screening" testing for K-12 students and staff without COVID-19 symptoms will end July 31 as funding for the effort wraps up. But a number of policies will remain in effect for at least a short time after today: A requirement that Oregon Health Plan providers, including coordinated care organizations, continue to cover COVID-19 vaccinations and treatment without cost sharing, and that commercial health insurers cover vaccinations without cost sharing. In Oregon, vaccinations are covered no matter where someone gets a shot. Oregonians should contact their health care provider about where they can get vaccinated. A requirement that Oregon Health Plan providers offer access to telehealth services. A requirement that Oregon health care providers be reimbursed for language interpreter services (spoken or signed) provided during an office visit. An extension of a 90-day "reasonable opportunity period" for non-citizens to verify citizenship or immigration status to 180 days so they can enroll in Oregon Health Plan (OHP). In addition, state officials are implementing changes in access to Medicaid coverage and other human services programs administered by the state and federal governments. Health coverage and supports: We are coming to the end of extended health coverage, services,

and support for people with disabilities and older adults, and extra food benefits that were provided during federal emergency. Continuous coverage for Medicaid also is ending. Oregon began a "redetermination" process April 1 to help people renew their OHP membership and other Medicaid benefits, and stay on the plan, and is encouraging members to keep mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses current to ensure they receive information about their benefits in the coming months. COVID-19 reporting: There is a change in how the Oregon Health Authority monitors COVID-19. Epidemiologists will transition to monitoring that focuses on measures that indicate transmission, and continue monitoring for severe outcomes, including hospitalizations and deaths. Case data, which is based on individual laboratory test reporting and is of increasingly limited value in capturing an overall sample of cases, will be retired. The changes bring COVID reporting in line with CDC recommendations on how influenza is monitored. Epidemiologists will streamline data reporting to a smaller number of dashboards updated weekly. Data visualizations will include graphs showing statewide percent positivity, wastewater levels and trends, distribution of variants, hospitalization rates and capacity, death counts, emergency department visit and vaccination trends. Dashboards with case counts and county data will be archived. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 05/12/23

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30 Seconds

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WEATHER, SAFETY: There is an Excessive Heat Watch in effect Saturday afternoon through Monday evening. In addition to higher afternoon temperatures, things will cool more slowly overnight. For those who work or play outdoors, the warmer temperatures can be a shock to the system. Drink plenty of fluids, avoid spending long periods in the sun. Outdoor workers should take frequent breaks in the shade, wear loose-fitting clothing, and drink plenty of water. If you are older or have a vulnerable health condition, consider staying indoors in air conditioning. NEVER leave children or pets unattended in vehicles. / WILDFIRES. WILDFIRE RECOVERY, HOUSING: It's something of a milestone in the recovery effort following the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. State emergency management leaders say the last of the displaced survivors has moved into either long-term or permanent housing. In all, the recovery effort during the past two-plus years involved providing temporary emergency shelter to 423 people, along with more than 193,000 meals. Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch says officials know the recovery process is far from over for many survivors and Lane County. She says the long-term recovery effort continues, as does the rebuilding and recovery work in the McKenzie River Valley. Lane County was the last of all wildfire-impacted counties to have residents who remained in emergency wildfire shelters. Looking back, state officials say the pandemic created a unique and challenging situation for sheltering and providing other supportive services to the state's 2020 Labor Day wildfire survivors. Officials needed to find individual hotel rooms rather than rely on long-term communal shelters. And while the Red Cross handled the initial shelter and emergency meal efforts, the Oregon Department of Human Services took over starting in mid-October of 2020. Across the state, from the end of 2020 through the end of last month, state programs provided temporary shelter for more than 4,400 (4,457) people. At the same time, assisted by a grant from FEMA, the state launched its disaster case management program to provide other support services to wildfire survivors as they worked to relocate or rebuild. Each survivor's circumstances were different. Some were well-insured and needed little to no help. Others did not have those kinds of resources or needed extra help navigating the system and requirements necessary to rebuild and recover. In all, the state and its disaster case management partner agencies served 3,928 families statewide. Among them were 1,244 people statewide who eventually moved into long-term permanent housing. In Lane County, 405 families received disaster case management services. The non-profit financial education

and housing assistance agency DevNW (say: Dev Northwest) was one of the first partners brought on to help with this work. While this is an important milestone, the state and Oregonians are still recovering from the 2020 wildfires. ODHS was able to close hotel sheltering work, but not everyone has moved into a permanent home. Officials say 333 families continue to receive disaster case management and will until they have fully recovered. / EDUCATION, COMMUNITY: This is the final term for students, teachers, and staff in the old North Eugene High School. In the fall, everyone's moving into the shiny new high school just a bit farther down Silver Lane and the old school will be dismantled with the acreage turned into open space and playing fields. Last night, what a crowd: Former students, staffers, and community members thronged to a four-hour farewell gathering to the old North complex. Generations of families have attended the school, which opened its doors in 1957. They walked the halls, toured some classrooms, visited art and shop and music spaces, even enjoyed the spring theater production. There were old photographs, scrapbooks, and yearbooks on display and a long line to purchase commemorative t-shirts. / CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES, SAFETY: The month of May is Foster Care Awareness Month. Did you know that more than 600 children currently are in foster care in Lane County? Today, the non-profit group Every Child Lane County is hosting a free fun day for all Lane County foster families at Camp Harlow. Organizers are expecting more than 375 guests and have 100 volunteers on-hand to ensure it's a special time. The foster kids will enjoy all sorts of activities, including zip-lining, go-carts, face painting, carnival games, train rides, crafts, a BBQ dinner—and even a "mini-date night" for foster parents. / RECREATION, ENVIRONMENT, WEATHER, AGRICULTURE: Beginning in June, the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin to gradually drawdown Lookout Point and Green Peter reservoirs to historically low levels. The reservoir drawdowns are part of an injunction ordered by the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon is help juvenile spring Chinook and steelhead survive their downstream passage through reservoirs and past the dams. The reservoirs will be drawn down gradually but consistently throughout the summer to reach the levels outlined in the injunction. At Lookout Point, the Corps will take the reservoir down to an elevation of 750 feet, which is 80 feet lower than any previous drawdown since construction. Drawdown operations will reduce Green Peter's reservoir to a surface elevation of 780 feet – about 120 feet lower than it's been drawn down since construction. Both reservoirs are expected to reach their target elevations in early or mid-November, after which the Corps will hold lake levels at those elevations for one month. While the typical season to refill reservoirs begins on Feb. 1, the Corps will begin filling Lookout Point and Green Peter reservoirs to normal winter flood risk elevations on Dec. 16 to offset the deep drawdowns' impact to reservoir levels. / SAFETY: Peloton is recalling more than 2 million of its exercise bikes in the U.S. because the bike's seat post assembly can break during use, posing fall and injury hazards. The recall includes approximately 2.2 million Peloton Bikes with model number PL01. The bikes were sold in the U.S. between January 2018 and May 2023 for about \$1,400. They were sold at Peloton and Dick's Sporting Goods stores nationwide and online at Amazon, Peloton and Dick's websites. Peloton has received 35 reports of the seat post breaking and detaching from the bike during use, including 13 reports of injuries including a fractured wrist, lacerations and bruises due to falling from the bike. The Peloton original Bike in the U.K., Germany and Australia and the

Peloton Bike+ are not included in the recall. Consumers in the U.S. are advised to immediately stop using the recalled exercise bikes and to contact Peloton for a free repair. Peloton is offering a free seat post that can be self-installed. /

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30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WEATHER: We set an all-time high temperature record yesterday in Eugene-Springfield: 94 degrees. Out unseasonable heatwave is expected to ease in the coming days, / FISHERIES, RECREATION, HEALTH: The Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife have reopened recreational crabbing—in the ocean, bays, and estuaries—from Tahkenitch Creek, eight miles north of Winchester Bay, to Cape Blanco. That means recreational crabbing is now open coastwide in Oregon. Recent test results from the area show domoic acid levels have dropped and are below the alert level. This area had closed on May 1 after test results showed levels above the human health closure limit. ODA tests for shellfish toxins twice per month, as tides and weather permit. Reopening an area closed for biotoxins requires two consecutive tests with results below the closure limit. Domoic acid is produced by algae and originates in the ocean. It is recommended that recreational crab harvesters always eviscerate crab before cooking. This includes removing and discarding the viscera, internal organs and gills. / ANIMALS, HEALTH: Horse owners, guick health update from the Oregon Department of Agriculture: A horse from Umatilla County and a second horse from Modoc County, California, recently tested positive for Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1). In both cases, after exhibiting neurologic symptoms, the owners called private veterinarians to examine the animals and collect samples for testing. Outof-state laboratories later confirmed EHV-1 in both horses recovering from their illness. EHV-1 is a reportable disease, and veterinarians are legally responsible for immediately reporting all suspected cases to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Both horse owners reported the animals recently attended a barrel racing event held April 22-23 at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds. The State Veterinarian has placed the Umatilla County premises under guarantine. while the California State Veterinarian has quarantined the Modoc County premises. Because of delays in reporting and confirmation of both cases, it is unlikely that additional cases will result from exposures that the event, but horse owners who believe that their horse may have been exposed to EHV-1 should monitor their animal's temperature twice daily and call their veterinarian if they see any symptoms. While neurologic symptoms are rare, the EHV-1 virus is highly contagious and spreads via aerosolized secretions from infected coughing horses, direct and indirect contact with nasal secretions, and fetal fluids. EHV-1 typically has an incubation period of 2-10 days. Respiratory shedding of the virus generally occurs for 7-10 days but may persist longer in infected horses. Basic

biosecurity measures to follow to decrease potential disease spread at equine events include: Limit horse-to-horse contact and limit horse-to-human-to-horse contact. Avoid the use of communal water sources and avoid sharing equipment unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses. Isolate new or returning horses from others for 30 days. Monitor your horse for clinical signs of disease and report any temperature over 102°F to a veterinarian. / WILDLIFE, SAFETY: Finding a young wild animal alone does not mean that it's been abandoned or orphaned, so leave them where you find them. The advice you are likely to hear if you pick up or bring young wildlife home is "put it back," and you might get a warning or citation from Oregon State Police, too. Many wildlife species will leave their young while they forage for food. When people remove them from the wild, young animals miss the chance to learn where to seek cover, what to eat and how to escape from predators and other dangers. Unfortunately, every year around this time, ODFW offices, licensed wildlife rehabilitators, and even Oregon State Police are flooded with calls from well-intentioned people who picked up a deer fawn, elk calf, fledgling bird learning to fly, or other young animal they assumed was orphaned because it was alone. Even if they receive care from a wildlife rehabilitator, successfully returning a young animal to the wild is not always possible. Options for long-term placement in wildlife sanctuaries or zoos are limited and animals often must be euthanized since they lack the survival skills to be released back into the wild. Some animals can also become dangerous as they grow into adults and pose a serious threat to human safety. Here's how to help instead: Keep pets and other domestic animals away from wildlife. Pets will stress wildlife, especially if there are young wildlife or fledgling birds in your yard. Keep dogs on a leash when recreating outside. Keep cats indoors to protect them and our native wildlife. If you are certain an animal is orphaned because you observed the parent animal deceased, or you see an animal that is injured, please call ODFW, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or OSP for advice. Don't feed wildlife. All species of wildlife have a specialized diet that coincides with seasonal changes. Access to human-provided food can negatively impact their health, lead to conflict with humans and in many cases have fatal consequences. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Oregon Department of Transportation crews are continuing their repair and safety work on Interstate 5 between Goshen and Cottage Grove. Part of the project involves repaying the onand off-ramps. That means detours when the ramps are closed.; Traveling Oregon Highway 58 between Interstate 5 and U.S. 97 this week? Allow extra time into your trip. Crews were already working on culvert repair and replacement in various locations along Highway 58. But to add to that, they're now performing emergency repairs at the site of an April rockslide just west of Willamette Pass. Rock scaling crews are removing overhanging and loose debris along a stretch of the highway near Milepost 53. The work is taking place between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The emergency rock scaling might continue through Friday. Highway crews will flag traffic through the rock-scaling area. But expect up to 15- to 20-minute delays in those areas. During certain times, crews also might need to briefly close all lanes to keep travelers safe from rock falls. That could push the delays up to 40 minutes. When approaching work zones, remember to slow down and drive cautiously for your safety and for the safety of highway workers. / GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE: The Biden administration wants to put conserving vast government-owned lands on equal

footing with oil drilling, livestock grazing, and other interests. That's according to a top administration official, who defended the idea against criticism that it would interfere with industry. The proposal would allow conservationists and others to lease federally owned land to restore it, much the same way oil companies buy leases to drill and ranchers pay to graze cattle. Companies could also buy conservation leases, including oil drillers who want to offset damage to public land by restoring acreage elsewhere. Tracy Stone-Manning, director of the Bureau of Land Management, said in an interview with The Associated Press that the proposed changes would address rising pressure from climate change and development. While the bureau previously issued leases for conservation in limited cases, it has never had a dedicated program for it, she said. The bureau's director says the policy makes conservation an equal among the Bureau of Land Management's multiple-use approach. BLM officials say there are rules around solar, oil, and gas development. But they say the proposed rule is the first allowing management of lands to improve fish and wildlife habitat, and clean water. / TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMY, FINANCES: Americans are keeping their cars longer than ever. The average age of a passenger vehicle on U.S. roads hit a record 12.5 years this year, according to data gathered by S&P Global Mobility. Sedans are even older, on average — 13.6 years. Blame it mainly on the pandemic, which triggered a shortage of automotive computer chips, the vital component that runs everything from radios to gas pedals to transmissions. The shortage drastically slowed assembly lines, making new vehicles scarce just when consumers were increasingly eager to buy. Prices surged to record highs. And though they've eased somewhat, the cost of a vehicle still feels punishingly expensive to many Americans, especially when coupled with now much-higher loan rates. Since the pandemic struck three years ago, the average new vehicle has rocketed 24 percent to nearly \$48,000 as of April, according to Edmunds.com. Typical loan rates on new-car purchases have ballooned to 7 percent, a consequence of the Federal Reserve's aggressive streak of interest rate hikes to fight inflation. It's all pushed the national average monthly auto loan payment to \$729 — prohibitively high for many. Experts say a family earning the median U.S. household income can no longer afford the average new car payment and still cover such necessities as housing, food, and utilities. Used vehicle prices, on average, have surged even more since the pandemic hit — up 40 percent, to nearly \$29,000. With an average loan rate having reached 11 percent, the typical monthly used-vehicle payment is now \$563. Faced with deciding between making a jumbo payment and keeping their existing vehicles, more owners are choosing to stick with what they have, even if it means spending more on repairs and maintenance. Auto mechanics have been struck by the rising ages and mileages of vehicles that now arrive at the shop in numbers they'd never seen before, including those with 250,000 or 300,000 miles. That doesn't mean that most owners of older vehicles are necessarily stuck with constant repair bills. One reason people can hold their vehicles for increasingly long periods is that auto manufacturing has improved over time. Engines run longer. Bodies don't rust as quickly. Components last longer. Yet the cost of buying either a new or used vehicle is leaving more people with essentially no choice but to keep the one they have. And one analyst says it's still typically more cost-effective to fix an older vehicle than to spring for a purchase. Nearly 122 million vehicles on the road are more than a dozen years old, and experts predict the number of

older vehicles will keep growing until at least 2028. All of this has created a boom time for auto shops. / TRANSPORTATION, TERRORISM: Are you who you say you are? The agency tasked with securing America's airports is testing the use of facial recognition technology at a number of airports across the country. The Transportation Security Administration says the technology is an effort to more accurately identify the millions of passengers traveling through its airports every day and that passengers can opt out. It's currently at 16 airports. In the Western states, which includes Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Jose, and Salt Lake City. How does it work? Travelers put their driver's license into a slot that reads the card or place their passport photo against a card reader. Then they look at a camera on a screen about the size of an iPad, which captures their image and compares it to their ID. The technology checks to make sure the people at the airport match the ID they present, and that the identification is, in fact, real. A TSA officer is nearby and signs off on the screening. A small sign alerts travelers that their photo will be taken as part of the pilot and that they can opt out if they'd like. It also includes a QR code for them to get more information. TSA says the goal of the pilot is to improve the accuracy of the identity verification without slowing down the speed at which passengers pass through the checkpoints — a key issue for an agency that sees 2.4 million passengers daily. The agency said early results are positive and have shown no discernable difference in the algorithm's ability to recognize passengers based on things like age, gender, race and ethnicity. But critics have raised concerns about questions of bias in facial recognition technology and possible repercussions for passengers who want to opt out. Since it first rolled out, the test program has come under scrutiny by some elected officials and privacy advocates. In a February letter to TSA, five senators — four Democrats and an Independent who is part of the Democratic caucus demanded the agency stop the program, saying: "Increasing biometric surveillance of Americans by the government represents a risk to civil liberties and privacy rights." / PETS, BUSINESS, HEALTH, SAFETY: Just in time for the summer dining season, the U.S. government has given its blessing to restaurants that want to allow pet dogs in their outdoor spaces. But even though nearly half of states already allow canine dining outdoors, the issue is far from settled, with many diners and restaurants pushing back against the increasing presence of pooches. Restaurants have been required to allow service dogs for decades. But it wasn't until the mid-2000s that a handful of states began passing laws allowing dogs in outdoor dining spaces. Twenty-three states now have such laws or regulations. Three years ago, the Conference for Food Protection — a group of food industry and health experts that advises the government — asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to issue guidance for states. It cited a 2012 risk assessment in Australia and New Zealand that found that the health risk to human diners from dogs was very low. The FDA's updated food code, issued late last year, says restaurants may have dogs in outdoor areas if they get approval from their local regulator. FDA officials say restaurants should have signs saying dogs are welcome, and should develop plans to handle dogs and their waste. Dog owners have the responsibility of ensuring dogs remain properly restrained and, unless the restaurant does so, would provide separate food bowls, so dogs don't use plates or utensils meant for humans. The new guidance comes as U.S. pet ownership is rising. Nearly 87 million U.S. households now have a pet, up from 85 million in 2019, according to the American Pet Products Association. And

experts say more people are looking for dining options that will accommodate their dogs. But some restaurants are saying no to dogs. They say patrons have complained about pets stealing food from their tables, barking, defecating, or vomiting, blocking walking areas in dining rooms, along with dealing with fleas and pet dander, and occasionally obnoxious pet owners. In at least one case, an unleashed dog at the restaurant killed a neighborhood cat. Some say dogs should be allowed in restaurants, but only in designated dog-friendly areas or during specific hours. /

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TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Traveling Oregon Highway 58 between Interstate 5 and U.S. 97 this week? Allow extra time into your trip. Crews were already working on culvert repair and replacement in various locations along Highway 58. But to add to that, they're now performing emergency repairs at the site of an April rockslide nine miles west of Willamette Pass. Rock scaling crews are removing overhanging and loose debris along a stretch of the highway near Milepost 53. Crews are working at the site between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The effort might continue through Friday. Highway crews will flag traffic through the rock-scaling area. But expect up to 15- to 20-minute delays in those areas. During certain times, crews also might need to briefly close all lanes to keep travelers safe from rock falls. That could push the delays up to 40 minutes. When approaching work zones, remember to slow down and drive cautiously for your safety and for the safety of highway workers.; Oregon Department of Transportation crews are continuing their repair and safety work on Interstate 5 between Goshen and Cottage Grove. Part of the project involves repaying the onand off-ramps. That means detours when the ramps are closed. / ELECTIONS: This is Election Day across Oregon. There are plenty of contests for school boards and other governing bodies, along with a handful of local ballot measures. In Lane County, results will be available starting at 8:00 p.m. and will be updated throughout the evening. Ballots being returned by mail and postmarked by today must be received at the elections office by May 23 in order to be counted. If a contest is close on election night, its outcome might not be known until those remaining ballots are tallied. Election results will be certified on June 12. Election officials remind you to sign the back of your ballot return envelope. / RECREATION: Plan ahead and Celebrate State Parks Day with free parking and free RV and tent site camping at all Oregon State Parks June 3. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will waive day-use parking fees at the 25 locations that charge them June 3 and June 4. Oregon State Parks also will waive camping fees for all tent, RV and horse campsites the night of June 3. State Parks Day has been a tradition since 1998, to thank Oregonians for their support of the state park system. Fishing also is free statewide June 3 and 4, courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. / POLITICS: Two Republicans and an Independent taking part in a legislative walkout that has stalled hundreds of bills in the Oregon Senate were disqualified Monday from reelection under a new constitutional amendment aimed at stopping such actions. The GOP-led walkout

of the Democrat-dominated Senate has stretched to 10 days, though some participating lawmakers have rotated in and out since the action began May 3. Each of the three affected senators accumulated 10 unexcused absences, making them ineligible to serve in the Legislature for the period after their terms expire under a ballot measure voters passed overwhelmingly last year. The three senators who reached the 10-day limits for automatic disqualification are Republicans Dennis Linthicum and Daniel Bonham and Independent Brian Boquist, a former Republican. Analysts say more lawmakers could reach the tenday limit this week, including Lane County GOP state senator Cedric Hayden. Ballot Measure 113 was passed by almost 70 percent of voters last November as a method to end walkouts that have plagued the Legislature for several years. It is now written into the state Constitution. The Constitution now says missing 10 or more floor sessions "shall be deemed disorderly behavior and shall disqualify the member from holding office as a senator or representative for the term following the election after the member's current term is completed." Left unclear is whether they can run for office as candidates. An explanatory statement for Ballot Measure 113 says a disqualified candidate "may run for office ... and win, but cannot hold office." Ben Morris, spokesperson for the secretary of state's office, earlier said the courts have interpreted elections statutes to state that the Elections Division cannot allow a candidate on the ballot if it knows the candidate won't qualify for office. Court challenges are expected. The walkout by Oregon Republican state senators threatens to derail dozens of bills, including those dealing with gun control and abortion rights. In addition to considering proposed laws, lawmakers in the state legislature must approve a biennial state budget before the end of June. / ILLEGAL DRUGS, SAFETY: A series of suspected drug overdoses left at least eight people dead over the weekend in the Portland area. Six of the deaths were likely related to fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid. Several of those who died believed they were using cocaine, when it was actually fentanyl or a mix of the two substances, according to investigators. The deaths occurred between early Friday morning and late Saturday afternoon. Like many states around the country. Oregon in recent years has grappled with a surge in opioid overdose deaths fueled by fentanyl, a highly addictive and potentially lethal drug. Fentanyl was developed to treat intense pain from ailments like cancer. Fentanyl has quickly become the deadliest drug in the nation, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Two-thirds of the 107,000 overdose deaths in 2021 were attributed to synthetic opioids like fentanyl, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Statewide, the number of fatal and unintentional overdoses involving fentanyl more than doubled from 2020 to 2021, from 226 deaths to 508, according to the Oregon Health Authority. Fentanyl and methamphetamine were the most common drugs in overdose deaths in 2021, the agency found. /

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ELECTIONS: Lane County voters yesterday strongly approved renewal of the county's public safety levy, with 80 percent of those casting ballots voting "yes." Officials say funding will maintain a minimum of 255 local iail beds and provide the sheriff greater capacity to hold those arrested for violent felonies or Measure 11 offenses; maintain mental health services within the Lane County Jail; and continue to provide counseling, secure treatment, and detention services for youth offenders. Officials say the public safety levy provides 52 percent of the operational funding for the Lane County Jail without increasing the tax rate. The original levy took effect in 2013.; A big "thumbs up" for the City of Eugene's fiveyear parks and recreation operations and maintenance levy. It's being approved by better than 65 percent of yesterday's voters. The money will be used for maintaining parks, facilities, recreation, and natural areas, and expanding staff for recreational programs at some facilities. But a big chunk of the levy also will pay for park safety and security, including police patrols and the park ambassador program. There also is money to clean up after illegal camping, vandalism, and damage from graffiti.; There also were two ballot measures before voters in the Creswell area. In one, 70 percent of those casting ballots approved the Creswell School District's bond request. But six out of ten voters are saying "no" to a proposal to dissolve the Creswell Water Control District.; Temporary Eugene City Council appointee Lyndsie Leech is leading a three-way race for a permanent spot in the Ward Seven seat. She has 47 percent of the vote so far. Ward Seven includes much of the River Road-Santa Clara, Trainsong, and Whiteaker neighborhoods.; There were dozens of local school board contests on yesterday's Lane County ballot. Those leading so far for spots on the Eugene School Board are Tom Di Liberto, Rick Hamilton, Jenny Jonak, and Morgan Munro. Leaders in the race for three spots on the Bethel School Board include Curt Nordling, Drae Charles, and Robin Zygaitis. For the Springfield School Board, the leaders are Ken Kohl and Nicole De Graff. / POLITICS: The GOP walkout continued yesterday in the Oregon Senate. This time, it was a Lane County lawmaker who hit a ten-day threshold for unexcused absences and, under a constitutional amendment approved last fall by Oregon voters, is disqualified from reelection to another term. Republican and longtime legislator Cedric Hayden of Fall Creek is the fourth member of the state senate to hit that ten-day threshold. Three other lawmakers—two Republicans and an Independent—did so on Monday. The walkout by Oregon Republican state senators threatens to derail

dozens of bills, including those dealing with gun control and abortion rights. In addition to considering proposed laws, lawmakers in the state legislature must approve a biennial state budget before the end of June. While walkouts have been used in previous session, absent lawmakers this time are coming up against terms of Ballot Measure 113. The constitutional amendment was approved by close to seven out of ten Oregon voters and says that those missing 10 or more floor sessions shall be disqualified from holding office as a senator or representative for the following tern after the member's current term is completed. Court challenges are expected. / CRIME: A 27-year-old man was arrested yesterday morning after investigators say he trespassed at a Dexter residence and later assaulted a sheriff's deputy trying to take the suspect into custody. Taylor Clyde Williams was taken into custody after being spotted walking along Highway 58 east of Pleasant Hill. Deputies say they learned while enroute that Williams had multiple warrants out for his arrest, including one for a parole violation on an unlawful use of a weapon charge. During efforts to place him in custody, officials say Williams became physically combative and bit a sheriff's deputy, injuring the deputy's finger. The deputy and Williams were taken to a hospital for treatment, then Williams was taken to jail. / WILDFIRES, SAFETY: State forestry officials say it is an investment that already is paying off. After several lightning strikes Monday night, public and private crews quickly stopped the progression of a wildfire in an area of southeastern Lane County between Sharps Creek and Mosby Creek. You can thank a detection camera installed last fall. It was purchased after lawmakers approved expanded funding for the detection network two years ago. The fire was spotted around 5:30 p.m., was under control by 8 p.m., and because of the quick response was limited to onehalf acre. "This fire was right on the edge of a unit and could have been significantly bigger had it not been detected until (Tuesday)," Says Chris Cline, the South Cascade District Forester, adding, "I'm super happy for the quick and effective result and look forward to getting additional cameras on-line as soon as possible." With the added early detection network funding over the past two years, the Oregon Department of Forestry has been adding new cameras across the state. So far, that network includes 93 cameras in 68 locations. The system's software sends notifications whenever it detects smoke rising from the landscape. When the cameras detect a blaze, an augmented mapping system relays the approximate location of the potential fire to dispatchers. The goal is to keep those blazes under ten acres and dramatically reduce the cost of fire response and minimizing property loss. / WILDLIFE, CRIME: A mother and her adult son who poached two bear cubs near Siletz last October must pay \$15,000 in damages, lose their hunting privileges for three years, and spend five years on probation. Investigators say the Siletz residents—52-year-old Gail Freer and her son, 29year-old Corey Loving—shot the cubs in early October while trespassing on private land. According to law enforcement officials, the two spotted a bear cub wandering in some blackberry bushes and Freer encouraged Loving to shoot the cub. He did. They believed it died. The two decided to return later to retrieve the bear. When they did, they spotted a cub foraging in the same place. Loving shot it, thinking it was the same bear. Instead, it was a second cub and it, too, died. Several days later, State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers located the carcasses after receiving an anonymous call to Oregon's Turn in Poachers (TIP) Line. Both cubs had been left to waste. Wildlife biologists say the cubs, which still had baby

teeth, were only about eight months old. It is illegal to hunt bear cubs under one year old, or sows with cubs less than one year old. Prosecutors and wildlife management officials say the crime showed a blatant disregard for wildlife laws. / CRIME, EDUCATION: Yet another frustrating day for a local school after someone called in a bomb threat—part of what might be a series of hoax calls to schools up and down the West Coast. Classes were canceled for students and staff at South Eugene High School after a pair of calls shortly after 9:40 yesterday morning. Investigators say yesterday's threat was similar to a pair of earlier hoaxes that caused similar disruptions at South. Eugene Police searched the school thoroughly and found nothing. Hoaxes like this disrupt education. They also violate the law and can bring federal charges. / RECREATION, SAFETY, COMMUNITY, EVENTS, ENVIRONMENT: It's shaping up to be a great summer recreations season at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. A quick update from managers with the Siuslaw National Forest: Staff and volunteers of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA) are busy preparing campgrounds and trails for summer visitors. This year, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) motorists will notice more safety education and sound monitoring activities. These will include courtesy sound checks, sound enforcement checkpoints and sound education programming. "We are excited to welcome summer visitors to the dunes," said Central Coast Deputy District Ranger Jeremy Aujero. "As a multiuse recreation area, there is a place here for everyone. With that in mind, we'd like to remind visitors to respect closures, out-of-bounds zones, noise limits, and quiet hours. We appreciate everyone's help to care for the land and provide a family-friendly place where people can visit for generations to come." Safety is paramount to ensuring a family-friendly environment at the ODNRA and this season, there will be a greater emphasis on noise safety levels. Forest Service staff and partner agencies will be conducting a variety of sound outreach, education, monitoring, and enforcement activities on the ODNRA intended to help OHV riders understand what the sound limit is, why it's important, and how to comply. OHVs found to be in violation of the sound limit may be subject to citation. Excessive sound poses a potential disturbance to adjacent landowners, other recreationists, and sensitive wildlife. Noise regulation and monitoring are important aspects of OHV management. The Oregon Dunes Management Plan (1994) establishes standards for OHV sound rules and sound monitoring. The current OHV sound limit for the ODNRA is 93 decibels, as measured from an OHV's tailpipe while the vehicle is stationary. Several scheduled events at the ODRNA may increase visitation at various times: Northwest Raptor Rally: May 18-21. Expect heavy traffic around the Hauser area and south portion of the dunes. UTV Takeover: June 21-25. Expect heavy traffic in the Horsfall and Hauser area and the entire southern portion of the dunes. Some entrances may have restricted access. Dune Fest: August 8-13. Expect heavy traffic in the Umpqua Day Use areas. Some entrances may have restricted access. / SAFETY, FORESTRY: The Lane County Sheriff's Office yesterday released details about an accident that injured two loggers a week ago Tuesday at a site outside of the town of Walton. It happened in the woods near Richardson Upriver Road. Officials say a 32-year-old logger sustained serious injuries to his pelvis, leg, and head after being struck by a moving boulder. The accident stranded him down in a canyon nearly 1000 feet from the roadway. A second logger had also been struck by the boulder but sustained less-severe injuries to his lower-leg. Search and

Rescue personnel made their way on foot to the injured logger and were assisted by a crew in a Coast Guard helicopter. The severely injured patient was hoisted in a rescue basket and hospitalized. The second patient was able to walk out on his own with some assistance. Both patients are expected to survive. / HEALTH, SPORTS: Four more former professional soccer players have been diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy or CTE. The Concussion Legacy Foundation says the North American Soccer League veterans were found to have the degenerative brain disease that has been linked to concussions in athletes, combat veterans and others who have sustained repeated head trauma. Among them, former English soccer player and Oregon State head coach Jimmy Conway. CTE can only be diagnosed by examining the brain after death. Conway died in 2020 and had revealed 10 years earlier that he'd been diagnosed with dementia. An autopsy found he had the most severe form of CTE. The new diagnoses come as soccer officials gather in Chicago for a Head Injury Summit. Some of the ex-players' families say hearing from those who suffered from the disease is a key to preventing and treating it. But CTE researchers and families of those affected by the disease say that the conference did not feature any of the top researchers and that they believe it is part of a trend among sports leagues to give the appearance of responding to long-term health concerns while downplaying the long-term effects of concussions and delaying measures that could prevent them. Boston University researchers have diagnosed more than 100 football players with CTE; it also has been found in boxers and rugby players and professional wrestlers and members of the military. Cases among soccer players — at least in the U.S. — have been less common. But researchers expect the numbers to increase now that those who began playing the growing sport as children are reaching old age. /

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ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

POLITICS, ECONOMY, GOVERNMENT: Oregon's latest state revenue forecast far exceeded expectations Wednesday, giving lawmakers more money for a twovear budget that's due in June. But a walkout by Senate Republicans has jeopardized the process and they show no signs of planning to return to the chamber. Senate Democratic leaders, who hold the majority in both the Senate and House, urged Republicans to end their boycott and take advantage of additional money in the budget to help Oregonians. The boycott has left the Senate short of a quorum, which requires at least two-thirds of members to be present. State economists said yesterday that they were increasing earlier revenue estimates because of an unexpected surge in tax payments. Lawmakers have about \$2 billion more than they expected to spend over the next two years. With the surge in revenues, the state now is expected to send close to \$5.5 (b)billion back to taxpayers under Oregon's unique "kicker" rebate. It would take the form of a tax credit on next year's tax returns. Governor Tina Kotek, a Democrat and former long-serving House speaker, said she at a news conference that she was concerned that the GOP walkout in the state senate walkout could slow passage of a new two-year state budget. Lawmakers are supposed to complete their budget work by the end of June, but if that doesn't happen Kotek sats she will use whatever tools she has to advance the process. That could include calling a special legislative session this summer. In the interim, Kotek on Tuesday signed a bill that would keep funds flowing to state agencies until mid-September if the Legislature cannot agree on a new budget. The GOP state senate walkout began May 3 with Republican Minority Leader Tim Knopp complaining about Democrats' "extreme" bills, including measures on gun control, abortion rights, and gender-affirming care. But under a new constitutional amendment approved last fall by Oregon voters, lawmakers who accumulate ten unexcused absences are prohibited from running for reelection to another term. Three Republicans and an Independent Party senator already have crossed that ten-day threshold. Six more Republicans are expected to reach that mark today if they still fail to appear for a floor session. / EMPLOYMENT: Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.0 percent in April, down from 4.4 percent in March. For the past 21 months, the statewide unemployment rate has remained relatively steady and near historic lows. Analysts say April's job gains were largest in the catch-all category known as "Other services," which includes a variety of service establishments, such as repair, maintenance, laundry, religious

organizations, and social advocacy organizations. Employment in this broad industry rose by 1,700 last month and now employs 66,000 across Oregon slightly above its prepandemic peak. There also were job gains in Health Care and Social Assistance. That sector added 900 jobs in April—part of a gain of 11,500 jobs during the past year. Part of the gain was because of the rapid growth of nursing and residential care facilities. There also were some contractions last month, including employment declines in Construction and Manufacturing, including in Food Manufacturing. / SAFETY, CRIME: A threevehicle crash yesterday on Clear Lake Road, just west of Goodman Road near Alvadore, left one person dead during the noon hour. Lane County Sheriff's investigators say one of the vehicles caught fire after the crash, its driver was inside, and died at the scene. Officials are working to confirm the cause of death. The driver of another vehicle was treated at the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Officials say the third driver, who had been in a blue-green Pontiac sedan, was last seen walking west, away from the crash scene. Witnesses said he might have been picked up by a white truck. He is described as a white man in his 50s to 70s, about six-foot tall, with a black dog. If you know the identity of that driver, investigators with the Lane County Sheriff's Office would like to hear from you.; The Oregonian and OregonLive report that a teen driver caught going 176 mph on Interstate 5 south of Portland has been slapped with a \$1,000 fine and a six-month license suspension after spending the night in jail. Reporter Zach Sparling writes that Washington County sheriff's deputies clocked 19-year-old Milo Schneider of Tualatin driving nearly triple the speed limit on southbound I-5 just after midnight on Wednesday. A patrol deputy who spotted the speedster broadcast a description of the blue 2016 BMW M3 and, a short distance down the freeway, another deputy spotted the sedan taking an exit. The deputies used their vehicles while the BMV was stopped at the off-ramp to pin the car and prevent the driver from leaving. The teen allegedly told deputies he had pushed the speedometer up to 183 mph at one point during the drive. One official said that's extremely unsafe behavior, adding that, "When you're going at that speed, you're going to hit something and someone's going to die." / POLITICS, ELECTIONS: In Eastern Oregon, voters in Wallowa County are narrowly approving an advisory resolution to become part of Idaho, but the contest still is considered too close to call. If it passes, it will bring to 12 the number of Oregon counties approving Greater Idaho advisory measures. The Greater Idaho effort gained traction in a many Eastern Oregon counties—plus a few in northern California. Supporters argue those regions would be better served by Idaho's more conservative politics. The movement's backers experienced a setback last year in Douglas and Josephine counties—both on the west side of the Cascades. They've since retooled their efforts to focus more on jurisdictions and voters on the east side of the mountains. But redrawing the Oregon-Idaho border would require approval by both the Oregon and Idaho legislatures as well as Congress. And there would be plenty of financial issues to resolve, including how Idaho would purchase assets owned by the state of Oregon and budget for everything from government programs to road maintenance. / BUSINESS, ENTERTAINMENT: (TB-Variety) -The summer movie season is underway this month and one of the entries is set in Oregon and partly filmed in Oregon. It is "Air"—the latest project from Matt Damon-Ben Affleck. It tells the story of how, in 1984, running giant Nike—then just a mid-sized running shoe company, rolled the dice and tried to grab a chunk

of the basketball shoe market from then-giants Adidas and Converse. "Air" debuted in theatres last month and already has sold \$88 million in tickets. But it received a viewership boost when it debuted last Friday on Prime. Based on the true story of how Nike signed then-NBA rookie Michael Jordan in a deal that revolutionized sports endorsements. The company, which started in Eugene in the mid-1960s as Blue Ribbon Sports, rebranded in the 1970s as Nike and moved its fast-expanding operation to Beaverton. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 05/19/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY, CRIME: Oregon State Police say seven people are dead and multiple others were injured in a crash involving two semi-trucks and a passenger van. It happened on northbound Interstate 5 about seven miles north of Albany near the Santiam Rest Area. Officers responded shortly after 2 p.m. It appeared the van had been crushed between the two trucks. The cause of the crash is under investigation. At one point during the emergency response, police and fire crews draped a blue tarp across the wrecked van and placed a barrier near one of the trucks to block the view of the scene. Paramedics treated some of the injured on-site, while two Life Flight helicopters evacuated others with more serious injuries. Names of those who died won't be released until relatives are notified. The northbound lanes of I-5 reopened last night. / CRIME: That pair of Amber Alerts that might have sounded yesterday afternoon and evening on your cellphone? It's connected to a case out of Nampa, Idaho, Officials are searching for a two-year-old boy who was abducted by his non-custodial father. The Amber Alert was issued across Oregon because Nampa is close to the Oregon-Idaho border and police suspected the man might have been driving in one or both states. One of the man's vehicles was found overnight. But another, a Lexus IS200, Idaho license plate 2 C T J 7 9 0, is still being sought. The child, Rudy Oziah Reyes, and his father, Rudolpho Reyes, still are missing. Rudolpho Reyes was last seen wearing a tank top, possibly white, and jeans. Rudy was last seen wearing a gray shirt with a hood and a diaper. If you see the vehicle or Rudolpho do not approach him. He is known to carry a gun. Instead, call Police or dial 911. / GOVERNMENT, ECONOMY: Does "tax shaming" work? On July 14, the Oregon Department of Revenue will publish a list of delinquent taxpayers on the department's website. The agency will post the names of people and businesses who owe at least \$50,000 in unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest to the state. But officials say taxpayers can avoid appearing on the list by paving their balance in full or making payment arrangements. Delinquent taxpayers will begin receiving notifications next week and will have close to eight weeks to resolve their status to avoid being on the list. The "tax shaming" was approved in 2019 by the Oregon Legislature. It was modeled on similar efforts in many other states—part of a push to promote greater tax compliance, tax fairness, and collect legally owed state revenue. Our state initially planned to launch the program in March 2020. But officials postponed things when the pandemic arrived amid concerns for taxpayers facing financial hardship. The list will include the

taxpayer's name and/or business name, the name of any person held personally liable for business debt, their current city and state of residence, lien identification number, type of debt, and current amount due. Officials say taxpayers who do not want their information shared can pay their tax debt in full or enter a departmentapproved payment plan or agreement to resolve their debt by the deadline in their notice. Taxpayers who owe are encouraged to contact the Oregon Department of Revenue promptly to arrange to resolve their debt. / CRIME: A 33-year-old Eugene man was arrested yesterday after investigators say they recovered multiple firearms after searching two locations—one on West 17th Avenue and another on Amirante Street in the Bethel area—and the suspect's vehicle. Officials say Dylan Bradley Stahl is a felon prohibited from owning firearms. But they say officers using a search warrant recovered an AR-15 with 9 fully loaded magazines and an attached factory suppressor, a 40-caliber handgun, a six-shot .22 revolver, and a semi-automatic rifle with optic. Stahl was taken into custody at the intersection of Acorn Park and W. 11th Avenue. Over the course of the day, Eugene Police deployed members of their Street Crimes Unit; SWAT, Drone Team, and K9 teams; and Investigations Division. / SPORTS: They say the intent is to add to the excitement and coverage of the games. The Pac-12 is providing increased access to players and coaches during broadcasts of football games next season, including in-game coaches interviews and halftime camera access. The enhancements will be implemented throughout football broadcasts on ESPN, Fox Sports, and the Pac-12 Networks. The expanded access also will include coaches and select athletes wired on the field during pregame activities, cameras without sound in the coaches' booths, and extended handheld camera access. Locker room camera access will be allowed before the game and at halftime. The changes are similar to those made by Major League Baseball in recent years. EDUCATION, EVENTS: If you see people in caps and gowns tomorrow afternoon on the University of Oregon campus, they're probably law school graduates. The U-of-O's School of Law is holding its commencement Saturday at 1 p.m. More than 100 students are receiving their degrees. Former Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio is the commencement speaker. /

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HOLIDAY, TRANSPORTATION, FINANCES: Memorial Day Weekend marks the start of the summer travel season. And the season promises to be a busy oneperhaps even a record-breaker. Airlines and tourist destinations are anticipating huge crowds this summer now that the government's pandemic emergency has been lifted. Airline industry officials say major carriers have fixed problems that contributed to a surge in flight cancellations and delays last summer, when 52,000 flights were nixed from June through August. Airlines have hired about 30,000 workers since then, including thousands of pilots, and they are using bigger planes to reduce flights but not the number of seats. But people who are only now booking travel for the summer are experiencing the sticker shock. One provider of travel data, Hopper, predicts that average domestic airfares will peak next month at \$328 for a round-trip ticket, which is down from last summer's record of \$400 but 4 percent higher than in 2019. There are some last-minute deals on domestic flights, Hopper found, but international fares are their highest in more than five years, with prices to Europe up 50 percent from a year ago. The average rate for a U.S. hotel room last week was \$157 a night, up from \$150 in the same week last year, according to hotel data provider STR. And the average daily rate for other short-term rentals such as Airbnb and Vrbo rose to \$316 last month, up 1.4 percent from a year ago, according to AirDNA, which tracks the industry. There is a bit of good news for drivers, however: The national average for a gallon of regular was close to a dollar per gallon lower than this time last year, according to AAA. Renting a car is also cheaper than a year ago, when some popular destinations ran out of vehicles. Travel company Expedia said larger inventories let the companies rent more cars at lower prices. AAA predicted that 37 million Americans would drive at least 50 miles from home over the holiday weekend, an increase of more than 2 million from Memorial Day last year but still below pre-pandemic numbers in 2019. For the travel industry, the big question is how long consumers can keep paying for airline tickets and accommodations while they try to deal with stubborn high inflation, news about layoffs and bank failures, and fear of a recession. Industry executives say consumers are favoring the experience of travel over other types of spending, but some analysts see cracks in the strong demand for travel that began in early 2022. Bank of America analysts say data from their credit and debit card customers showed a slowdown in spending in April, as card use fell below yearbefore levels for the first time since February 2021. They say spending on hotels,

which rebounded relatively early from the pandemic, dipped this spring, while the late-recovering cruise industry is still steaming ahead — card spending on cruises rose 37 percent last month, although from very low levels a year ago. / MILITARY, VETERANS, HOLIDAYS: Solemn gatherings and remembrances yesterday for Memorial Day. The federal holiday honors the more than 1.2-million men and women who have died in military service since the start of the Civil War in 1861. There were observances at Oregon cemeteries and historic sites. Oregon National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen participated in several Memorial Day community events around the state of Oregon. They joined with a Joint Service Honor Guard in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery in Clackamas. Throughout the state, the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Wing and 173rd Fighter Wing made patriotic flyovers at ceremonies and parades in more than one dozen towns and cities. / WILDFIRES, SAFETY: After three and a half days of nonstop firefighting, officials say a wildfire burning about ten miles southwest of Veneta is 100 percent lined and 90 percent plumbed with hose. The 7K fire, as it's known, is burning across roughly 300 acres, and has not grown significantly since Saturday morning. Sunday night and into Monday morning, officials say no flames were visible and much of the smoke rising from the site comes from smoldering or smoking vegetation and stumps. The fire is located on steep terrain and crews are using bulldozers and hand tools to break up the vegetation and create gaps in the bare dirt as a natural boundary on the fire's growth. A helicopter dropped buckets of water until the flames were out and firefighters could safely hike up the hill and create a line around the quarter-acres site. The 7K Fire originally burned through steep terrain, leaving hazards like falling trees and rolling debris in its wake. These types of hazards are particularly dangerous at night, limited work crews can perform in darkness. Crews continue to keep an eye on weather conditions: As temperatures warmed Monday afternoon and winds picked up, they responded to a small spot fire located north of the main fire lines on an extremely steep slope. Another spot fire discovered on Monday morning also is completely lined and estimated at about three acres. On Saturday night, crews attacked a larger spot fire which covers slightly more than 20 acres and is 80 percent mopped up. Overnight, a 20-person hand crew, three engines and a water tender worked to manage the blaze and will continue mopup efforts today. Perkins Peninsula County Park is serving as a base for firefighting resources and remains closed to the public for safety reasons. The cause of the fire is under investigation.; On Sunday, Eugene-Springfield Fire crews responded to a five-acre brush fire on the hillside near 26th and South "F" Streets in Springfield. The blaze was burning uphill of an old quarry and early on crews had a difficult time locating an access road that allowed them to directly attack the fire. An Oregon Department of Forestry helicopter dumped water on the flames and a bulldozer eventually gained access to create fire lines where needed. Crews protected critical communications infrastructure atop the butte. No residential or commercial structures were threatened and no evacuations necessary. It is a reminder that we are already in fire season here in the Willamette Valley. / SAFETY, RECREATION: Friday evening, just after 8:30 p.m., Eugene-Springfield Fire Department's water rescue crews were called to assist several young people stranded on a rock in the Willamette River under the Interstate Five bridge in Eugene. Crews located several people stranded on the rock and said they had been floating the river using an "inappropriate" watercraft

and without life vests. The group was removed from the rock and taken to the Alton Baker Park boat launch without incident. But officials warn that while this had a positive resolution, it was a very dangerous situation. They add that you need to respect our local rivers and take safety precautions, so that situations like these do not end in tragedy. They urge you to use only approved watercraft and wear life jackets on any waterway. / POLITICS: Talks are expected to continue this week between Oregon Governor Tina Kotek and legislative Democratic and Republican leaders. The intent: bring an end to a more than three-week-old walkout by GOP senators. Last week, the governor's spokesperson said this year's troubled legislative session has reached "a crucial point." Only one month remains in the session that began in mid-January. Because of the walkout, more than 100 bills that have emerged from committees remain in limbo. Both the Oregon Senate and House must also approve state budgets for the next two years before the session closes by a June 25 deadline. Republican Senate Minority Leader Sen. Tim Knopp said last week the absent senators are not returning until the session's last day, when they intend to pass what he called "bipartisan" budgets and bills. The walkout began on May 3, ostensibly because legislative bill summaries were not written at an eighth grade level as required by a long-forgotten law. But the GOP has focused on a sweeping measure on abortion rights and gender-affirming care that the conservatives particularly object to, and a gun safety measure that would raise the minimum purchasing age of AR-15-style rifles and some other firearms from 18 to 21. The walkout now is reportedly the longest in Oregon history. Republicans took similar actions in 2019, 2020 and 2021 — and Democrats did so in 2001 — to prevent there being enough members present for lawmakers to conduct business. Under a ballot measure passed by Oregonians last November, Knopp is among nine Republican senators and the Senate's lone Independent who have become disqualified from being seated in the Legislature after their terms expire because they have 10 or more unexcused absences this year. That limit was set by a ballot measure that almost 70 percent of Oregonians voted for last November and is now part of the state Constitution. Some of those senators who want to seek reelection in 2024 are expected to file court challenges to the ballot measure once they can begin filing as candidates in September. / WILDFIRES, ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE, SAFETY: The U.S. government can keep using chemical retardant dropped from aircraft to fight wildfires, despite finding that the practice pollutes streams in western states in violation of federal law, a judge ruled Friday. Halting the use of the red slurry material could have resulted in greater environmental damage from wildfires, said U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen in Missoula, Montana. The judge agreed with U.S. Forest Service officials who said dropping retardant into areas with waterways was sometimes necessary to protect lives and property. The ruling came after came after environmentalists sued following revelations that the Forest Service dropped retardant into waterways hundreds of times over the past decade. Government officials say chemical fire retardant can be crucial to slowing the advance of dangerous blazes. Wildfires across North America have grown bigger and more destructive over the past two decades as climate change warms the planet. More than 200 loads of retardant got into waterways over the past decade. Federal officials say those situations usually occurred by mistake and in less than 1 percent of the thousands of loads annually. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Early findings from the National Institutes of Health's study highlight

a dozen symptoms that most distinguish long COVID, the catchall term for the sometimes debilitating health problems that can last for months or years after even a mild case of COVID-19. The most-common symptoms included fatigue; brain fog; dizziness; gastrointestinal symptoms; heart palpitations; sexual problems; loss of smell or taste; thirst; chronic cough; chest pain; worsening symptoms after activity and abnormal movements. Millions worldwide have had long COVID, with dozens of widely varying symptoms including fatigue and brain fog. Scientists still don't know what causes it, why it only strikes some people, how to treat it -- or even how to best diagnose it. Better defining the condition is key for research to get those answers. Prior research has suggested the risk of long COVID has dropped since omicron appeared; its descendants still are spreading. About 10 percent of people appear to suffer long COVID after an omicron infection, a lower estimate than earlier in the pandemic, according to a study of nearly 10,000 Americans that aims to help unravel the mysterious condition. The bigger question is how to identify and help those who already have long COVID. The new research, published Thursday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, includes more than 8,600 adults who had COVID-19 at different points in the pandemic. / HEALTH, ILLEGAL DRUGS: Funding for drug treatment centers in Oregon, financed by the state's pioneering drug decriminalization policy, stood at over a quarter-billion dollars Friday as officials called for closer monitoring of where the money goes. That need for oversight was demonstrated Wednesday when state officials terminated a \$1.5 million grant agreement with a drug recovery nonprofit in Klamath Falls accused of failing to submit completed expenditure and data reports and buying a building for more than double the authorized amount. That \$1.5 million is just a drop in a huge bucket — \$264.6 million has been allocated to date for recovery centers — and state officials have a massive responsibility to ensure the money does what it is supposed to: combatting drug use in a state with one of the nation's highest addiction rates. Oregon's drug decriminalization had a rocky start after voters approved it in a 2020 ballot measure. Only a tiny number of people have accessed treatment services after being ticketed for possessing drugs, and funding to treatment providers was delayed. But as of Friday, \$184 million has been handed out to these behavioral health resource networks, or BHRNs (pronounced "burns"), in a state of 4.2 million people. To ensure things run smoothly, the Measure 110 Oversight and Accountability Council, responsible for overseeing addiction and recovery centers and the funds to support them, needs more staff, officials say. And the Oregon Health Authority needs more leverage to address bureaucratic and administrative barriers to oversight. But a bill to provide all that remains stuck in the Senate, along with more than 100 other bills, because of a walkout by Republican senators. / POLITICS, GOVERNMENT: President Biden says he "feels good" about the debt ceiling and budget deal negotiated with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy as the White House and congressional leaders work to ensure its passage this week in time to lift the nation's borrowing limit and prevent a disastrous U.S. default. Biden spent part of the Memorial Day holiday working the phones, calling lawmakers in both parties, as the president does his part to deliver the votes. A number of hard right conservatives are criticizing the deal as falling short of the deep spending cuts they wanted, while liberals are unhappy with policy changes such as new work requirements for older Americans in the food aid program. A key test will come this afternoon when the House

Rules Committee considers the package and decides whether to send it to the full House for a vote that's expected Wednesday. As lawmakers size up the 99-page bill, few are expected to be fully satisfied with the final product. But Biden, a Democrat, and McCarthy, a Republican, are counting on pulling majority support from the political center, a rarity in divided Washington, to join in voting to prevent a catastrophic federal default. When Wall Street opens this morning, traders will deliver their own assessment. The U.S. financial markets had been closed when the deal was struck over the weekend. McCarthy acknowledged the hard-fought compromise with Biden will not be "100 percent of what everybody wants" as he leads a slim House majority powered by hard-right conservatives. Facing potential blowback from his conservative ranks, the Republican speaker will have to rely on upwards of half the House Democrats and half the House Republicans to push the debt ceiling package to passage. Overall, the package is a tradeoff that would impose some spending reductions for the next two years along with a suspension of the debt limit into January 2025, pushing the volatile political issue past the next presidential election. Raising the debt limit, now \$31 trillion, would allow Treasury to continue borrowing to pay the nation's already incurred bills. Republicans demanded the bolstered work requirements as part of the deal. The new work requirements would apply to people between the ages of 50 to 54 who receive government food assistance and are otherwise able-bodied without dependents. The Republicans also pushed to beef up work requirements for government health care benefits and other aid, but Biden refused to go along with those requirements. / LABOR, YOUTH, EMPLOYMENT: Teens have long been vital to filling out the summertime staffs of restaurants, ice cream stands, amusement parks and camps. Now, thanks to one of the tightest labor markets in decades, analysts say they have even more sway, with an array of jobs to choose from at ever higher wages. One factor straining the labor market is Baby Boomers reaching retirement age. The Federal Reserve calculates that rising retirements have left the economy with about 2 million fewer workers. Yet despite the significant challenges employers face this summer, labor shortages are much less of a problem than they were in 2021, when the pandemic made many people reluctant to return to consumer-facing jobs. Higher inflation has also incentivized many people to seek work to help their families cover food and rent. In just the past six months, 2 million Americans who had been out of the workforce have taken jobs or started looking for one. The share of Americans aged 25 through 54 who are working or job-hunting is now above pre-pandemic levels. To entice more applicants, hourly pay jumped about 5 percent in April from a year ago at restaurants, retailers and amusement parks, the industries likely to employ teens. Before the pandemic, pay in these industries typically rose no more than 3 percent annually. There are roughly 1.6 jobs open for every person that is unemployed, according to the Labor Department. In April, nearly 34 percent of Americans aged 16 to 19 had jobs, according to government data. That compares with 30 percent four years ago, the last pre-pandemic summer. To ease the labor crunch, some states are moving to roll back restrictions to let teens work more hours and, in some cases, more hazardous jobs — much to the chagrin of labor rights groups, who see it as a troubling trend. Economists say there are other ways to expand the workforce without putting more of a burden on kids, including by allowing more legal immigration. / YOUTH, BUSINESS, SAFETY, CRIME: For many teens, roaming shopping malls, hanging out at amusement parks, and

watching a movie at a local theater with their peers have been long considered the rites of passage to adulthood. But recently, that independence has been curbed. An increasing number of malls, amusement parks and other public places where teens gather to meet their friends have implemented policies just ahead of the summer requiring them to be accompanied by adult chaperones at least for certain times of the day. Requiring an adult chaperone is not new to some malls, but experts say there's been a renewed push and the trend is now spreading to other types of establishments as businesses grapple with increasing rowdy teen behavior. Many praise chaperone policies as a way to reduce disruptions to business and create a safer shopping environment. But some critics say the new parental controls hurt teens' independence and social development already curbed by pandemic-induced lockdowns. One retail industry adviser says the policies are not just about enhancing safety but adjusting to post-pandemic times, as teens markedly pull back on purchases compared to other age groups. Adults ages 55 and older spent 5 percent more in 2022 compared to the previous year, with the other age groups combined spending 2 percent lower according to data from industry group Circana. Meanwhile, spending by those in the 18- to 24-year old category fell by 8 percent. Analysts say the restrictions likely will help boost spending among adults who must accompany kids and teens, but also will likely reduce the number of trips by teens, making the overall financial impact unclear. /

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Morning News

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30 Seconds

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HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, WEATHER: If you have allergies to grass pollen, I probably don't need to tell you that this is a week of misery. According to the sampling equipment operated at Oregon Allergy Associate's clinic at 15th and Oak Streets in Eugene, grass pollens are "very high" and hit a record level for the year on Sunday. How high are we talking? The grass pollen particles are considered "very high" when the sample collects more than 200 of them. Sunday's reading: 777. By comparison, tree pollens—which were peaking a couple weeks ago—are at a moderate level this week. / SAFETY. TRANSPORTATION, CRIME: The driver of the semitruck involved in a fatal crash on Interstate 5 earlier this month that left seven agricultural laborers dead has been indicted on charges of manslaughter, reckless driving, and driving under the influence of intoxicants. According to court documents, a grand jury in Marion County yesterday indicted the California truck driver, 52-year-old Lincoln Smith, on 12 counts. Smith is being held without bail in the Marion County Jail. The crash occurred May 18. Officials say the seven people died and four others were injured when Smith's semitruck ran onto the shoulder of Interstate 5 and slammed into the van, which was parked near the Santiam River Rest Area north of Albany. Smith was allegedly driving while under the influence of a combination of a controlled substance and an inhalant, according to the indictment. The Statesman Journal quoted witnesses who said the truck was weaving on and off the road before the collision. The news outlet reported that, at his arraignment on May 19, a district attorney said Smith had refused a field sobriety test and was unable to focus and answer basic questions. The prosecutor also said Smith acknowledged taking an illegal drug the day before the crash and was allegedly in possession of methamphetamine. The van was carrying 11 agricultural laborers. Leaders with a state farmworkers' union said the group was heading home after working a harvest. The Mexican Consulate in Portland said all of those killed and injured were farmworkers of Mexican nationality. All but one were listed by police as living in Oregon cities near the crash. The consulate also said it was assisting the families of the victims and guiding them through the process of transferring remains to Mexico. It added that it is still in close communication with law enforcement. The farmworkers' union organized an online fundraiser that has raised more than \$70,000 to help support the families of the victims. / SAFETY: Investigators with the Lane County Sheriff's Office say a man who had been riding in the bed of a pickup truck died from his injuries after being thrown from

the vehicle during a crash Sunday afternoon on Big Fall Creek Road. The victim is identified as 29-year-old Corey Michael Primmer. The crash happened around 5:40 Sunday afternoon. Investigators say a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado pickup was heading west near Milepost 6 on Big Fall Creek Road when it went off the roadway, down an embankment, and lodged against a tree. Officials are working to determine why the pickup left the roadway.; Investigators say a woman walking on the railroad tracks in Junction City was struck and killed by a freight train. It happened Monday afternoon, shortly before 4:30 p.m. Investigators say the engineer told them that operators sounded audible alarms as they performed an emergency stop but that the woman did not respond to the alarms. Investigators are working to determine her identity and are asking anyone who might have information in the case to contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office. Call 541-682-4150 and, when prompted, select Option 1. / CRIME: In the mid-Willamette Valley, thieves cut through a newly installed security fence and broke into a trailer used by the Lebanon Fire Department's investigation team. Officials say the thieves stole several thousand dollars in tools, lights, and cameras damaging the trailer in the process. Lebanon Fire officials say the theft and damage are extremely frustrating because they hamper the department's ability to serve the community and investigate fires. They're asking anyone with information in the case to contact the Linn County Sheriff's Office. Call 541-967-3950 and reference case number 23-02101. / EDUCATION, GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT: The Knight Science Campus that lies across Franklin Boulevard from the main part of the University of Oregon is getting a second building. In fact, that building is already under construction. The 185thousand square-foot research building is taking shape after two years of planning and a \$500 million cash infusion from longtime U-of-O donors Phil and Penny Knight and \$10 million from the Oregon Legislature. University of Oregon officials hope the Knight Science Campus will continue to draw top researchers and students from around the country as it develops innovations in science, technology, bioengineering, and biomedical computational science. The architect's renderings of the project include open-air classrooms, labs, and "maker's spaces" where students can invent and build protypes. A biofabrication and bioanalysis facility will allow researchers to develop synthetic cells, tissues, and organs. That's part of a push to create new, personalized medical tools that can be used to monitor health, regenerate tissue, and treat cancer and other ailments. There also will be spaces that can be leased to companies and startups. / WEATHER, SAFETY, WILDFIRES: Dry conditions and escalating fire danger. Officials with the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency are closing the outdoor burning season on Friday, June 2, close to two weeks early. The decision came after consulting with the Lane Fire Defense Board and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Experts say we've already seen a string of small brush fires and wildfires. There's no rain in the forecast through at least the middle of next week. Disposing of yard debris is crucial in defending against wildfires. There are alternatives to burning: Lane County offers several collection depots where residents can dispose of woody yard debris for a minimal fee. Alternatives to burning, such as chipping and composting, are also recommended. As the fall open burning season is set to begin on October 1, any changes to this date due to fire risk will be announced by the Lane County Fire Defense Board. To stay updated on the burning season status, visit www.lrapa.org or call the LRAPA daily

open burning advisory line at 541-726-3976. Coastal residents may receive updates at 541-997-1757.; Those winds that kicked up across parts of Western Oregon yesterday afternoon? They also started a small wildfire on the McKenzie Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest. Officials say firefighters quickly deployed when a prescribed burn—intended to reduce fuels in a thinned forest stand—sent embers onto National Forest land outside of the burn unit's perimeter. The gusty winds started two spot fires adjacent to the 65-acre planned burn unit. Forest Service officials say they declared it a wildfire so that additional personnel and resources could be rapidly deployed. Additional resources are expected to arrive later today. The burn area is located approximately two miles northeast of the McKenzie River Ranger Station, north of Highway 126 where two Forest Service roads (Roads 26-204 and 26-206) split near the Frissell Trail. Residents and visitors in the McKenzie River Corridor might see or smell smoke, especially as cooler temperatures settle in at night. But at the same time, they say those cooler temperatures also are moderating fire activity for the 34 firefighters that are working to suppress the blaze.; Prepare for wildfire season by having an evacuation plan. To close out Wildfire Awareness Month, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) is urging everyone to prepare for the upcoming wildfire season by having an evacuation plan. OEM has information and resources to help Oregonians plan for what to do before, during and after a wildfire to keep themselves, their loved ones, and their communities safe. Taking simple steps to prepare today can make a big difference in being ready when an evacuation occurs. Sign up for emergency alerts to be notified when there is an evacuation. Also, check your phone settings to ensure that wireless emergency alerts are turned on. People should become familiar with their county emergency management website and know where to find local emergency information, including evacuation information. Those who use social media are encouraged to follow local emergency services in their area such as the county, city, sheriff's office and fire agency profiles. Being prepared starts with having a plan. OEM offers an evacuation checklist that can be used as a guide. Establish a communication plan with a list of important contacts and a safe place for loved ones to meet if they are separated during an emergency. Identify multiple evacuation routes from home, work or school and plan for transportation needs. Discuss the plan with loved ones, friends and neighbors and practice it so everyone knows what to do during an emergency. People with disabilities should consider individual circumstances and specific needs when planning for evacuation, such as special equipment, transportation, and service animals. Have an evacuation plan for pets and large animals such as horses and other livestock. Prepare a pet evacuation kit in a tote bag or pet crate. Pack food, water, leashes, bedding, identification, medication and vaccination or medical records. Plan for transportation of large animals and identify sheltering options. Assemble an emergency kit of essential supplies that can be grabbed in a hurry. Pack an easyto-carry backpack or bag for each member of the household with health and safety items such as food, water, medication, flashlights, phone chargers and clothing. Find more information and resources at Wildfire.Oregon.gov/prepare / GOVERNMENT, POLITICS: Hard-fought to the end, the debt ceiling and budget cuts package is heading toward a crucial U.S. House vote as President Joe Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy assemble a coalition of centrist Democrats and Republicans to push it to passage over fierce blowback from conservatives and

some progressive dissent. Biden is sending top White House officials to meetings early today at the Capitol to shore up support ahead of voting. McCarthy is working furiously to sell skeptical fellow Republicans, even fending off challenges to his leadership, in the rush to avert a potentially disastrous U.S. default. Despite deep disappointment from right-flank Republicans that the compromise falls short of the spending cuts they demanded, McCarthy insisted he would have the votes needed to ensure approval. Quick approval by the House and later in the week the Senate would ensure government checks will continue to go out to Social Security recipients, veterans and others, and would prevent financial upheaval at home and abroad. Monday is the day when Treasury officials have said the U.S. will run short of money to pay its debts, risking an economically dangerous default that could ripple across the globe. / HEALTH, SAFETY, BUSINESS: Federal health officials say food workers who showed up while sick or contagious were linked to about 40 percent of restaurant food poisoning outbreaks with a known cause between 2017 and 2019. Norovirus and salmonella, germs that can cause severe illness, were the most common cause of 800 outbreaks, which encompassed 875 restaurants and were reported by 25 state and local health departments. Eighty-five percent of restaurant managers said they had policies restricting staff from working while sick. But only about 16 percent of those policies specifically required workers to notify managers and to stay home if they had any of five key symptoms — including vomiting, diarrhea, and sore throat with fever. Another challenge: Unpaid sick time. Only two in five managers surveyed told the CDC their restaurants provide paid sick leave to workers. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/01/23

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30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WILDFIRES, SAFETY: Some anxious hours overnight after a 25-acre wildfire burning near Lowell and Fall Creek prompted some evacuation advisories for nearby residents. The Level Two "Be Set" evacuation notice was downgraded to a Level One "Be Ready" alert around 8 p.m. But it is another sobering and far too early reminder that our area has already entered wildfire season. The Reuben Leigh (say: LAY) Fire prompted the evacuation advisories for a rural area north of Lowell and west of Fall Creek Lake. The blaze is burning on private timberland. A crew backed by fire engines and two helicopters continued to battle the blaze overnight. Officials with the Oregon Department of Forestry expected to have the fire completely lined late yesterday evening. The blaze was pushed by west winds, which kicked up again yesterday afternoon. On Tuesday, similar wind gusts threw embers from a prescribed burn up the McKenzie, causing a pair of spot fires two miles northeast of the McKenzie Ranger Station. That blaze, dubbed the "W-470 Fire," remains at 120 acres. During part of the afternoon, high winds prevented helicopters from dropping water on the blaze. But calmer weather this morning is allowing crews to resume the aerial battle and additional resources were arriving overnight. Crews continue to mop up the 7K wildfire southwest of Veneta. It burned across close to 350 acres. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.; Experts stress the key to preparing for wildfire season is by having an evacuation plan—because you might only have minutes to safely leave your home if a wildfire is burning nearby. One key element of that plan: Stay informed. Sign up for emergency alerts to be notified when there is an evacuation. If you're already registered to receive alerts, this is a good time to confirm and, if needed, update your contact information. Locally, Lane County Government manages the registration system for emergency alerts. Go to the county's official website or check out Tim's and my Facebook pages. We shared a comprehensive wildfire preparation post just a couple of days ago. If you use social media, follow local emergency services in your area such as your county, city, sheriff's office, and fire agency pages. Also, check your phone settings to ensure that wireless emergency alerts are turned on.; Officials with the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency are closing the outdoor burning season on Friday, June 2, close to two weeks early. The decision came after consulting with the Lane Fire Defense Board and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Experts say we've already seen a string of small brush fires and wildfires. There's no rain in the forecast through at least the middle of next week. Disposing of yard debris is

crucial in defending against wildfires. There are alternatives to burning: Lane County offers several collection depots where residents can dispose of woody yard debris for a minimal fee. Alternatives to burning, such as chipping and composting, are also recommended. As the fall open burning season is set to begin on October 1, any changes to this date due to fire risk will be announced by the Lane County Fire Defense Board. / LEGAL, GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH: Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and her counterpart in Washington state yesterday filed suit against 21 companies including DuPont and 3M. They say contamination from chemicals in their foam products, which are used to battle fires, have caused decades of health and environmental problems. The chemicals are grouped under the acronym PFAS (say: PEE'-fäss) and are referred to as "forever chemicals." The compounds are used in firefighting foam, often on military bases and at commercial airports. They also are found in household products like nonstick pans, food packaging, waterproof jackets, carpets, and more. But PFAS don't break down easily and scientists say they can persist in the human body and in the environment for decades. Attorney General Rosenblum says the companies profited from the products while disregarding the damage created by the use. / CRIME, EDUCATION: After four frustrating weeks of educational disruption, a break in the case involving that quartet of bomb threats that last month targeted South Eugene High School. Eugene Police investigators have identified two South High students who were involved in the incidents. EPD detectives, along with local FBI agents, say they contacted the students and that they and their families have been cooperative in the investigation. The case is now being reviewed for prosecution by the Lane County District Attorney's Office. However, the youths' names are not being released because they are juveniles. Investigators believe the suspects went online to pay another person or entity to send the bomb threats to shut down the school. The identity of the online contact or contacts still is being determined. But investigators say they are confident all four threats were hoaxes. They note that similar threats have targeted many other schools across the country. Investigators say a break in the case came when a Eugene School District official located an anonymous social media post offering to send threats for a fee. Eugene Police say they worked with the FBI to begin a legal process with the social media platform that was involved. That, in turn, led to follow-up efforts locally. On Tuesday, Eugene Police detectives and FBI agents served a search warrant which they say led to the seizure of multiple electronic devices. The hoax bomb threats were made for South Eugene High School on May 3, 10, 16, and 24—basically one a week. During those incidents, a person called the police department claiming to be inside the school armed with explosives. In some of the calls, the person claimed to be armed with a firearm and was threatening to harm people. During each incident, Eugene Police extensively searched the inside and outside of the school and conducted follow-up investigations, pulling personnel and resources from other cases and calls. Officials say the threats greatly disrupted classes, test taking, and caused significant stress to South Eugene students, families, and school staff. / CRIME: Investigators from the Lane County Sheriff's office say they've arrested and charged a 36-year-old man in connection with an incident on Sunday during which he might have held a domestic violence victim against her will. Officials say he's accused of strangling and assaulting the victim the night before. Investigators say Bradley Allen Evenson was taken into

custody after being spotted in a vehicle with the alleged victim Eugene. Officials said he fled in the vehicle, driving to an area near Lorane, and that the vehicle left the road a short time later and crashed. / GOVERNMENT, POLITICS: The longest-ever walkout in the Oregon Legislature completed its fourth week on Wednesday as the enforceability of a ballot measure that would disqualify the boycotters from immediate reelection appeared in doubt. By all appearances, Oregon's 2023 legislative session has derailed amid the GOP boycott of the Senate over an abortion and transgender care bill. Senate Democrats once again tried on Wednesday to convene the chamber, which last met on May 2. But a roll call again showed that nine Republicans and a member of the Independent Party of Oregon were absent without being excused, preventing a quorum, and again preventing votes on Democratic priority measures, including one on gun control. Senator Tim Knopp, leader of the minority Senate Republicans, says the boycott will end only on the last day of the legislative session, June 25, to pass what he termed "bipartisan" legislation and budget bills. Knopp says Democratic priorities, including a sweeping measure to guarantee abortion rights, are not negotiable. Democratic Governor Tina Kotek said Wednesday that her talks to end the impasse have failed. She added that negotiating on the abortion-rights measure, which has already passed in the Oregon House, is not an option. If not enough Republicans return before June 25 to establish a 20-member quorum, the governor says she might call a special session for the House and Senate to approve the state's budgets for the next two years. Senate and House Democrats yesterday criticized the no-show GOP state senators, saying in a statement that their absences endanger a \$4 billion investment in public safety to address crime and gun violence, and efforts to protect children who are victims of sexual abuse. The other stalled legislation would tackle fentanyl overdoses and provide law enforcement with more resources.; After GOP lawmakers boycotted the Oregon Legislature in 2019, 2020 and 2021, voters last November approved a ballot measure that was supposed to stop such walkouts. Lawmakers with 10 or more unexcused absences would be disqualified from being reelected in the next term, according to the measure's ballot title and summary. But the text of the measure says disqualification applies to "the term following the election after the member's current term is completed." Republicans are taking that as meaning that boycotters who are up for reelection in 2024 could be candidates, since their current terms end in January 2025 — with the disqualification coming for the 2028 election. Republican senators are expected to file court challenges if the secretary of state's elections division bars them from registering as candidates in September.; The debt ceiling and budget cuts package negotiated by President Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy passed overwhelmingly in the U.S. House yesterday. The vote sends it to the U.S. Senate for swift expected passage in a matter of days—and just ahead of a fast-approaching fiscal deadline. If approved, it will avert a federal economic crisis. The hard-fought compromise pleased few, but lawmakers assessed it was better than the alternative — a devastating economic upheaval if Congress failed to act. Tensions ran high as hard-right Republicans refused the deal, but Biden and McCarthy assembled a bipartisan coalition to push to passage on a robust 314-117 vote late Wednesday. The package would ensure the government can keep paying its bills and prevent financial upheaval at home and abroad. Monday, June 5, is when the Treasury has said the U.S. would run short of money and risk a dangerous default. Liberal

discontent ran strong as nearly four dozen Democrats broke ranks and voted "no," including Oregon Fourth District Congresswoman Val Hoyle. She was joined by fellow Oregon Democratic House members: Andrea Salinas, Earl Blumenauer, and Suzanne Bonamici. They strongly criticized the new work requirements for older Americans in the food aid program. Oregon's Republican representatives, Lori Chavez-DeRemer and Cliff Benz, voted "yes." / SPORTS, BUSINESS, EDUCATION: The organization that runs the Holiday Bowl is suing the Pac-12 Conference and the University of California Regents because UCLA backed out of the 2021 game citing COVID-19 concerns. The San Diego Bowl Game Association is seeking a minimum of \$3 million in compensatory damages in a lawsuit filed Wednesday in California Superior Court in San Diego County. UCLA announced less than five hours before it was supposed to kick off against North Carolina State on Dec. 28, 2021, that it was pulling out of the game after three defensive linemen tested positive for COVID-19. The 10-page filing comes more than 17 months after negotiations between the bowl organization and the Pac-12 failed to come to a resolution. The filing by the bowl organization alleges "a failure of defendants to accept responsibility and accountability for their conduct, which caused substantial damages to plaintiff." The bowl game organization says it lost nearly \$8 million due to the cancellation, including \$3.6 million in ticket revenue and \$1.4 million that had to be returned to the game's title sponsor. The bowl organization also has not paid Oregon or the Pac-12 the \$2.45 million it owes for the Ducks' participation in the 2022 game, saying that money would be applied toward damages for the cancellation of the 2021 game. The Pac-12 said in a statement in response to the suit, accusing the Holiday Bowl organization of seeking to leverage the pandemic for its own financial gain. Conference officials vowed to "vigorously defend" against the lawsuit. UCLA representatives declined to comment on the suit. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/02/23

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NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

COMMUNITY, SAFETY, HEALTH, HOMELESSNESS, CRIME: A big section of a popular downtown park reopens to the public today. It comes after months of work to restore soil and vegetation and remove signs of vandalism at Washington-Jefferson Park. At the height of the pandemic, the area outside the park's skatepark and plaza became a temporary camping location for people experiencing homelessness. But that camping and some behaviors were hard on the site. As part of the renovation and rehabilitation, crews removed turf and topsoil on a section of the park between 2nd and 6th Avenues. They graded and spread grass seed, updated and installed irrigation and repaired electrical systems. They removed graffiti and cleaned and painted various surfaces. In addition, crews made other improvements: They put in new sidewalks, lighting, garbage cans, and park rules signs. The project cost \$1.2 million, \$1 million of which was covered by federal pandemic-era and State of Oregon homeless funding. Moving forward, the park will be monitored for safety and security by park ambassadors and police park resource officers. Funding for both comes through that recently approved Eugene Parks and Recreation Levy. Some work still is underway. A portion of the park between 5th and 6th Avenues will remain fenced as the city works with people in the nearby neighborhood to consider whether to create a new dog park. / WILDFIRES, COMMUNITY, SAFETY: All evacuation levels were lifted yesterday in that rural area between Lowell and Fall Creek. It came as crews continued to mop up after the Reuben Leigh (say: LAY) Fire. The roughly 25-acre blaze burned on private timberland. If you're driving, working, or playing in the area west of Fall Creek Reservoir, keep an eye out for fire crews who remain in the area. The Lane County Sheriff's Office also reminds you that while evacuation levels have been lifted, everyone in our county should make a plan and be prepared to evacuate in the event of an emergency. This means thinking about how to protect yourself, your family, your pets, and your livestock.; Up the McKenzie, crews continue to build a line around the W-470 Fire. The blaze started when afternoon wind gusts sent embers from a prescribed burn across fire lines. The fire is burning about two miles northeast of the McKenzie Ranger Station. It covers 72 acres, 50 of which are on the controlled-burn unit, with the other 22 acres part of the combined spot fires.; Dry conditions and escalating fire danger. Officials with the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency are closing the outdoor burning season at the end of the day. The decision came after consulting with the Lane Fire Defense Board and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Experts say we've already seen a string of small brush fires and wildfires. There's no rain in the forecast through at least the middle of next week. Disposing of yard debris is crucial in defending against wildfires. There are alternatives to burning: Lane County offers several collection depots where residents can dispose of woody yard debris for a minimal fee. Alternatives to burning, such as chipping and composting, are also recommended. As the fall open burning season is set to begin on October 1, any changes to this date due to fire risk will be announced by the Lane County Fire Defense Board.; A small brushfire broke out late yesterday morning in Linn County midway between the towns of Crawfordsville and Sweet Home. Crews from the Sweet Home Fire District and the Oregon Department of Forestry said the blaze was burning near Holley Elementary School, off Highway 228. Cres rushed to lay hoses and had it contained within 30 minutes. The burned area covered only half an acre. Officials say the fire was sparked by an electric fence. They add that they normally don't see fuels this dry until July, but that our recent sunny weather and warm temperatures have accelerated the wildfire season. They note that winds that can create rapid fire growth and make it difficult to put fires out. Fire crews are asking everyone to use extra caution with anything that might cause an accidental ignition to grass, brush, or any vegetation. / LEGAL, YOUTH, CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT: A federal judge ruled on Thursday that a lawsuit brought by young Oregon-based climate activists can proceed to trial. The decision comes years after they first filed the lawsuit in an attempt to hold the nation's leadership accountable for its role in climate change. U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken ruled that the plaintiffs may amend their case, known as Juliana v. United States, and go to trial. A previous trial was halted by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts days before it was to begin in 2018. Aiken wrote in her decision, "It is a foundational doctrine that when government conduct catastrophically harms American citizens, the judiciary is constitutionally required to perform its independent role and determine whether the challenged conduct, not exclusively committed to any branch by the Constitution, is unconstitutional." The 21 plaintiffs, including a number from Lane County, were between the ages of 8 and 18 when the lawsuit was filed in 2015. They say they will move forward on the question of whether the federal government's fossil fuel-based energy system, and resulting climate destabilization, is unconstitutional. The plaintiffs alleged in the original lawsuit that they have a constitutional right to a climate that sustains life and that the U.S. government's actions have encouraged a fossil fuel economy despite scientific warnings about global warming. Aiken ruled in 2016 that the case could proceed to trial, but the lawsuit was challenged repeatedly in federal court by the Obama and Trump administrations. A three-member panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the case in 2020 after finding that Aiken lacked the power to order or design a climate recovery plan sought in the lawsuit. The plaintiffs then filed an amended complaint asking to change their lawsuit to seek a ruling that the nation's fossil fuel-based energy system is unconstitutional. The first youth climate change lawsuit to reach trial in the U.S. is set to begin June 12 in Montana. That case was brought in 2020 by attorneys for the environmental group Our Children's Trust, which brought the Oregon case and has filed climate lawsuits in every state on behalf of young plaintiffs since 2010. / GOVERNMENT, POLITICS: Oregon Senate Democrats plan to start fining their absent colleagues amid a month-long Republican walkout, a move they hope will pressure

boycotting lawmakers to return to the chamber as hundreds of bills languish amid the partisan stalemate. In a procedural move Thursday, Democrats voted to fine senators \$325 every time their absence denies the chamber the two-thirds quorum it needs to conduct business. The amount reflects lawmakers' average daily pay, according to the office of Democratic Senate President Rob Wagner. Senate Republican Minority Leader Tim Knopp condemned the plan as retaliation. Most Republican senators have not shown up for floor sessions since May 3, denying quorum and stalling hundreds of bills, including ones on gun control, abortion, and gender-affirming care that have sparked fierce debate in the Legislature. The walkout is the longest-ever in the Oregon legislative history. Knopp has said Republicans will only return to the Senate on the last day of the legislative session, June 25, to pass the budget and "bipartisan" bills. Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek said Wednesday that her talks to end the impasse have failed and that Knopp wants the bill on abortion and gender-affirming care to be "substantially amended or dead." Kotek said negotiating on that measure, which has already passed the House, is not an option. After Republicans staged previous walkouts in 2019, 2020 and 2021, voters last November approved a ballot measure by an almost 70 percent margin that was supposed to stop walkouts. Lawmakers with 10 or more unexcused absences would be disqualified from reelection in the next term, according to the measure's title and summary. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/05/23

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Morning News

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ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

SPORTS: Congratulations are in order for a couple of high school sports teams this morning: The Sheldon Girls defeated Oregon City on Saturday in Eugene to win the Oregon Class 6A Softball Championship. And the Thurston Boys on Saturday won their game against West Albany to become the Oregon Class 5A Baseball Champions.; Drew Cowley hit a three-run home run and drove in four runs as Oregon baseball beat Xavier for the second time in three games, 11-2 Sunday night to win the Nashville Regional and earn its first berth in the NCAA super regionals in 11 years. The Ducks (40-20) were in their third straight regional tournament as the No. 2 seed. The Ducks are awaiting the outcome of games in other regions to determine which team they meet next.; Aiden Jimenez and Ryan Brown combined to pitch seven scoreless innings of relief, Brady Kasper's tworun single gave Oregon State Baseball the lead for good and the Beavers beat Sam Houston 3-1 Sunday night in an elimination game at the Baton Rouge Regional. Oregon State (41-19), which lost 6-5 to LSU earlier Sunday, advances to face the Tigers today. The Beavers need two wins — and LSU just one — to win the regional and advance to the super regionals. / SAFETY: A fire late Friday night at an apartment complex in the 2000 block of West 17th Avenue in Eugene damaged two second-floor units. Its cause is being determined. During the search of an adjacent apartment, crews say they located an occupant who was asleep in heavy smoke conditions. They evaluated the person's health at the scene. The blaze was under control in 45 minutes. / WILDFIRES, SAFETY: The outdoor burning season closed Friday across many counties in the Willamette Valley amid growing wildfire danger. In Linn County, officials say a fire lit on a burn pile the very next day during windy conditions got away from a homeowner, destroying a nearby shed and damaging overhead trees. Crews from the Sweet Home Fire District doused the blaze. But officials say it is a reminder: Fire danger is high, outdoor burning now is prohibited. Burning season is not expected to reopen until the fall. In the meantime, you can haul your debris to disposal sites, check with companies that chip and compost such waste, or cover your burning pile and wait until autumn.; On Friday, Oregon U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden announced that the Bureau of Land Management will be investing \$10 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to help increase fire resiliency and protect native vegetation on public lands in Oregon. The funds focus on protecting forests near some critical rivers and streams to protect threatened Oregon Coast Coho Salmon. There's also money to prevent large range fires in the southern parts of

the state by planting sagebrush, encouraging the growth of other native species, reducing invasive vegetation, and fuel breaks that can double as opening up areas to help restore habitat for hundreds of species. / FINANCES, TRANSPORTATION: This morning in Eugene-Springfield, the price for a gallon of regular-grade gasoline is \$4.15, up 15 cents per gallon from this time last month—although it's still \$1.25 per gallon less than the record prices a year ago. Diesel is averaging \$4.25 per gallon this morning, down 12 cents per gallon from this time last month. / CRIME: It's triggered a bunch of concerns and rumors and lit up social media in recent days. But Portland Police yesterday issued a statement saying there is no connection in the cases of six women found dead recently within 100 miles of one-another. The cases are being investigated by multiple agencies. But police say while any premature death is concerning, one case is being treated as a homicide, four are suspicious, and one does not involve any foul play. One woman was found dead in a tent near a Portland freeway, another in a culvert near a state park in the Columbia Gorge. A third involved a body discovered in a barn in Ridgefield, Washington. Another was found in a wooded area near a Portland suburb, another in the Eagle Creek area, and the sixth in Polk County. / LEGAL, GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS, SAFETY: A federal trial over Oregon's voter-approved gun control measure is set to open today in Portland, marking a critical next step for one of the toughest gun control laws in the nation after months of being tied up in the courts. The trial, which will be held before a judge and not a jury, will determine whether the law violates the U.S. Constitution. But whatever the judge decides, the ruling is likely to be appealed, potentially winding up before the U.S. Supreme Court. Oregon voters in November narrowly passed Measure 114, which requires residents to undergo safety training and a background check to obtain a permit to buy a gun. The legislation also bans the sale, transfer or import of gun magazines with more than 10 rounds unless they are owned by law enforcement or a military member or were owned before the measure's passage. Those who already own highcapacity magazines may only possess them at home or use them at a firing range, in shooting competitions, or for hunting—as allowed by state law after the measure takes effect. The Oregon Firearms Federation and a county sheriff filed the federal lawsuit in November, contending it violated the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Democratic Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and former Democratic Governor Kate Brown are named as defendants. It was one of several lawsuits filed over the measure. In a separate lawsuit, filed in state court in rural and sparsely populated Harney County in southeastern Oregon, Gun Owners of America Inc., the Gun Owners Foundation, and several individual gun owners claimed the law violates the Oregon Constitution. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/06/23

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30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WEATHER, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT: If you were sneezing yesterday, you were not alone. Grass pollen levels were the highest recorded this year in the Eugene-Springfield area, A monitoring station managed by Oregon Allergy Associates put yesterday's pollen count at 967 particles per cubic meter of air. Grass pollens are considered "very high" at 200, so this is more than four times that level. The earlier tree pollen season is essentially past: Tree pollen particulate was at 10 per cubic meter of air. / WILDFIRES, HEALTH, COMMUNITY: Summer after summer, wildfire smoke continues to cause unhealthy air quality in communities across Oregon. The most significant impacts have been across the southern and central parts of the state, but as any Lane County resident can tell you, we've had our share of crummy days. A new report from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality analyzes data from the state's air-monitoring stations and combines it with information from other state and national sources on wildfires. It shows the number of unhealthy air quality days in Oregon due to wildfire smoke continues to grow over time. In Oakridge, for example, as the Cedar Creek Fire burned to the east, there were 37 air quality days in 2022 considered "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" or "Hazardous." That's the most the Oakridge area has ever recorded and more than anywhere else in the state last year. Even the data from Eugene-Springfield and Cottage Grove show the trend. Prior to 2014, there were only a few years where the community monitors recorded one or two days that were considered unhealthy or hazardous. But in five of the past ten years, Cottage Grove has recorded seven or more such days. During the same span, Eugene-Springfield has had three years of seven or more such days. And that does not include the dozens of days of haze and other lighter effects from drifting wildfire smoke. Health experts say wildfire smoke can irritate the eyes and lungs and worsen some medical conditions. Those most at risk include infants and young children, people with heart or lung disease, older adults, pregnant women and their unborn babies. / CRIME: A crude name and a very real threat. The Oregon Division of Financial Regulation is warning you to be suspicious of any unexpected text or direct messages you might receive from a stranger. It might be the first step in what's known as a "pig butchering" scam. Financial crime experts say the term "pig butchering" comes from the practice of fattening a pig before slaughter. These scams often involve fraudsters contacting targets seemingly at random, using social media or other common communication apps. These scammers work to gain your trust, often by starting a romantic

relationship or a simple friendship. The scammer then starts to persuade you to invest in phony investments, including fraudulent cryptocurrency schemes, before falsely claiming the initial investment grew significantly. Over time, the scammer asks for more and more money, and demands multiple types of fees if you decide you want to withdraw your funds. But even when you pay the withdrawal fees, the fraudster does not refund your money, and instead disappears with the funds without any further communication. Experts say you should never respond to unsolicited messages from unknown contacts, even about seemingly benign topics, and especially if they arrive via text message and on encrypted messaging applications. If you've been in contact with someone who has connected with you in this fashion, other "red flags" include refusal to participate in video chats or use a profile photo. Scammers will request your financial information. They will offer unsolicited investment advice or try to direct you to unfamiliar trading platforms. The investment opportunities they suggest might be something you've never heard of or sound more complicated and confusing than they should. Fraudsters also will try to tell you that investments are "guaranteed" or use their knowledge about you to appeal to your emotions – saying things like, "Don't you want to have money to send your kids to college?" or "Don't you want a nice retirement?" They'll also try to create a sense of urgency by telling you that you need to invest your money by a deadline or before an upcoming financial announcement.; Lane County Sheriff's deputies are seeking the suspect in a shooting that occurred on Saturday at a residence in the 3900 block of McDougal Lane. They say the suspect, 34-year-old Jason Scott Page, shot the 35-year-old victim in the back. The victim was hospitalized but is expected to survive. Page is described as a white male adult, about five-foot-eight, weighing around 155 pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes, and multiple tattoos on his chest, abdomen and left arm. The weapon in this incident has not been recovered. Page is considered armed and dangerous. Investigators say Page has active warrants for his arrest. Anyone with information regarding his whereabouts is asked to call 911 and not approach him. / SPORTS: The Oregon Baseball squad will take on Oral Roberts in a best-of-three NCAA Super Regional series this weekend. It comes after the Ducks won their regional bracket over the weekend. Details of the Friday through Sunday games will be announced later today. But the series will take place at Eugene's PK Park. The Eugene Emeralds announced yesterday it's forcing them to turn their weekend series of matchups with the Tri-City Dust Devils into "away" games. The season ended yesterday for Oregon State Baseball when the Beavs lost in the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional championship game, 13-7.; A second annual NIL Summit has delivered predictions of more dramatic changes to the landscape of college sports. This comes only days before a contingent of Southeastern Conference coaches and administrators will ask for federal help in regulating the expanding ability of college athletes to earn money while still in school. The three-day NIL Summit ended Monday at the College Football Hall of Fame. Athletes' new-found ability to earn money off their name, image, and likeness has the potential to create more dramatic change in all college sports. One legal expert from Portland predicted college athletes might soon be classified as employees and form unions. Max Forer with the Miller-Nash Law Firm caused a stir in the audience, which included college professionals, when he said the issue of college athletes being required to attend classes in the future could be decided by collective bargaining agreements. On another panel, Oregon faculty

athletics representative Josh Gordon said many schools could be left behind if there is no federal action to provide an even playing field. He and others offered warnings that top conferences and power schools will only grow stronger without federal protection. / LEGAL, GOVERNMENT, SAFETY, LAW ENFORCEMENT: A federal trial over Oregon's voter-approved gun control measure opened Monday in Portland. The proceedings mark a critical "next step" for one of the toughest gun control laws in the nation. The trial is expected to last about five days. The trial, which is being held before a judge and not a jury, will determine whether the law violates the U.S. Constitution. It comes after a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Second Amendment that has upended gun laws across the country, dividing judges and sowing confusion over what firearm restrictions can remain on the books. It changed the test that lower courts had long used for evaluating challenges to firearm restrictions, telling judges that gun laws must be consistent with the "historical tradition of firearm regulation." The Oregon measure's fate is being carefully watched as one of the first new gun restrictions passed since the Supreme Court ruling last June. The legal battle could last well beyond this month's trial. Whatever the judge decides, the ruling is likely to be appealed, potentially moving all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court. Oregon voters in November narrowly passed Measure 114, which requires residents to undergo safety training and a background check to obtain a permit to buy a gun. The legislation also bans the sale, transfer or import of gun magazines with more than 10 rounds unless they are owned by law enforcement or a military member or were owned before the measure's passage. Those who already own highcapacity magazines can only possess them at home or use them at a firing range, in shooting competitions or for hunting as allowed by state law after the measure takes effect. The Oregon Firearms Federation and a county sheriff filed the federal lawsuit in November, contending it violated the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Democratic Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and former Democratic Gov. Kate Brown were named as defendants. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/07/23

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Morning News

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30 Seconds

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TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: A double fuel tanker rolled over this morning on Oregon Highway 38 about six miles west of Drain, spilling up to 11,000 gallons of its cargo. The highway is closed between Drain and Elkton. The detour is via Highway 138, through Sutherlin on Interstate Five. It's unknown how much fuel has seeped into the soil, but the closure and cleanup could be lengthy. / HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, WEATHER: Yet another record level for grass pollen this year in the southern Willamette Valley. A monitoring station managed by Oregon Allergy Associates put yesterday's pollen count at 1301 particles per cubic meter of air. Grass pollens are considered "very high" at 200, so this is more than six times that level. Tree pollen and weed pollen are fairly low right now. But the website notes that when grass pollen levels are this high, even if you do not have seasonal allergies you might experience a runny nose, scratchy throat, and watery eyes. Allergy experts say the past two weeks of warm, dry weather accompanied by winds from the north have created perfect conditions for the intense levels of grass pollen. Things have eased a bit today, to 759 particles per cubic meter. / SPORTS: The NCAA Baseball Tournament moves to super regionals this weekend. The best-of-three series starting Friday includes Oregon hosting Oral Roberts at Eugene's PK Park. The eight winners of the best-of-three series advance to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska, starting June 16. Tickets are available at GoDucks.com and through the Ducks Athletics box office. The opening game is set for Friday evening at 5 p.m. Saturday's contest begins at 6 p.m. Officials will announce start times for a third game on Sunday, if needed, after Saturday's contest. Oregon Baseball has won nine straight after dropping five in a row. Oral Roberts, only the eighth No. 4 regional seed to make it to supers under the current format (1999), is riding the nation's longest win streak at 21 and has won 39 of its last 42. / CRIME: No injuries as Lane County Sheriff's deputies took a wanted suspect into custody yesterday shortly after 10 a.m. in the Elmira area. But they say the suspect, 34-year-old Jason Scott Page, was a passenger in a vehicle and fired at deputies with a handgun during a traffic stop. Deputies returned fire before Page fled on foot and was captured in a nearby yard. Page is the suspect in the shooting that occurred on McDougal Lane on Saturday. The 35-year-old victim in that incident was hospitalized but is recovering. A tip led investigators to a residence in the 23000 block of West Sheffler Road, where they say they spotted Page riding as a passenger in a vehicle leaving the home.; Eugene Police say they're seeing an increase in

burglaries as the warm weather continues. Investigators say thieves are taking advantage of people leaving their doors, windows, and garage doors open or unlocked. Officials say the items that are being taken often are ones that are expensive and easy to carry: think laptops and other electronics, jewelry, cash, and anything else that looks valuable. Police say the majority of warm-weather burglaries occur during the day when a door or window was left unsecured. Lock all doors and windows, even if you are home. Do not leave your garage door opener in your vehicle if you park in the driveway or on the street. Thieves can use it to gain entrance to your home. All hinged exterior doors should be secured with deadbolt locks. Sliding doors and windows should be snug in their frames, with lift and slide protection features. Improve your locks, lighting, and landscaping as needed. Consider adding an alarm system. Exterior lighting should be even, eliminating pockets of shadow, and making it easy for neighbors to see prowlers in your yard. Motion detection lights can help expose intruders. Landscaping should be trimmed to eliminate hiding places near entry points, such as doors and windows. Trim bushes to no more than three feet high, trim lower branches off tall trees, and/or plant thorny plants that discourage trespassers.; A reminder: If something sounds weird or quirky, it probably is. Eugene Police say scammers recently called a Eugene couple claiming to be with the police department and said they needed to speak with them about a legal matter and began pressuring the citizen to give them money. The person calling even used the name of a Eugene Police sergeant. But officials say it's another variation of a common scam. The couple did not fall for it, and neither should you. During the "Police Call" scam, victims often are told they are required to pay money to avoid criminal charges. They often call from a spoofed number that looks like it's coming from the police department. They try to get victims to pay through Apple Pay and Zelle. Victims could also be asked to pay through other means, such as cryptocurrency or gift cards. This is a variation on other scams where victims report being called by the IRS, police or government agency, with the scammer demanding payment over the phone or face a warrant for arrest. Officials say no law enforcement or government agency would call out of the blue and demand such payment. / BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT, CRIME: The late February fire that heavily damaged rooms in one building at a popular Eugene hotel is forcing the layoff of more than five dozen employees who work elsewhere in the complex. In a notice provided to state and local officials, leaders of Ambridge Hospitality, the parent company of Valley River Inn, say the extensive repairs and remodeling also are forcing the closure of a second building. That affects the hotel's banquet and food-service business, meaning most of the layoffs are in those operations. The more than 60 layoffs are expected to be permanent. In the wake of the fire, other hotel and event venues have worked to book events that are unable to take place, as scheduled at the Valley River Inn. / LABOR, HEALTH: You might see it during your afternoon commute. Hundreds of local nurses and their supporters will hold informational pickets outside PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Hospital at Riverbend in Springfield and at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center University District in Eugene this afternoon between 3-6 p.m. The nurses, who are represented by the Oregon Nurses Association, say they want to raise awareness of staffing issues at the hospitals, and staff recruitment and retention challenges. / SAFETY, CHILDREN: Federal safety regulators are urging consumers to stop using baby pillows that have been linked to 10 infant deaths

but are still being sold on Facebook Marketplace, despite being recalled two years ago. The Consumer Product Safety Commission said Tuesday that Boppy Newborn Loungers are no longer legally for sale, but investigators have found thousands of them on Facebook Marketplace since the 2021 recall began. The agency wrote to Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Facebook parent Meta Platforms, on Tuesday saying it had made repeated requests to have recalled items taken down from Marketplace. It cited the Boppy loungers as "a particularly egregious example" of a product that puts consumers at risk. "Until these sales are stopped, babies will continue to be at risk of death," CPSC Commissioner Richard Trumka said in a statement. He added that Meta "has not taken effective action" in response to CPSC's average of one thousand takedown requests made each month over the last year for the Boppy loungers. The Boppy Co. recalled more than 3 million of its infant pillows due to suffocation risk in September 2021 with reports of eight deaths associated with Boppy's loungers between 2015 and 2020. The CSPC said Tuesday that two additional babies died shortly after the recall began. The CSPC is urging consumers to stop using the recalled loungers — as babies can suffocate if they roll over, are placed on the lounger in a position that restricts breathing or move off the infant pillow. The Boppy loungers under recall are Boppy Original Newborn Loungers, Boppy Preferred Newborn Loungers and Pottery Barn Kids Boppy Newborn Loungers. The products were sold online and at retailers nationwide, including Target and Walmart, between January 2004 and September 2021, according to the CPSC's original recall notice. Consumers can contact The Boppy Company to get a refund and for instructions for how to dispose of the products. Safety officials say best place for a baby to sleep is on a firm, flat surface in a crib, bassinet, or play yard. Parents and caregivers should never add blankets, pillows, padded crib bumpers, or other items to an infant's sleeping environment. Babies should always be placed to sleep on their backs. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/08/23

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Morning News

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30 Seconds

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WILDFIRES: Willamette National Forest officials say that the fire burning two miles northeast of the McKenzie Ranger Station is now 90 percent contained and mop-up is nearly complete. The W-470 Fire, as it is known, sparked when gusty winds on May 30 sent embers from a prescribed burn into nearby forest. The blaze's 80-acre footprint includes the 50-acre planned burn and the area just outside it. Terrain is challenging in a few spots. On the northern edge of the fire, crews are working on steep, rocky ground. During week-and-a-half, more than 100 firefighters, multiple engines, and helicopters assisted in suppression efforts. The fire did not threaten any structures, although a portion of Frissell Trail was impacted by low intensity fire. The W-470 prescribed burn unit is one of several units in a forest treatment project designed to reduce hazardous fuels in the wildland urban interface surrounding the community of McKenzie Bridge. Additional treatments including thinning and prescribed burning are planned as part of a dedicated focus on reducing the potential wildfire risk to residents and private structures in the area. An existing closure for helicopter thinning in the area remains in effect. / DISASTERS, ANIMALS: Whether it's due to wildfires, floods, or some other emergency, when it's time for people to evacuate they often need to evacuate livestock. Lane County Animal Services is hosting a training session on how to assist with livestock transportation, feeding, and sheltering during emergencies. Organizers hope the training will increase the number of people able to help care for horses, goats, chickens, and other livestock. The training is set for Saturday, June 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Lane County Public Works' shops at 3040 North Delta Highway, just north of the intersection with Green Acres Road. Volunteers help transport animals out of evacuation zones; support animals sheltering in place in evacuation zones with food, water and welfare checks; and feed, groom and clean up after animals being sheltered with Lane County Animal Services. They also might assist with organizing donations of food, tack, or other items. If you're interested in volunteering, you do not need previous large animal experience, but you should be comfortable learning and being around large animals. Teens age 15 and older are welcome to volunteer, but those younger than age 18 need to have a signed release from a parent or guardian before they can assist during an active emergency. They do not need a release to attend the training. Children under 15 cannot volunteer at this time. / SAFETY, OLDER ADULTS: Have you seen him? Eugene Police want to hear from anyone who might have seen a 74-year-old man with Alzheimer's

who walked away from his home on the 2100 block of Agate Street last night around 8:30 p.m. They say Bob Frable will likely be disoriented and might only remember his name. He is described as being about six feet tall with a thin build. He was last seen wearing a brown ball cap, a plaid shirt, and blue jeans. If you see him, please call EPD at 541.682.5111. This morning, members of Lane County Search & Rescue joined the search. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: A big summer paving project is underway on Eugene's Beltline Highway, from the intersection with Roosevelt Boulevard onto West 11th to Terry Street. Crews are removing the existing asphalt, repairing the road and repaving. Much of the work is at night. Expect lane closures and watch for flaggers and pilot vehicles. The work hours are Sunday nights through Friday mornings, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.; The highway reopened yesterday afternoon, but crews will be making repairs for days after a double fuel tanker rolled over Wednesday morning on Oregon Highway 38 about six miles west of Drain, spilling up to 11,000 gallons of its cargo. The site is located between Drain and Elkton. Crews are working to remove contaminated soil and, where needed, replace damaged pavement. Watch for flaggers and road construction vehicles. / SPORTS: Officials say Oregon Baseball's NCAA SuperRegional games are sold out this weekend at Eugene's PK Park. The Ducks meet Oral Roberts starting Friday evening for a best-of-three series, with the winner advancing to the College World Series. But Oregon Athletics officials say they will hold a Fan Fest on Friday and Saturday afternoons that will be free and open to the public. It will get underway at 2 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday in the area between Autzen Stadium and Papé Field. Organizers say the FanFest will include food trucks, a beer garden, and tents. The Oregon-Oral Roberts game will be shown on the back of the Autzen Stadium video board during each game as well as in the FanFest area for those without game tickets. There also will be a live DJ, photo opportunities, Kids Zone inflatables, and appearances by The Oregon Duck and the Oregon Cheerleaders. The Fan Fest also will include a dedicated area for U-of-O students that includes food, free T-shirt giveaways, face painting, and the opportunity for those with gam tickets to create posters to take into PK Park. / WILDLIFE: Hey, we get it: They look cute and helpless. But if you interfere, you might actually hurt their chances for survival. Wildlife officials are asking beachgoers to stay away from seals and sea lions resting on the beach, especially their young. We're in prime pupping season right now for Pacific harbor seals and a harbor seal mom often leaves her pup alone on shoreline rocks or the beach while she goes to feed. Visitors often think they're abandoned, but that's not the case. Mom will be back soon, but only if you don't touch the pup or get too close. Other marine mammals seen on the beach during the summer include California sea lions who are stopping to rest during their journey south to breed. Don't approach them: You'll find out that they don't appreciate it. They're also a lot faster than you might think. / LABOR, HEALTH: Labor unions across the state are flexing their bargaining muscles this month as contract talks continue in health care and other fields. Local nurses and their supporters held informational pickets yesterday outside PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Hospital at Riverbend in Springfield and at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center University District in Eugene. The nurses, who are represented by the Oregon Nurses Association, say they want to raise awareness of staffing issues at the hospitals, and staff recruitment and retention challenges as bargaining continues on a new contract. Today outside the state capitol, members of Oregon's largest employee union will

gather to urge lawmakers and state managers to deal with what they describe as a workforce crisis. Leaders of SEIU Local 503 say there are close to 9,000 vacant positions in state government, and those gaps are leading to mounting workloads and overtime, along with delays in crucial state business and services. EDUCATION, FINANCES, GOVERNMENT: As expected, President Biden yesterday vetoed a Congressional bill that would repeal his signature plan to forgive student loan debt for tens of millions of Americans. The bill would have undone the president's proposal to erase up to \$20,000 in student loan balances. It was a key issue in Biden's presidential campaign but has faced a series of legislative and legal challenges—and is being weighed by justices on the U.S. Supreme Court. Meantime, a broader three-year pause on student loan payments will end this summer, regardless of how the high court rules on the White House's separate forgiveness plan. Under the current timeline, student loan payments are set to resume 60 days after any Supreme Court decision. That means more than 40 million borrowers will have to start paying back their loans by the end of the summer at the latest. Among the most vulnerable borrowers are those who finished college during the pandemic. Millions have never had to make a loan payment, and their bills will soon start coming amid soaring inflation and forecasts of economic recession.; The U.S. has approved more than \$42 billion in federal student loan debt forgiveness for more than 615,000 borrowers over the past 18 months. It's part of a program aimed at getting more people to work in public service jobs. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program is open to teachers, librarians, nurses, public interest lawyers, military members and other public workers. It cancels a borrower's remaining student debt after 10 years of public interest work, or 120 monthly payments. Stringent rules meant many applicants were rejected, but a recent waiver made it easier for people to apply and get their debt forgiven. /

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Morning News

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SPORTS: Oregon Baseball meets Oral Roberts starting this evening for a best-ofthree NCAA Super Regional series, with the winner advancing to the College World Series. The games are sold out, but the games will be broadcast on ESPNU. Oregon Athletics is holding a Fan Fest this afternoon and Saturday afternoon that is free and open to the public. It gets underway at 2 p.m. today and 3 p.m. Saturday in the area between Autzen Stadium and Papé Field. The FanFest will include food trucks, a beer garden, and tents, as well as a live DJ, photo opportunities, Kids Zone inflatables, and appearances by The Oregon Duck and the Oregon Cheerleaders. The Oregon-Oral Roberts game will be shown on the back of the Autzen Stadium video board during each game as well as in the FanFest area for those without game tickets. / OLDER ADULTS, SAFETY: Thank you to everyone who kept an eye out yesterday. Police say a 74-year-old South Eugene man with Alzheimer's who walked away from his home in the 2100 block of Agate Street on Wednesday night was located and reunited with his family vesterday afternoon. Officials say a member of the public spotted him at a grocery store at 40th and Donald Streets and remained with him until Eugene Police and Lane County Search & Rescue arrived. / CRIME, BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT: Eugene Police say they've made an arrest in connection with the February 28 fire that heavily damaged a wing of the Valley River Inn. Officials say detectives yesterday arrested a Cheshire man, 47-year-old Morgan Christopher Immesoete, and charged him with Arson in the First Degree. No other details are being released at this time, but it comes after the fast-spreading blaze damaged multiple rooms and floors in the hotel's riverfront wing. There were no reported injuries in the three-alarm fire. But the hotel wing suffered a partial roof collapse along with smoke and water damage. Earlier this week, leaders of Ambridge Hospitality, the parent company of Valley River Inn, said the extensive repairs and remodeling also are forcing the closure of a second building and the permanent layoff of more than 60 workers. Ambridge's notice provided to state and local officials noted the repairs affect the hotel's banquet and food-service business, which is seeing most of the layoffs. In the wake of the fire, other hotel and event venues have worked to book events that are unable to take place, as scheduled at the Valley River Inn. / CRIME, AGRICULTURE, GOVERNMENT: Oregon has long been known for high-quality marijuana, but that reputation has come with a downside: illegal growers who offer huge amounts of cash to lease or buy land and then leave behind pollution, garbage, and creeks drained of water. But a bill

passed earlier this session by the Oregon Legislature seeks to tackle that by making the landowners themselves responsible for the aftermath. The bill also prohibits the use of rivers or groundwater at the illegal site, as well as criminalizes seizing the identity papers of migrant workers who tend the plants or threatening to report them for deportation. Governor Tina Kotek is expected to sign it into law next week. Under the bill, local governments would be authorized to file a lien against property used for illicit marijuana, if the owner doesn't pay for the cleanup. The plan was supported by Democrats in the Legislature but divided some Republicans, who saw it as an assault on property rights. Those who backed the plan said property owners should know something is amiss when they are approached at the beginning of the growing season with requests to lease their property for tens, sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars for a single year. Witnesses have described backpacks with thousands of dollars in cash being handed over to landowners. Oregon faces challenges on two fronts: The regulated cannabis industry has a glut of product that led to falling prices and profit margins, and there has been a huge growth in illegal marijuana farms operating under the guise of growing hemp, which became legal nationally in 2018. Law enforcement experts told lawmakers during earlier hearings that after police raid illegal pot farms, neither landowners nor the suspects make efforts to remove the cheaply built greenhouses, latrines, and other debris, including plastics and chemicals. They say that two years ago, ideal growing conditions began attracting criminal gangs from Mexico, Russia, and other countries. In places where they conducted raids, they found workers often living in squalid conditions who are sometimes cheated out of their pay. Law enforcement raids netted more than 100 tons of illegal marijuana across the state last year. Investigators say that's led to grow sites becoming smaller and more dispersed. But they say the environmental damage continues. / FORESTRY, EMPLOYMENT: Forests cover more than 30 million of Oregon's 62 million acres almost half of the state's landmass. The Oregon Department of Forestry estimates logging harvests totaled 3.9 billion board feet in 2021. According to Oregon Employment Department analyst Brian Rooney, the forestry and logging sector saw some declines in between 2005 and 2009, but things have been stable since then. Whether it's operations on timber tracts, in nurseries, or logging itself, Rooney says forestry and logging's 710 private and public establishments employed 8,869 workers statewide and added \$650 million in payroll to Oregon's economy in 2022. And while those who are self-employed don't always show up in those statistics, you can add another 1,485 workers from that category with gross incomes of \$99 million. Forestry and logging is a highly seasonal industry. Employment generally grows throughout the spring and peaks in August, then stabilizes for a month or two in the fall before dropping off as winter rains begin. The largest industry in the forestry and logging subsector is logging, with a statewide annual average wage of \$59,714 in 2022. This includes loggers, equipment operators, truck drivers, fallers, and buckers. The second-largest industry of employment in forestry and logging is timber tract operations. In addition to forest workers, many occupations in this industry are managerial or professional and require a high level of experience and education. Wages, therefore, are relatively high – \$89,221 in 2022. The industry with the least employment in the forestry and logging subsector is forest nurseries and gathering forest products, much of which is sporadic or seasonal work with a

relatively low annual average wage of \$47,291. The high level of forestry activity in Oregon also creates demand for businesses to support them, including firms that replant forests, fight forest fires, thin forests, and provide information to the timber industry. / LEGAL, WILDFIRES, UTILITIES: Courtroom arguments wrapped up earlier this week. Now, a jury is deliberating whether one of Oregon's largest utilities should pay up to \$1.6 billion in damages in the wake of 2020's devastating Labor Day wildfires. A class-action lawsuit claims utility PacifiCorp failed to prevent multiple blazes, including the Santiam Canyon fires east of Salem: the Echo Mountain Complex near Lincoln City; the South Obenchain fire near Eagle Point; and the Two Four Two fire near the southwest Oregon town of Chiloquin. The fires killed nine people, burned across more than 1,875 square miles, and destroyed upward of 5,000 homes and structures. The suit claims PacificCorp was negligent in failing to shut off power as a precaution to its 600,000 customers during the strong windstorm that helped drive the blazes. An attorney for the plaintiffs contends the fires were predictable and preventable. But an attorney representing the utility disputed that, telling jurors that PacifiCorp had been on high alert and that its actions were similar to most other utilities that did not proactively cut power. PacifiCorp also challenged whether its power lines ignited the fires in the Santiam Canyon. The utility blames most of the related property damage on a lightning-caused blaze that started miles away. No matter the outcome, the case is likely to reshape the way Oregon's electric utilities respond to increasing wildfire risks amid climate change, consistent drought conditions, and a spike in the average number of acres burned annually. / WILDFIRES, HEALTH: Things improved a bit yesterday, but the hazardous haze from Canada's wildfires is taking its toll on outdoor workers along the Eastern U.S. who carried on with their daily jobs even as smoky skies forced the postponement of sports events, school field trips, and Broadway plays. Delivery workers, construction workers, railroad and airport employees, farm laborers and others and faced risks with echoes of the pandemic and familiar to their counterparts in the West Coast. But smoky skies were a new threat on the East Coast, catching many workers and employers by surprise and uncertain about what to do. Some left their jobs in the middle of the day, unable to carry on as the air quality worsened. Most pushed through in the hopes the crisis would quickly pass with little lasting damage. In recent years labor agencies in Oregon, Washington, and California have adopted rules requiring employers to provide protection from wildfire smoke, including N95 respirators, breaks and sometimes moving operations indoors. / WILDFIRES, RECREATION: Things are a bit cooler and cloudier today, but it's been warm and dry for quite some time. Yesterday, managers with the Siuslaw and Willamette National Forests raised the fire danger from "low" to "moderate." It's another reminder to use caution when you're working or playing outdoors. Forest and wildfire officials note that from the coast to the Cascade mountains, there has been little rainfall over the last month. There already have been small fires in many regions on both publicly owned and private lands. There are currently no public use restrictions in place. But Forest Service officials urge you to exercise caution while in the woods, especially if you must have a campfire. Any campfire should be contained in a pre-existing or well-built fire ring with a shovel and plenty of water in easy reach. Keep your campfire small and at least five feet away from any flammable materials, including overhanging tree limbs. Never leave a campfire unattended. Ensure any burned material is

cold to the touch before you leave the area. Fire restrictions can change quickly. "Know Before You Go" and to check local conditions before visiting forest lands. To report a wildfire, call 9-1-1. / EDUCATION, FAMILY, EVENTS: It's graduation time across Oregon. Many of our high school seniors are preparing for graduation and their future. And some are giving back to their school districts and younger students. Yesterday, the seniors at Willamette and Kalapuya High Schools held their annual Grad Walk. They don their caps and gowns and head for the Bethel School District's elementary and middle schools. The younger students line the hallways to celebrate the graduates and everyone who helped get them to commencement. The pageant encourages younger kids to be successful in school and plan their futures. / EVENTS, SAFETY, UTILITIES: With graduations and other outdoor celebrations underway, experts at the Eugene Water & Electric Board remind you to make sure any balloon are well-secured and not at risk of lofting into electrical lines. Among the most hazardous balloons are those filled with helium that have a metallic coating. That silvery coating can conduct electricity. If the balloons float away and come in contact with power lines, they can short out transformers, cause power outages, melt electrical wires, and cause other public safety risks. It's not a rare occurrence, either: Last year, close to 9,500 residents in Long Beach, California spent nearly eight hours without power when balloons landed on a power line. EWEB officials encourage you to: Look up when decorating for an event. Spot nearby power lines and avoid celebrating with metallic balloons if any are nearby. Make sure all balloons are securely tied to a weight that is heavy enough to prevent them from floating away and that you never remove the weight until you're taking down the balloons afterward. When possible, keep metallic balloons indoors. Never permit metallic balloons to be released outside, for everyone's safety. Do not bundle metallic balloons together. Never attempt to retrieve any type of balloon, kite or toy that becomes caught in a power line. Leave it alone and immediately call EWEB at 1-844-484-2300 to report the problem. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT: Quick reminder: Crews are making repairs after that double fuel tanker rollover Wednesday morning on Oregon Highway 38 about six miles west of Drain. The crash resulted in the spill of up to 11,000 gallons of fuel. The site is located between Drain and Elkton. The company that operated the tanker has hired contractors to remove contaminated soil and, where needed, state highway crews will replace damaged pavement. Officials with the Oregon Department of Transportation say the work could last up to a week. With delays of up to 20 minutes. Watch for flaggers and road construction vehicles. / TRANSPORTATION, BUSINESS: Electric vehicles made by General Motors will be able to use much of Tesla's vast charging network starting early next year. In addition, GM will adopt Tesla's connector, the plug that links an electric vehicle to a charging station. GM joins Ford in shifting its vehicles to about 12,000 of Tesla's chargers, and both Detroit automakers are pushing to make Tesla's connector the industry standard. GM CEO Mary Barra and her Tesla counterpart, Elon Musk, made the announcement during a Twitter Spaces conversation. Their discussion comes two weeks after Ford CEO Jim Farley joined Musk to announce that Ford's electric vehicles would gain access to much of Tesla's EV-charging network, the largest in the nation. / MILITARY, GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYMENT: President Joe Biden is set to sign an executive order aiming to bolster job opportunities for military and veteran spouses whose careers are often disrupted by their loved

ones' deployments. Biden is to use a visit to the recently renamed Fort Liberty in North Carolina to highlight the order. The order directs agencies to develop a federal government-wide plan on hiring and job retention for military spouses, bolster childcare options, and take more than a dozen additional actions. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/12/23

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Morning News

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ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WILDLIFE, COMMUNITY, SAFETY: A bear in Eugene's South Hills. According to Eugene Police, Central Lane 911 received a series of calls yesterday from the 31st and Willamette area advising a bear has been spotted. One caller said the bear jumped into a backyard and was being treed by a dog. Oregon State Police dispatched two game wardens to the area. Officials say bears are native to Oregon and do not normally pose a problem if they are on the fringe of town. Unless a bear is presenting an immediate danger of attacking or has been hit by a vehicle, please do not call 911. At the same time, they remind those in the area to be observant and keep their children and pets close, not just when there is a sighting in a neighborhood, but when relaxing in one of Oregon's natural areas. Eugene has many natural areas and parks that are home to a wide variety of wildlife. That includes deer, squirrels, and birds. But there may also be occasional, stray visits from bears, cougars, and other predators. Eugene has areas that are close to forested and rural areas where bears and cougars reside. People should always be respectful of the fact that all wildlife is in fact "wild" and should be given a wide berth. For more information about bears and other wildlife, please contact Oregon State Police and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. / FISHERIES, CRIME: Torn fins and embedded hooks. Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Troopers say they're discovering signs of attempted poaching and illegal fishing tactics on some salmon and steelhead as they return to spawn near Oregon hatcheries. That includes fish with embedded hooks, sliced fins, circular scabs, and other wounds. Snagging occurs when a person hooks, or attempts to hook, a fish anywhere on its body other than inside the mouth. Although snagging is an unlawful practice with steep consequences, investigators say many people still engage in this unethical behavior. They say indicators that a person may be attempting to snag fish include quickly and repeatedly ripping large lengths of line through the water, repeated yanking of the fishing rod from water lever to over the shoulders or head and failing to release fish which have been hooked anywhere on their fins or body. Evidence of snagging and other injuries becomes apparent during annual collection processes, when hatchery workers collect and sort salmon and steelhead for spawning. During the collection process, hatchery staff, with assistance from Fish & Wildlife troopers, check for tags that indicate when and where each fish was released as a smolt, along with other tracking information. The data from these collections is used to determine the health of the fish populations and to assist in determining future rules and regulations. Salmon

and Steelhead then go into holding ponds until the hatchery accumulates the number of fish necessary to repopulate that hatchery and river system. When hatchery workers reach a target number of salmon and steelhead, they contain the fish in holding ponds for spawning. Steelhead in good condition after spawning are released back into the lower sections of the same river in hopes that they will head back out to the ocean and have another opportunity to return to the hatchery next year to spawn again. Salmon and steelhead at the end of their lifecycles are placed in streams to decompose as part of the stream enrichment program. By the time salmon and steelhead return to the hatchery they've typically reached the end of their lifecycle. Seventy percent of salmon and steelhead harvested In Oregon originate from a hatchery, and ninety five percent of the salmon and steelhead harvested in the Willamette River originate from a hatchery. In 2022, hatcheries estimated returns of about 142,000 salmon and 27,000 steelhead. / RECREATION, TRANSPORTATION: Do you want to know if the Steens Mountain Loop Road is open or closed? Finding out just got easier thanks to the Oregon Department of Transportation's TripCheck website. On TripCheck.com, magnify the area just southeast of Frenchglen to find the Steens Mountain Loop Road. Closed sections of the Steens Mountain Loop Road appear as purple and white dashed lines. Open sections appear without any color or shading. It's a partnership with the Bureau of Land Management. The Steens Mountain Loop Road is Oregon's highest elevation road and is generally open from early July to November. It affords visitor access to four developed campgrounds and overlooks at Kiger Gorge, East Rim, Big Indian Gorge, Wildhorse, and Little Blitzen Gorge. The Loop Road also accesses the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District. Portions of the road are closed gradually in the winter due to weather, and then re-opened in the spring depending on snow levels and moisture conditions in the area. The Loop Road had its beginnings in 1930 when the Civilian Conservation Corps built a road from Frenchglen up to Fish Lake. The onset of World War II delayed plans for the construction of the remaining portion of the road until the early 1960s. The road was completed in 1962 and has received regular maintenance and occasional upgrades ever since. / TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMY, FINANCES: Planning to travel now that the summer vacation season is in full swing? It'll cost you more at the pump. This morning in Eugene-Springfield, the price for a gallon of regulargrade gasoline is \$4.36, up 35 cents per gallon from this time last monthalthough it's still \$1.20 per gallon less than the record prices a year ago. Diesel is averaging \$4.23 per gallon this morning. That's actually down two cents per gallon from this time last month—and a whopping \$1.98 from this time last year. / POLITICS: Still no resolution to that Republican walkout in the Oregon Senate that has lasted well over a month and threatens to derail hundreds of legislative bills and the state's two-year budget. Talks are continuing behind the scenes to try to coax the boycotters back to the floor of the state Senate. And public lobbying also continues. Democrats said in recent days that funding for schools, literacy programs, and special education teachers in Oregon — a state where 60 percent of third graders struggle to read at grade level — could be jeopardized. They say standoff over a separate bill that would expand access to abortion and gender-affirming health care could scuttle much-needed education funding statewide. Oregon's Senate Republican office said in an email that "it is critically important that we make sure education is fully funded." Republican minority

leader Sen. Tim Knopp also said in an email his caucus will return by June 25 to pass "substantially bipartisan" bills and budgets. But Democrats say waiting until the session's last day to pass budgets isn't feasible and school districts need a sense of potential funding by early July to begin planning for the next school year. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Officials say they plan to conduct safety investigations of all the major freight railroads over the next year. That's after the Federal Railroad Administration recently completed a review of Norfolk Southern's safety culture. A report will be released soon on what investigators found at Norfolk Southern after the fiery February derailment that prompted the evacuation of half of East Palestine, Ohio. The crash has sparked intense interest in railroad safety nationwide and prompted several proposed reforms in Congress. Railroad unions have been raising concerns that operating changes and deep cuts the railroads have made over the past six years have made trains riskier. But the railroads maintain they haven't sacrificed safety as they became more efficient. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/13/23

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LEGAL, WILDFIRES, UTILITIES: An Oregon jury on Monday found electric utility PacifiCorp responsible for causing some of the devastating fires during Labor Day weekend in 2020. The panel ordered the company to pay tens of millions of dollars to 17 homeowners who sued. And the jury found PacifiCorp liable for broader damages that could push the total award into the billions. The property owners, suing on behalf of a class of thousands of others, alleged that PacifiCorp negligently failed to shut off power to its 600,000 customers during a windstorm. The suit claimed that was despite warnings from then-Governor Kate Brown's chief-of-staff and top fire officials. Plaintiffs also claimed that PacifiCorp's power lines were responsible for multiple blazes. There has been no official cause determined for the Labor Day fires, which across parts of the state killed nine people, burned across more than 1,875 square miles, and destroyed upward of 5,000 homes and structures. Together, the blazes represent one of the worst natural disasters in Oregon history. In a written statement, lawyers for the plaintiffs called the decision historic and said it "paves the way for potentially billions of dollars in further damages for the class members." PacifiCorp lawyers said they would appeal. Utility officials blamed escalating climate change, challenging state and federal forest management, and population growth in the wildland-urban interface as the biggest contributing factors to growing wildfire risk. But the Multnomah County Circuit Court jury awarded more than \$73 million to 17 homeowners who sued PacifiCorp one month after the fires. Each will receive between \$3 million and \$5.5 million for physical damage to their property and emotional distress. The jury also applied its liability finding to a larger class, including the owners of nearly 2,500 properties damaged in the fires. That could push the price tag for damages well into the billions of dollars. Those damages will be determined later. Jurors were to determine PacifiCorp's responsibility in four blazes: the Santiam Canyon fires east of Salem; the Echo Mountain Complex near Lincoln City; the South Obenchain fire near Eagle Point; and the Two Four Two fire near the southwest Oregon town of Chiloquin. The plaintiffs said PacifiCorp was negligent when it didn't shut off its power lines despite extreme wind warnings over the holiday weekend. Attorneys for the plaintiffs said utility executives kept the power on even as the company's line workers took calls about damaged electrical equipment. The same executives, attorneys said, took no responsibility at the trial, saying it was front-line workers who make deenergization decisions. They said the utility in 2018 developed a wildfire mitigation

plan and is continuing to expand its wildfire detection and power shutoff response. But PacifiCorp attorneys said it was never proven the fires were sparked by power lines or utility equipment. Plus, PacifiCorp said it does not have equipment in some areas where it was accused of causing damage. The jury also heard testimony Monday afternoon over whether to make PacifiCorp pay punitive damages. An attorney for plaintiffs told the jurors they should award punitive damages totaling five times what they have already been awarded for the harm PacifiCorp caused. The risk of wildfires is an increasing concern for power companies in the West. Northern California's Pacific Gas & Electric declared bankruptcy and pleaded guilty to 84 counts of manslaughter after its neglected equipment caused a fire in the Sierra Nevada foothills in 2018 that destroyed nearly 19,000 homes, businesses and other buildings and virtually leveled the town of Paradise, California. PacifiCorp is one of several utilities owned by Berkshire Hathaway, the company led by billionaire investor Warren Buffett. But while lawyers for the property owners described PacifiCorp as deep-pocketed, lawyers for the company said it is \$9 billion in debt. / CRIME: Eugene Police are asking for tips as they investigate a hit-and-run crash between a truck and man riding an electric skateboard. It happened Thursday afternoon, shortly after 12:40 p.m., at the intersection of Mill Street and East 18th Avenue. Investigators say the 28-year-old skateboard rider was taken to the hospital after the crash. The truck left the scene before officers could contact that person. Know anything about the case and the identity of the driver? Eugene Police would like to hear from you. Call 541-682-5138. / LEGAL, CRIME, POLITICS: Former President Donald Trump is making his first court appearance today in an historic criminal case that charges him with hoarding top secret government documents, boastfully displaying them to visitors, and trying to hide them from investigators. Trump is approaching his Miami court date with characteristic bravado, insisting as he has done through years of legal woes that he has done nothing wrong and is being persecuted for political purposes. When he appears before a judge, Trump will answer to 37 felony counts that accuse him of willfully retaining classified records that prosecutors say, if exposed, could have jeopardized national security. The case is laden with political implications for Trump, who currently holds the dominant spot in the early days of the 2024 Republican presidential primary. But it also poses profound legal consequences given the prospect of a years-long prison sentence. Even for a defendant whose post-presidential life has been dominated by investigations, the documents probe has stood out for both the apparent volume of evidence amassed by prosecutors and the severity of the allegations. It's also a watershed moment for a Justice Department that until last week had never before brought charges against a former president. Attorney General Merrick Garland, an appointee of President Biden, sought to insulate the department from political attacks by handing ownership of the case last year to a special counsel Jack Smith, who on Friday declared, "We have one set of laws in this country, and they apply to everyone." The court appearance is also unfolding against the backdrop of potential protests and unrest. Some high-profile backers have used barbed rhetoric to voice support. Trump himself has encouraged supporters to join a planned protest at the Miami courthouse. Unlike in the New York case, where photographers produced images of a somber-faced Trump at the courtroom defense table, the public's view will be limited. Cameras are generally not permitted in federal courts, and a judge Monday night barred

reporters from having phones inside the building. / ECONOMY, INFLATION: Consumer prices cooled last month, rising just 0.1 percent from April to May and extending the past year's steady easing of inflation. Measured year over year, inflation slowed to just 4 percent in May — the lowest 12-month figure in over two years and well below April's 4.9 percent annual rise. The pullback was driven by tumbling gas prices, smaller increases in grocery prices, and other items. But the drop-off in overall inflation is not likely to convince the Federal Reserve's policymakers that they're close to curbing the high price rises that have gripped the nation at the wholesale and retail level for two years. The Fed tends to focus more on "core" prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs and generally provide a clearer view of inflation. And core prices remained high last month, rising 0.4 percent from April to May, the sixth straight month of increases at that level or higher. This morning's inflation figures arrive just as Fed officials begin a pivotal two-day meeting. But after imposing 10 straight rate hikes dating back to March 2022, officials with the central bank are will likely announce that they are skipping a rate hike. But they might hint that they'll resume raising rates as soon as July. Top Fed officials have said they're leaning toward a so-called "skip" to allow time to assess how their rate hikes have affected inflation and the overall economy. / CRIME, FINANCES: Check fraud is back in a big way, fueled by a rise in organized crime that is forcing small businesses and individuals to take additional safety measures or to avoid sending checks through the mail altogether. Banks reported roughly 680,000 reports of check fraud to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, also known as FinCEN, last year. That's up from 350,000 reports in 2021. Meanwhile the U.S. Postal Inspection Service reported roughly 300,000 complaints of mail theft in 2021, more than double the prior year's total. Officials are warning Americans to avoid mailing checks if possible, or at least to use a secure mail drop such as inside the post office. Check usage has been in decline for decades as Americans have largely switched to paying for their services with credit and debit cards. But checks are still frequently used by small businesses. The most common type of check fraud is what's known as check washing, where a criminal steals the check from a mailbox or other location and uses chemicals or technology to change the payee's name and the check amount. They are sophisticated criminal operations, with participants infiltrating post office distribution centers, setting up fake businesses, or creating fake IDs to deposit the checks. The "walkers," or people who walk in to cash these checks, receive training in how to appear even more legitimate. Some criminals also use the information found on a check to gather sensitive personal data about a potential victim, create a fake identity, even open new lines of credit. Banks, keenly aware of the problem, are increasingly watching for signs of fraud at branches and through mobile check deposit services, including large check deposits. They're training branch employees to take steps such as looking at check numbers, because checks are typically written in order, or noticing when a check is being written for a much larger amount than the customer's previous history would indicate. Banks also now deploy software at their branches that can tell how risky a check might be. Another safety tip for businesses is to opt into a bank's "positive pay" services with a business checking account. Positive pay means you pre-authorize checks for a certain amount as well as the check

number, cutting down criminals' ability to wash the check and withdraw money for an amount that isn't pre-authorized. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/14/23

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Morning News

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ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WILDFIRES, SAFETY, AGRICULTURE: A pair of fast-moving wildfires sparked yesterday in North-Central Oregon's Umatilla County. The biggest was spotted shortly after 11 a.m. near Hat Rock State Park, about ten miles northeast of Hermiston. By 5:30 p.m., it had grown to 10,000 acres and prompted nearby evacuations—some to a Red Cross shelter in Hermiston. A second blaze that charred 600 acres put some rural residents on evacuation standby. It was contained late yesterday afternoon. The State Fire Marshal mobilized six task forces from across Oregon—including Lane County—to help support crews already battling the blazes. Governor Tina Kotek invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act to send additional resources, as needed, to the fire lines. Officials say the Umatilla County wildfires started after weeks of dry, windy conditions and low humidity. A Red Flag warning remains in place in parts of North-Central Oregon.: Lebanon Fire District crews were dispatched to a report of a vegetation on fire in front of a home in the 600 block of Crowfoot Road. When they arrived, firefighters found approximately 60 feet of arborvitae hedges fully involved in flames. The fire was quickly knocked down, but crews remained on scene for approximately 45 minutes to check for hotspots and make sure no flames rekindled. While the fire did approach within 15 feet of the home, it did not spread from the hedges to any structures before being extinguished. / DISASTERS, PETS, FAMILY: June is National Pet Preparedness Month. It's a reminder that it's not only a good idea to have an emergency plan for the human members of your family, but for your critters. Experts with the American Red Cross say your home evacuation plans should include your pets, as well as items such as pet food, a can opener, and water bowls. Make sure you set aside some of your pet's medication and copies of their medical records. You'll want to make sure you have leases and harnesses in their emergency kit, along with a cat litter pan, and even a pet bed and toys. Also, make sure you have current photos of you with your pet or pets in case they get lost. The American Red Cross also has a free Pet First Aid app you may download onto your mobile devices. / DISASTERS, SOCIAL SERVICES: You might see a number of emergencyresponse vehicles and personnel at the Lane Events Center off West 13th Avenue in Eugene today. Don't be alarmed. No need to call 9-1-1. Lane County Emergency Management and partners will be conducting a "mass care" exercise. It is intended to help local disaster response agencies practice setting up mass care sheltering operations during any emergency that results in widespread

evacuations. Organizers also want to test local plans and make sure their ability to shelter people, pets, and livestock is safe and efficient. Local and regional partners will participate. They include the American Red Cross, Oregon Department of Human Services, Lane County Health & Human Services, Lane County Animal Services, Greenhill Humane Society, and Oregon Emergency Management. Coordinators say many individual volunteers from a variety of agencies also are taking part and acting as evacuees during the exercise. / RECREATION, DISABILITIES: An impressive accessibility effort in some Oregon State Parks is this weekend offering free reservations to use its electric all-terrain wheelchairs at two locations on the Central Oregon Coast. Southern Oregonbased non-profit David's Chair Outdoor Mobility Systems is setting up Friday at Heceta Beach County Park on the north end of Florence and on Saturday at Nye Beach in Newport. The high-tech wheelchair with tank treads makes it possible for those with mobility challenges to enjoy the coast, whether they use a regular wheelchair or scooters, walker, cane, or crutches. Users are able to access Oregon's beaches, traveling across sand and even moderately rocky stretches, and get to the water's edge. The offerings from David's Chairs are so popular that the time slots on Friday in Florence are already booked and Saturday's opportunities in Newport are going fast. But if you want a closer look at the chairs and how they're being used, organizers will be set up at each location between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Organizers hope to expand the offerings in the future and have worked with a range of organizations to create free reservation days on the coast. / GOVERNMENT: Members of the Lane County Board of Commissioners yesterday finalized the county's budget for the coming fiscal year. Officials say the spending document offset a \$7.2 million general-fund deficit without layoffs or cuts in services. That's, in part, because of two recently approved levies, including the renewal of the five-year Public Safety Levy and the new five-year Lane County Parks levy. County officials say the spending blueprint includes two additional full-time equivalent positions in the District Attorney's Death Investigations program. It also turns a part-time Program Specialist position in Emergency Management into a full-time position. There's also money to help create a Behavioral Health Stabilization Center / EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT: Lane Community College held a grand opening event yesterday evening for its newly renovated Florence Center. It was largely funded by a 2020 bond measure approved by voters. The \$9.5 million project includes seismic retrofitting, enhanced safety and security measures, modern classroom technology, and upgraded labs and teaching spaces to support. It helps support Science, Math, Arts, and Engineering classes. The construction began in May of 2022. EDUCATION, YOUTH, FINANCES: The school year is ending, and many teens are preparing for summer jobs and managing the money they make. Are they ready for that responsibility? Yesterday, Umpqua Bank released a list of ideas to share with teens about how to do it wisely. While we all have money goals, they say it's important for young workers to understand that today's movie and snacks with friends or first car could be saved to become tomorrow's college tuition or a down payment on a house. That starts with healthy financial habits: save money from the start and spend less than you make. Whether your kids earn an allowance at home, work odd jobs for neighbors doing things like lawn care or babysitting, or have a job that earns an actual paycheck, there are ways to prepare: Help teens set goals, including short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

Maybe it's Saturday shopping with friends, new clothes in the fall and a new-tothem car. Work out a plan identifying a percentage to save from each paycheck or job, and how much can be used for "fun" money. Then make them earn it. The less you dole out cash, the more they'll learn its value. Now's also a good time to teach generosity by encouraging them to set aside a small amount for charity whether tithing at church, buying a bag of food to donate to a food bank, or contributing to a younger sibling's school fundraiser. Have them open an account to manage their saving and spending. Also ask about linking your accounts so you can transfer money into or out of their account and have a way to see their spending habits. Have them sign up for direct deposit, if their employer offers it, with some of their money going directly into a savings account. That will make it less likely they'll spend it all quickly. Have them use a budget app. There are a ton of free apps out there. Just make sure they enter every expense every day so they can guickly see where their money is going. Some also feature budget tools that are often free and will automatically track and categorize spending. Also, teach your teens about taxes and make sure some money is being withheld for taxes from their paychecks. / EDUCATION, FINANCES: After three years, the pandemic-era freeze on student loan payments will end in late August. It might seem tempting to just keep not making payments, but the consequences can be severe, including a hit to your credit score and exclusion from future aid and benefits. More than 40 million Americans will have to start making federal student loan payments again at the end of the summer under the terms of a debt ceiling deal approved by Congress. Millions are also waiting to find out whether the U.S. Supreme Court will allow President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan to go ahead. But payments will resume regardless of what justices decide. / AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION: New research from North Carolina State University offers some hope to fruit growers who have struggled with a damaging fruit fly. The research published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences describes how the researchers manipulated the insects' DNA so that female offspring would be sterile. Genetically modifying insects as a form of pest control isn't a new idea. Scientists have already released genetically modified mosquitoes, for instance, that mate with the native population to produce offspring that die before adulthood to hold down populations and help combat the spread of insect-borne diseases. But the technology hasn't taken off as widely in agriculture because pesticides have been cheaper and easier to use. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/15/23

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WILDFIRES, SAFETY: High winds yesterday increased the size of a wildfire in North-Central Oregon's Umatilla County. By yesterday afternoon, the Hat Rock blaze had spread across 15.000 acres about eight miles northeast of Hermiston. The fire was first spotted around 11 a.m. on Tuesday. It has continued to spread to the northeast, reaching the Oregon-Washington border, and pushing the fire through Juniper Canyon into Washington state. The State Fire Marshal mobilized six task forces from across Oregon—led by a Lane County incident commander, Lance Lighty. Governor Tina Kotek on Tuesday invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act to send additional crews and equipment, as needed, to the fire lines. Officials say they were assisted by farmers who used heavy disking machinery to create fire lines. They said other volunteers also responded from nearby communities. The Umatilla County Sheriff issued Level 1 and later Level 2 evacuation notices for Hat Rock State Park and a nearby RV Park. The Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon State Police assisted with nearby road closures. A second blaze that burned close to 600 acres northeast of Pendleton was contained late Tuesday afternoon, but crews are continuing to shore up fire lines and douse the flames. There are no reported injuries. The cause of both fires is under investigation.; Yesterday, a fast-moving wildfire broke out on the northeast edge of The Dalles, burning close to 150 acres. Smoke and occasional flames were visible from Interstate 84. It was first reported around 5 p.m. yesterday near a mobile home and RV park. As the blaze moved up one hillside, Wasco County officials issued a "shelter in place" order for staff and residents of the Oregon Veterans' Home. Fire crews positioned themselves to protect the facility and nearby electrical transmission equipment. Officials said strong winds were pushing the flames south, toward less-populated areas, but continued to threaten some rural homes. The American Red Cross set up an overnight shelter at a church in The Dalles for evacuees from nearby residences and mobile homes. / LEGAL, WILDFIRES, UTILITIES: A jury on Wednesday ordered electric utility PacifiCorp to pay punitive damages for causing devastating wildfires in Oregon in 2020 — on top of an earlier verdict already expected to amount to billions of dollars. The decision came two days after the jurors found PacifiCorp liable for the fires and said it must pay for damage to property as well as emotional distress. On Monday, the panel awarded more than \$70 million to 17 homeowners named as plaintiffs in the case, with damages to be determined later for a broader class that could include the owners of about 2,500 properties, as

estimated by plaintiffs' attorneys. PacifiCorp officials say they will appeal. The Multnomah County Circuit Court jury in Portland found Wednesday that additional damages were warranted to punish the utility's alleged indifference to the safety of others and to deter such conduct in the future. The jury determined the amount should be one-quarter of whatever is eventually awarded for property damage and emotional distress — meaning the punitive damages could reach hundreds of millions of dollars or more. The fires were among the worst natural disasters in Oregon's history. They killed nine people, burned more than 1,875 square miles, and destroyed upward of 5,000 homes and other structures. The property owners alleged that PacifiCorp negligently failed to shut off power to its 600,000 customers during a windstorm over Labor Day weekend, despite warnings from then-Governor Kate Brown's chief of staff and top fire officials, and that its power lines were responsible for multiple blazes. Attorneys for the plaintiffs said that after the fires, PacifiCorp started an internal investigation — without communicating that to workers in the field. As a result, they say the workers repaired or replaced some damaged equipment without documenting or preserving evidence of how broken poles or power lines contributed to the fires. Doug Dixon, an attorney for PacifiCorp, told the jury Tuesday that punitive damages were unwarranted. He noted the company also has invested hundreds of millions of dollars since the fires to upgrade equipment and expand its weather stations and weather modeling. Dixon also warned that the utility could face bankruptcy if punitive damages exceed its net worth of \$10.7 billion. The plaintiffs' attorney told the jury such damages would be the only way to hold the company accountable. / RECREATION, ENVIRONMENT: The Central Cascades Wilderness Permit System goes into effect today and runs through October 15. Central Cascades Wilderness Permits are required for all overnight stays in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness areas. Day use permits are required at 19 of 79 trailheads within those same three wilderness areas. Permits must be reserved through Recreation.gov While some overnight permits were released in April for advance reservations, the remaining overnight permits became available for reservation seven days prior to the start date of a trip, also referred to as a seven-day rolling window. Day use permits are also released on a rolling window, with about 40 percent of permits released 10 days prior to the start of a trip, and the remainder coming available two days prior. All reservations for Central Cascades Wilderness Permits need to be made through Recreation.gov, via the Recreation.gov app, or by calling the Recreation.gov call center at 1-877-444-6777 or TDD 877-833-6777. Search for "Central Cascades Wilderness." Permits are not available at Forest Service offices or outside of the Recreation.gov system. There is a \$1 processing charge for day use permits per individual and a \$6 processing charge for overnight use permits per group. An overnight group can include up to 12 people. Processing fees are non-refundable unless the area is closed for visitor safety by the Forest Service. The roads to some trailheads may not yet be accessible due to late season snow; no permits will be available from these trailheads until the roads are drivable. Additionally, the following trailheads are closed due to on-going wildfire closures: PCT from Charlton Lake to Irish and Taylor, Taylor Burn/Helen Lake/Jack Pine, PCT Irish and Taylor, Woodpecker, Whitewater, Crown Lake/Roaring Creek, Breitenbush Lake, and Triangulation/Cheat Creel/South Breitenbush. Trailheads in the Three Creek Lake area, including Tam McArthur Rim, Park Meadow, and Three Creek

Meadow will be delayed in opening until July 21, due to road construction on Forest Service Road 16. / YOUTH, HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY, CRIME: The homicide rate for older U.S. teenagers rose to its highest point in nearly 25 years during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the suicide rate for adults in their early 20s was the worst in more than 50 years, government researchers said this morning. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report examined the homicide and suicide rates among 10- to 24-year-olds from 2001 to 2021. Experts cited several possible reasons for the increases, including higher rates of depression, limited availability of mental health services, and the number of guns in U.S. homes. At the same time, experts say there is a misperception that if you talk to young people about depression, they'll get depressed. But they stress that a "don't ask, don't tell" policy for depression is not effective, adding that the earlier we can identify the ones who need help, the better chance we'll have at saving lives. Guns were used in 54 percent of suicides and 93 percent of homicides among the age group in 2021, the most recent year for which statistics were available. Suicide and homicide were the second and third leading causes of death for 10- to 24-year-olds, after a category of accidental deaths that includes motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings and overdoses. Other researchers have grouped the data by the method of death and concluded that guns are now the biggest killer of U.S. children. Earlier this year, Woolf and other researchers looking at CDC data noted dramatic increases in child and adolescent death rates overall at the beginning of the pandemic, and found suicide and homicide were important factors. The report also found: Suicide and homicide death rates remained far higher for older teenagers and young adults than they were for 10to 14-year-olds. In 2021, there were about 2,900 suicides in youths ages 10 to 19, and 4,200 in 20- to 24-year-olds. About 3,000 homicide deaths were reported in the younger group, and nearly 3,900 in the adults in their early 20s. The homicide death rate jumped from 8.9 deaths per 100,000 teens aged 15 to 19 in 2019 to 12.3 in 2020. It rose to 12.8 deaths per 100,000 in 2021, the highest since 1997, according to CDC data. Homicide deaths became more common than suicide deaths among 15- to 19-year-olds, while suicide was more common in the younger and older age groups. While large increases were seen in homicide rates for young Black and Hispanic people in the U.S., there were not significant increases for their white counterparts, other CDC data shows. Among 20- to 24year-olds, the homicide death rate jumped 34 percent from 2019 to 2020 — from 13.4 per 100,000 population to 18 per 100,000. It held stable in 2021, but the suicide rate rose enough in 2021 — to 19.4 per 100,000 — to surpass the homicide rate. Suicide death rates in children and teens were rising before COVID-19, but they jumped up at the beginning of the pandemic. Dr. Madhukar Trivedi, a psychiatrist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, said the reasons may be hard to pinpoint, but that isolation during COVID-19 lockdowns could be a factor. / POLITICS: There was an optimistic mood yesterday in the Oregon Capitol. A boycott by Republican senators, which has been underway for six weeks, might end soon. It comes as GOP and Democratic leaders continued meeting behind the scenes to negotiate compromises over bills on gun safety, abortion, and transgender health care. The walkout began on May 3. It is the longest in the 163-year history of the Oregon Legislature and reportedly the second-longest of any U.S. state, after Rhode Island. The talks aimed at ending the impasse gained momentum when Republicans, led by Senate Minority

Leader Senator Tim Knopp, began late last week to negotiate on the contentious bills. The Republican walkout, the sixth since 2019, has prevented a quorum in the Senate. That has frozen debates and floor votes on more than 100 bills. Oregon is one of only four states that requires two-thirds of legislators to be present to achieve a quorum, rather than a simple majority. There are only 11 days left in the current legislative session. / HEALTH, SAFETY: An Oregon produce company is recalling packages of frozen fruit containing strawberries grown in Mexico because of the potential they are contaminated with Hepatitis A. According to the Food and Drug Administration recall notice, Salem-based Willamette Valley Fruit Company is voluntarily recalling select packages of frozen fruit, which was distributed under several labels to a number of major retailers. In Oregon, they include packages under the "Great Value" label to Walmart stores. The specific products being recalled include Great Value Sliced Strawberries, Great Value Mixed Fruit, and Great Value Antioxidant Blend. The packages carry dates from January 24 through June 8 of this year. / EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS: Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 3.7 percent in May, down from 4.0 percent in April. This was the fourth consecutive monthly drop in the state's unemployment rate, down from a recent high of 4.8 percent in January. Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose last month by 3,600 jobs. Those areas showing the biggest hiring increases included the financial activities sector (+1,200 jobs), leisure and hospitality (+1,100), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+1,000). There were some net declines in retail trade (-500 jobs) and government (-300). Still, since May of last year, Oregon has added 39,100 nonfarm payroll jobs. That's a two percent overall employment gain. Analysts say the leisure and hospitality sector, while still adding jobs, has grown at a slower rate during the past 12 months than during its rapid partial recovery during much of 2020 and 2021. The businesses that fall under the leisure and hospitality umbrella are still 11,900 jobs—or about five percent—below where they were in February 2020, just prior to the Pandemic Recession. Retail trade employment ticked down 500 jobs in May. Industry employment has been steady recently, coming in at 208,800 in May, which was close to its jobs totals of 2017 through 2023, with the exception of the recession-induced plunge of 2020. / ECONOMY, INFLATION: Members of the Federal Reserve Board yesterday decided to forgo another increase in its benchmark interest rate, leaving it at about 5.1 percent. The pause followed 10 straight hikes in 15 months — the fastest series of increases in four decades. It comes amid signs inflation might be cooling. By leaving rates alone, at least for now, Fed Chair Jerome Powell and other top Fed officials hope to use the extra time to more fully assess how higher borrowing rates have affected inflation and the economy. They also want to see whether the collapse of three large banks this spring will weigh on lending and growth. Powell also suggested that the trends that are needed to further slow inflation, from lower apartment rents to slower-growing wages, are starting to click into place. Powell noted that wage growth has slowed and cited other signs that the job market is cooling. But the Fed's policymakers also issued projections on Wednesday showing they envision as many as two additional quarter-point rate hikes before the year ends. Fed watchers had expected the policymakers to signal just one more rate increase this year. The Fed's aggressive streak of rate hikes, which have made mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and business borrowing costlier, have been intended to slow spending and defeat the worst

bout of inflation in four decades. Average credit card rates have surpassed 20 percent to a record high. Inflation dropped to four percent in May compared with a year earlier, down sharply from a 9.1 percent peak last June. And many economists expect it to decline further. Rental costs are falling, and used car prices, which spiked in April and May, are also likely to drop. One reason why Fed officials may be predicting additional rate hikes is that the economy has remained surprisingly resilient this year, with more persistent inflation that might require higher rates to cool. The economy has so far fared better than the central bank and most economists had expected at the beginning of the year. Companies are still hiring at a robust pace, which has helped encourage many people to keep spending, particularly on travel, dining out and entertainment.; Americans increased their spending at retailers last month despite pressure from still-high inflation and rising borrowing costs. Today's report from the Commerce Department showed that retail sales rose 0.3 percent from April to May, helped by stronger sales of auto dealers. Economists were expecting a decline for the month. Retail sales have been bumpy this year after surging nearly 3 percent in January. Sales tumbled in February and March but then recovered in April. The retail sales report offers only a partial look at consumer spending; it doesn't include many services, including healthcare, travel and hotel lodging. Nor is U.S. retail sales data adjusted for inflation. / BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT: When is the price of something not really the price of something? When it includes added fees that you might not see until right before you pay. President Biden today is hosting executives from Live Nation, Airbnb, and other companies at the White House to highlight his push to end so-called "junk fees" that surprise consumers. Biden prioritized the effort in his State of the Union address and has called for legislation, regulation, and private sector action. Biden will announce actions by companies that have eliminated or plan to eliminate the fees. During the White House event, Live Nation officials plan to announce that they will provide customers with upfront all-in pricing — meaning the actual purchase price including service charges and any other fees — for tickets at all the venues it owns by September. Ticketmaster, which is part of Live Nation, will give consumers the option to view all-in pricing up front for other venues on the liveentertainment tickets platform. SeatGeek will also unveil features to make it easier to browse for tickets with the true cost displayed. Airbnb, based in San Francisco, rolled out its all-in pricing tool in December, after Biden first called on companies to stop hiding fees. /

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CRIME, GOVERNMENT: It was a global hack crafted by a Russian cyberextortion gang. Among the databases that were compromised: The Oregon Department of Transportation and 90 percent of the customer information stored with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Officials with the Department of Homeland Security said yesterday that the exploited program, known as MOVEit, is widely used by businesses to securely share files. Security experts say that can include sensitive financial and insurance data. Here in the U.S., the hack affected hundreds of corporations, higher education institutions, and government agencies, including two departments at the U.S. Department of Energy. Officials with the Oregon Department of Transportation confirmed yesterday that the attackers accessed personal information, some of it sensitive, for about 3.5 million people to whom the state has issued driver's licenses or identity cards. Louisiana suffered a similar breach to its DMV database and officials there said the sensitive information included names, addresses, Social Security numbers and birthdates. How can you protect yourself? Officials encourage you to freeze your credit to guard against identity theft. Request free annual credit reports from Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion to monitor your accounts for suspicious activity. A senior official with the nation's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, told reporters that neither the U.S. military nor intelligence community was affected. The Russian ransomware syndicate behind the hack (Cl0p) announced the intrusions last week on its dark web site. The announcement said it would post the information online unless the governments, institutions, and businesses paid ransoms. If it received the payments, the cyber-gang post said the stolen data would be deleted. But U.S. cybersecurity officials say such gangs cannot be trusted to keep their word. They say such criminals do not delete stolen data, often demand additional payments, and will post stolen data to the dark web months later. Officials added they have no evidence to suggest coordination between the hackers and the Russian government. The parent company of the breached software alerted customers about the breach on May 31 and issued a patch. But cybersecurity researchers say by then, hundreds of sites likely already had lost data in the hack. SecurityScorecard threat analyst Jared Smith says it appears the hackers were actively scanning for targets and stealing data at least as far back as March 29. / POLITICS, GOVERNMENT, CRIME, HEALTH, ABORTION: Republican senators have ended the longest walkout in the history of the Oregon Legislature, which held up key bills for six weeks. Enough GOP

senators showed up for work Thursday in Salem for the chamber to have a quorum and begin working through the backlog. It came after majority Democrats and the governor made concessions on controversial abortion, transgender health, and gun-safety measures. The walkout was the longest in state history and the second-longest in U.S. history. The Republican boycott had prevented the state Senate from having enough members present to reach the two-thirds quorum needed to pass bills. GOP leaders had criticized a sweeping measure on abortion and gender-affirming care. It would have allowed doctors to provide abortions regardless of a patient's age, with medical providers not required to notify the parents of a minor in certain cases. Under the compromise, if an abortion provider believes notifying the parents of a patient younger than 15 years old would not be in that patient's best interest, the physician would not have to notify the parents — but would need another provider to concur. However, no second opinion would be needed if involving a parent or guardian would lead to the abuse or neglect of the patient. Republicans called the changes to the abortion bill a victory for parental rights. Democrats said the measure will still ensure abortion access and protect caregivers from anti-abortion or genderaffirming care measures passed by other states. It will also require that health insurance covers medically necessary gender-affirming care. GOP leaders added that Democrats had agreed to drop a proposed constitutional amendment that would have guaranteed the right to abortion, gender-affirming care, and same-sex marriage. Democrats also agreed to drop several amendments on a bill that would punish the manufacture or transfer of undetectable firearms. The nowremoved clauses would have increased the purchasing age from 18 to 21 for semiautomatic rifles and placed more limits on concealed carry. A bill calling for an increased waiting period for those applying for a permit to purchase a gun also appears to be dead for the session. The only remaining major gun bill is a ban on the possession or sale of so-called "ghost guns"—untraceable firearms that do not have serial numbers. It was sponsored by Eugene State Senator James Manning. Republicans called the changes to the gun-safety package a victory for Constitutional rights. But those who supported the bills criticized the GOP for its stalling tactics and said they will continue to support efforts to pass communitysafety legislation. With those compromises in place, lawmakers now are rushing to deal with the backlog of other bills—and to finalize a two-year state budget. They are required to wrap up their work by a week from Sunday—by June 25. Otherwise, Governor Tina Kotek could convene a special session later this summer.; Still unresolved is the consequences for the Senate Republicans and one Independent who took part in the longest walkout in the Oregon Legislative history. Last fall, voters passed a ballot measure that disqualifies lawmakers with 10 or more unexcused absences from running for reelection. But Republican senators are expected to challenge the measure in court. If upheld, those who would be affected include one Lane County lawmaker, Republican Senator Cedric Hayden of Fall Creek. On June 1, Senate Democrats voted to fine senators \$325 every time their absence denied a quorum. But Senate President Rob Wagner agreed to waive those fines as part of the deal to get boycotting GOP senators back to the chamber. Earlier this week, more than 40 Oregon Democratic House and Senate members sponsored a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the state Constitution. It would change the quorum rules from a two-thirds majority to a simple majority for each legislative chamber to conduct business. If approved

by lawmakers, it would go before Oregon voters as a ballot measure in 2024. But Democratic leaders say the proposal is unlikely to get a vote this session because there are hundreds of other bills awaiting consideration. / LEGAL, RACIAL JUSTICE, FAMILY, CHILDREN: The U.S. Supreme Court this week preserved the system that gives preference to Native American families in foster care and adoption proceedings of Native children. On a 7-2 vote, the justices rejected a broad attack from some Republican-led states and white families who argued that the system is based on race. With its decision, the court left in place the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act. It was enacted to address concerns that Native children were being separated from their families and, too frequently, placed in non-Native homes. Tribal leaders have backed the law as a means of preserving their families, traditions, and cultures. The high court's decision was praised by leaders of the Oregon Department of Human Services, who work with Oregon's nine recognized Tribes. They note that our state has its own law, the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act, which also works to keep Native American children connected to their Tribes and tribal culture. / CRIME, OLDER ADULTS: Yesterday was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Officials with the Oregon Department of Financial Regulation say scams targeting the elder population are on the rise. Financial abuse can happen to anyone at any time, but officials say seniors are often the target. According to estimates from the University of Southern California's Center for Elder Justice, every year 5 million older Americans – or 1 in 10 – experience elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Of those, 1 in 24 cases of abuse are reported and total losses are between \$2.6 billion to \$36.5 billion. The Oregon Division of Financial Regulation asks everyone to be on the lookout for the financial exploitation of seniors. Officials say scammers use several tactics to gain trust from seniors to steal their finances. Some of these offenders are the guardians who are responsible for acting in the person's best interest. Guardians are often a person the senior trusts and are granted control of the person's assets. Financial abuse or exploitation often occurs when the guardian improperly uses the financial resources of a senior. Senior financial exploitation can be difficult to identify. Here are six examples to watch for: A new and overly protective friend or caregiver, especially if the senior is considering surrendering financial control to the person. Fear of someone or a sudden change in feelings about them. A lack of knowledge about financial status or reluctance to discuss financial matters. Sudden or unexplained changes in spending habits, a will, trust, or beneficiary designation. Unexplained checks made out to cash, unexplained loans, or unexplained disappearance of assets (cash, valuables, securities, etc.). Suspicious signatures on the senior's checks or other documents. Oregon has a toll-free abuse hotline to call if you believe someone is being financially abused at 855-503-SAFE (7233). You can also visit the division's protect yourself from fraud website at https://dfr.oregon.gov/financial/resources/Pages/index.aspx for resources to prevent, report, and recover from financial abuse. /

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30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

WEATHER, SAFETY: National Weather Service meteorologists confirmed an EF-0 tornado on Sunday afternoon touched down near Interstate 5. It was spotted about one mile north of Daniels Field. That's that airstrip near the Harrisburg exit in Linn County. It happened around 12:30 p.m. Meteorologists estimate the lowintensity tornado only reached wind speeds of 65 miles per hour and was on the ground for about one-third of a mile. There were no reported injuries or damage. TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION: They're opening the snow gates for the season today on the Old McKenzie Highway. That's on Highway 242, about seven miles east of the junction with Oregon Highway 126. The scenic roadway winds to the summit of McKenzie Pass at the Dee Wright Observatory. You can enjoy views of Cascade peaks and lava flows. The historic highway closed on November 1 and some recent spring storms added additional layers of snow. But crews have finished clearing the roadway, which is popular with drivers, bicyclists, hikers, and campers. There is still roadside snow along some portions of the Old McKenzie Highway, so keep an eye out for road crews and snowplows as they wrap up their work. And remember: Vehicles longer than 35 feet are prohibited on the scenic roadway because of its sharp, narrow curves. At least once every season, some driver ignores that size limit and gets stuck on one of the hairpin curves. Drivers: Be on the lookout for cyclists and pedestrians. This is a popular scenic route for many people. Private funding built the original route in the 1870s for use as a wagon toll road, and the pass became a seasonal scenic highway in 1962 with the completion of Oregon Highway 126. Even then, when it was the main route between the southern Willamette Valley and Central Oregon, the narrow, twisting roadway that topped out at more than 5,300 feet (5,325 feet at the highest point) made the highway too difficult to maintain for much of the year. Even after the snow melts each spring, Oregon Department of Transportation crews have a lot of work to do before the road is safe for travel. Each winter, trees come down. The heavy rain and snow move rocks and debris onto the road. All of this is cleaned up and the pavement patched before the historic highway reopens. / RACIAL JUSTICE, EVENTS: Today is Juneteeth, a federal holiday marking the day when the last of America's enslaved people learned they were free. On June 19 of 1865, a Union officer reached Galveston, Texas, and announced their liberation. It is a bittersweet date for Black Americans, who are still struggling for racial equity more than 150 years later. On Saturday, a number of local organizations held a Juneteenth commemoration and

celebration at Eugene's Alton Baker Park. The event also highlighted Blackowned local businesses and the Black community. Because it is a federal holiday, there will be no mail delivery. Financial markets, banks, credit unions, and educational institutions are closed for the day. But Lane Transit District buses will operate on their regular schedules. / WILDFIRES, SAFETY: Task forces on Saturday wrapped up their containment work on a pair of wildfires in Northeastern Oregon's Umatilla County and handed mop-up of the blazes to local crews. The task forces, deployed by the Office of the Oregon State Fire Marshal, came from Lane and five other counties. Their incident commander was Lance Lighty with Eugene-Springfield Fire. Lighty noted that crews worked hard to build and maintain a perimeter around the 16,800-acre Hat Rock Fire, northeast of Hermiston. At the height of the blaze, 243 structures were threatened—65 of which were residences—but no structures were damaged or lost. A smaller blaze burned 370 acres northeast of the city of Pendleton. Fire managers thanked local firefighters, landowners, and community members for stepping up to help protect their neighbors. They also credited increased funding for state fire suppression efforts. Task force members returned home on Saturday. The cause of both fires is under investigation. / SPORTS: Former University of Oregon golfer Wyndham Clark is the U.S. Open champion and played the part. Clark remained calm against a world-class collection of contenders, holding off Rory McIlroy to win by one shot at Los Angeles Country Club. Just two months ago, the 29-year-old from Denver was looking for his first PGA Tour title. Now he has two wins and is a major champion and he likely will be part of the Ryder Cup team this fall. No stage was bigger than a U.S. Open on the edge of Beverly Hills. That's where Clark delivered clutch saves, a signature shot that gave him control, and the steady nerves to hold off McIlroy and become a major champion. Clark finished at 10-under 270 and along with \$3.6 million — his second such cash prize in the last six weeks — he moves to No. 2 in the Ryder Cup standings. Clark carried a message from his late mother, who died from breast cancer. "Play big," she always told him — believing he could compete with anyone on any stage. He thought about guitting golf a decade ago when he struggled with the loss of his mother, Lise, to breast cancer. She was who kept him steady in good times and bad. He was thinking about her all week for all kinds of reasons. Clark and his, John Ellis, have a long relationship. Ellis was an assistant coach when Clark transferred in 2016 to the University of Oregon. / EDUCATION, EVENTS: This is commencement season. On Saturday morning, Lane Community College honored the 1,120 members of its graduating class. The youngest is 15, the eldest 72. Slightly more than half are first-generation college students. Up the valley a bit, more than 3,700 graduates took part in Oregon State University's ceremonies at Reser Stadium in Corvallis. The University of Oregon will hold this vear's spring commencement exercises on Tuesday. June 20. The main ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. at Autzen Stadium and will include a grand entrance with those receiving degrees wearing their caps and gowns. Individual U-of-O school and college ceremonies also will be held tomorrow, with many taking place through late Tuesday afternoon. / TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMY: Planning to travel now that the summer vacation season is in full swing? It's costing you more at the pump. This morning in Eugene-Springfield, the price for a gallon of regular-grade gasoline is \$4.53, up 37 cents per gallon from this time last month—although it's still \$1.02 per gallon less than the record prices a year

ago. Diesel is averaging \$4.40 per gallon this morning. That's actually down eight cents per gallon from this time last month—and a whopping \$1.99 from this time last year. / CRIME, EVENTS: Police say two people were killed and three others wounded Saturday evening when a shooter began firing "randomly" into a crowd at a Washington state campground. It happened a few hundred yards from the Gorge Amphitheatre, where thousands of people were attending an electronic dance music festival on Saturday night. Police say the suspect was among the wounded, after being shot during a confrontation with law enforcement. The shooting prompted organizers to cancel Sunday's final day of performances at the Beyond Wonderland EDM festival. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/20/23

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5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

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EDUCATION, EVENTS, TRANSPORTATION: The University of Oregon holds this year's spring commencement exercises this morning, starting at 9 a.m. at Autzen Stadium. But the event was complicated by heavy traffic and a blown electrical transformer that took down some traffic signals. More than 4,800 students are receiving degrees. The event includes a grand entrance as those receiving degrees arrive wearing their caps and gowns. Individual U-of-O school and college ceremonies will throughout the day. / RECREATION, EVENTS: It's shaping up to be a great summer recreation season at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Staff and volunteers of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area are busy preparing campgrounds and trails for summer visitors, including those coming to play on their Off-Highway Vehicles or OHVs. One of the big summer events gets underway tomorrow: The UTV Takeover: June 21-25. The event is based at the Boxcar Hill Campground near Coos Bay – North Bend. Expect heavy traffic in the Horsfall and Hauser area and the entire southern portion of the dunes. Some entrances may have restricted access. Recreation officials also are offering more safety education and sound monitoring activities, including courtesy sound checks, sound enforcement checkpoints, and educational programming. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Red paint—lots of it—is coming to some busy bus lanes in Eugene and Springfield. Lane Transit District crews are painting key sections of EmX (say: M-X) bus lanes bright red, to make it clear that those stretches are only for LTD buses. The lanes will include the words "Bus Only" in some sections. Project managers say painting "Bus Only" more clearly shows drivers where they can and cannot drive, stop, and turn. The changes are intended to improve safety on key streets and intersections. Planners hope this will reduce confusion and conflicts between buses, personal and commercial vehicles, and bicycles. Funding for the project is coming from a mix of local and state funds. You can learn more on Lane Transit's website. It's part of a larger effort to repaint existing "Bus Only" lane and turn indicators along the EmX route that connects downtown Eugene with downtown Springfield. / LOW-INCOME, HOUSING, COMMUNITY, SOCIAL SERVICES: Homeowners in the Oakridge-Westfir areas who need financial assistance to make health- and safety-oriented home repairs have a new resource. The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County is working with Lane County government to apply for grant funding from the state to cover the cost of many home repairs for qualifying residents in the rural Oakridge-Westfir area. The Regional Housing Rehabilitation

Loan Program uses grant funds to provide financial assistance — in the form of low-interest, payment-deferred loans — to homeowners who meet certain financial eligibility guidelines. This program focuses on essential repairs, not home remodeling. This might include essential repairs to roofs and foundations, plumbing, electrical, and heating systems. It might include adding insulation, siding, windows and doors, even adding paint. The grant money can also cover repairs to septic and drain fields; eliminating dry rot; and improving accessibility. Program Manager Andy Clay says many qualifying residents who need this kind of assistance still don't know about the program. It allows someone to defer any loan repayments for as long as the resident owns their home. Clay says this can make all the difference in maintaining a home's livability and safety without creating an additional financial burden. Clay says that over the years, hundreds of qualifying homeowners have benefited by using some equity in their home to make needed repairs without impacting their monthly household budget. The income limits are fairly generous and include single-resident households with annual incomes of no more than \$47,250 all the way up to eight-person households with annual incomes of no more than \$89,050. Clay says the first step is for Oakridge-Westfir homeowners who are income-eligible to fill out a needsassessment form on St. Vincent DePaul of Lane County's website. / ECONOMY, INFLATION, LOW-INCOME, EMPLOYMENT: Even with higher wages coming off the pandemic, many Oregon workers continue to struggle to keep up with higher prices for food, fuel, housing, and other expenses. A new analysis by the Oregon Employment Department finds that even though many workers saw pay increases over the past year or two, inflation gnawed away at those gains, decreasing the median hourly wage by 47 cents. That wasn't the case for every worker. In fact, some industries saw generous wage hikes that helped offset inflation. Many of those were in transportation, warehousing, and utilities; construction; state and local government; and professional and business services. According to the numbers, the median worker's hourly wage during the third quarter of 2022 was \$24.98. More than two-million Oregonians had jobs. / LABOR, BUSINESS, HEALTH, ECONOMY: Nurses have walked off the job at two Oregon hospitalsone in Portland and one in Seaside. It is the latest labor action by members of the Oregon Nurses Association. Union officials say the strike at Providence Portland Medical Center involves 1,300 members. Another 100 are joining the picket lines at Providence Hospital in Seaside. Four-hundred nurses with Providence home health and hospice are also part of the walkout. Providence officials say they have hired replacement nurses to maintain medical care during the strike and canceled non-emergency surgeries. The two sides are at odds over the nurses' compensation. But union officials say staffing and workload remain the biggest issues. Earlier this month in Lane County, local nurses and their supporters held informational pickets vesterday outside PeaceHealth's hospitals in Springfield and Eugene to highlight staffing and pay issues. / WILDLIFE, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE: Wildlife officials in the state of Colorado are looking to reintroduce wolves in the western part of that state. And they're asking their counterparts in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana whether they can spare a few. The Capital Press reports Colorado is hoping to get 10 to 15 wolves a year for the next three to five years to reestablish their population. For Oregon and other states receiving the request, it could be an opportunity to manage the size of some faster-growing wolf packs and reduce potential conflicts with livestock

producers. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman Michelle Dennehy said in an email to reporter George Plaven that the department received the request and planned to meet with Colorado officials to get more information about their needs. Colorado's wolf plan calls for trapping, netting, or darting wolves and driving or flying them to Colorado. The plan rules out accepting wolves from areas with chronic attacks on livestock. / SAFETY, EVENTS: The moshing must have intense at Bonnaroo last weekend. Police in Manchester, Tennessee, say they responded to multiple accidental 911 calls on the Bonnaroo grounds. It appears the calls were a result of the newer Apple iPhone feature known as "Crash Detection Mode." It automatically calls for help when it believes a user has been in an automobile crash. Bonnaroo organizers later shared directions on how to disable the feature. Ever since Apple introduced the Crash Detection feature on iPhones and Apple Watches in September, there have been plenty of false alarms triggered by events that are not car crashes—including riding on some roller coasters. The Oregonian and OregonLive report there's also been a bump in 911 alerts tied to skiers and snowboarders. Reporter Rob Davis writes that in Central Oregon's Deschutes County alone, 911 dispatchers have received at least 30 automatic crash reports from skiers or snowboarders on Mount Bachelor since December. Apple has issued software updates to reduce the number of false alarms. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/21/23

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CRIME: It is close to 130 years old, one of the most photographed sights on the Oregon Coast, and one of America's most iconic lighthouses. Last week, it was vandalized. Now, Oregon State Police are sharing security photographs of the four suspects—men and women—and hoping someone will contact them with leads in the case and the suspects' identities. It happened Wednesday night, June 15, around 8:45 p.m. at Heceta Head Lighthouse, north of Florence. Security footage shows the four approaching the lighthouse and its buildings, with one person carrying a can of spray paint. Two of the suspects broke a window on the lighthouse building and tried to get inside. They were interrupted by someone else approaching the area, which prompted the four suspects to flee. Investigators say one of the lighthouse buildings was vandalized with spray paint, and signage along the trail from the parking lot to the lighthouse also was damaged. They say repairs will cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000. Oregon State Police investigating and asking anyone with leads in the case to contact them. Contact the Oregon State Police Dispatch Center at OSP (677) from a mobile phone or 800-442-0776. Reference case # SP23-178524. / CRIME, ENVIRONMENT: Hey, is anyone missing an RV? Lane County Sheriff's deputies are asking for tips as they work to track down the owner or owners of a couple of vehicles that recently were dumped on Bureau of Land Management property west of Junction City. One is a Ford motorhome and the other is a 'Terry Taurus' fifth wheel. Neither is in very good condition, with filthy interiors and exteriors. Officials say this type of illegal dumping is all too common. The result is an eyesore and a challenging cleanup—one that taxpayers and landowners have to cover. Anyone with information regarding the identities of the suspect(s) in this or any other illegal dumping incidents in our county is asked to contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4150 opt. 1. / DISASTERS, SAFETY, AGRICULTURE, ANIMALS: Whether it's due to wildfires, floods, or some other emergency, when it's time for people to evacuate they often need to evacuate livestock. Lane County Animal Services is hosting a training session on Saturday on how to assist with livestock transportation, feeding, and sheltering during emergencies. Organizers hope to increase the number of people able to care for horses, cattle, goats, chickens, and other livestock when disaster strikes. Saturday's training takes place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Lane County Public Works' shops at 3040 North Delta Highway, just north of the intersection with Green Acres Road. Volunteers help transport animals out of evacuation

zones; support animals sheltering in place in evacuation zones with food, water, and welfare checks; and feed, groom and clean up after animals in shelters. They also might assist with organizing donations of food, tack, or other items. If you're interested in volunteering, you do not need previous large animal experience, but you should be comfortable learning and being around large animals. Teens age 15 and older are welcome to volunteer, but those younger than age 18 need to have a signed release from a parent or guardian before they can assist during an active emergency. They do not need a release to attend the training. Children under 15 cannot volunteer at this time. / DISASTERS, RECOVERY, COMMUNITY, TRANSPORTATION, DEVELOPMENT: As the rebuilding continues up the McKenzie Valley in the wake of the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, Lane County is hosting a community meeting on Saturday to get feedback on three possible concepts for a redesigned Blue River Drive. It would include bike lanes, on-street parking, and sidewalks, and help provide a transportation centerpiece to help jumpstart the community's revival. Lane County Senior Transportation Planner Becky Taylor says staff already have worked with local businesses and residents to eliminate barriers related to roadway setbacks. Now, they want to hear how residents and visitors think the redesigned road should function to help revitalize the town. Once the plan is complete, it will be easier for Lane County to pursue grant funding to help pay for construction. The community meeting on Blue River Drive is set for Saturday 10:00 a.m. to noon at the McKenzie School Old Gym, located at 51187 Blue River Drive. / EDUCATION, PANDEMIC: Math and reading scores among America's 13-year-olds fell to their lowest levels in decades, with math scores plunging by the largest margin ever recorded, according to the results of a test known as the nation's report card. The results, released this morning, are the latest measure of the deep learning setbacks incurred during the pandemic. While earlier testing revealed the magnitude of America's learning loss, the latest test casts light on the persistence of those setbacks, dimming hopes of swift academic recovery. More than two years after most students returned to in-person class, experts say there are still worrisome signs about student achievement. In the national sample of 13-yearold students—who were 10 when the pandemic started—average math scores fell by 9 points between 2020 and 2023. Reading scores fell by 4 points. Similar setbacks were reported last year in the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Math and reading scores had been sliding before the pandemic, but the latest results show a precipitous drop that erases earlier gains in the years leading up to 2012. Scores on the math exam, which has been given since 1973, are now at their lowest levels since 1990. Reading scores are their lowest since 2004. And while stronger students saw slides of 6 to 8 points, lower performing students saw decreases of 12 to 14 points, the results show. There were also differences by race. The steepest drops were among Native American and Black students—at least twice the decline for white students. Some states are seeing scores recover. But when asked about their reading habits, fewer students than ever say they're reading for fun every day. Only 14 percent reported reading daily for pleasure. Reading for fun has been tied to better academic outcomes and better success socially. Educators say it's important for parents to read with young children and encourage older kids to read for fun-especially during the

summer months, so kids don't lose their reading skills in the months between school years.  $\mbox{\prime}$ 

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/22/23

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CRIME: The security-camera images were pretty high-quality, and Oregon State Police say they received a lot of tips. Investigators say they've identified the suspects in last week's vandalism at Heceta Head Lighthouse north of Florence. They say they're continuing to build their case and will forward it to the district attorney's office soon. We'll likely learn more about the suspects at that time. Security cameras recorded what appeared to be four young men and women approaching the lighthouse and its outbuildings a week ago Wednesday evening. One was carrying a can of spray paint. Two of the suspects broke a window on the lighthouse building and tried to get inside. They were interrupted by someone else approaching the area, which prompted the four suspects to flee. Investigators say vandalism to the lighthouse buildings and trail signage will cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to repair. Heceta Lighthouse is close to 130 years old, one of the most photographed sights on the Oregon Coast, and one of America's most iconic lighthouses. Have additional information in the case? Contact Oregon State Police Dispatch at OSP (677) from a mobile phone or 800-442-0776. Reference case # SP23-178524. / FINANCES, EVENTS: A couple of quick notes from organizers of the Lane County Fair, which runs July 19-23 in Eugene: Third party ticket sellers are selling Lane County Fair concert tickets. Not only are the prices A LOT higher than the Fair's prices, but there is no way to quarantee they are legitimate. To ensure you have valid tickets and to find the best deals for Fair concert tickets, admission tickets, and ride bracelets – go to the Lane County Fair's official wellsite, www.atthefair.com / POLITICS, HEALTH, ABORTION, CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT: Oregon lawmakers have passed much weaker versions of the two bills that were at the center of a six-week Republican walkout. One protects access to abortion and gender-affirming care. The other punishes the manufacturing and sale of untraceable firearms, commonly referred to as "ghost guns." The bills were amended after Democrats and Republicans agreed to changes last week, which brought absent state senate GOP members back to their legislative chamber after six weeks. The bills' final passage highlights the partisan hurdles that were overcome in recent days, although they still passed along party lines during the concurrence votes in the state House on Wednesday. The bills now head to Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek's desk. / POLITICS, TRANSPORTATION: For decades, Oregon has been one of just two U.S. states—along with New Jersey—that banned self-service gas. But that rule, which dates back more than 70 years, might be going away soon.

Oregon lawmakers yesterday voted to end the ban on self-serve gas. But in a state where many drivers prefer to have someone else handle the fuel nozzle, the legislative bill would require gas stations to ensure they still staff at least half of their open pumps. Additionally, station owners will not be able to charge a higher price per gallon when attendants do the fueling. If Oregon Governor Tina Kotek signs it, the bill will become law and take effect immediately. The Oregonian and OregonLive note the proposal had bipartisan support. It builds on legislation from eight years ago that legalized self-serve gas pumps at night in rural and coastal counties. The state fire marshal also has lifted the self-serve ban every summer since 2020 during wildfires or heat waves. Motorcyclists already were allowed to pump their own gas. In past years, similar efforts failed amid concerns it would cost station attendants their jobs. Now, many service station operators say they continue to have a tough time filling those jobs, and that allowing self-serve will shorten the wait for customers. / EVENTS, SAFETY, CRIME: If you have illegal fireworks at your home, there is an opportunity for you to get rid of them without getting cited, Eugene-Springfield Fire is holding a pair of Fireworks Amnesty Days. Come to one of these locations' parking lot to drop them off: Saturday, 1 July from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Eugene Fire Station 2 – 1705 West 2nd Avenue – or-Springfield Fire Station 3 – 1225 28th Street. Sunday, 2 July from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Eugene Fire Station 2 – 1705 West 2nd Avenue -or- Springfield Fire Station 3 – 1225 28th Street. The event is only open to private individuals, not commercial parties. Do not take fireworks to a police or fire station outside of these listed dates. / CRIME: Eugene Police say they've arrested a fugitive from Nevada after learning he was living in Eugene. Officials say 19-year-old Jordan Michael Church was wanted on a nationwide felony warrant out of Henderson, Nevada, for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and Assault by Strangulation. Investigators in Nevada and Oregon determined he was living at an apartment on Commons Drive and he was spotted and identified on Monday. On Tuesday, the Eugene Police Street Crimes and Special Investigations Units along with EPD's SWAT Team took him into custody. Investigators say they worked to do so as quickly and safely as possible to avoid any disruption to nearby University of Oregon commencement ceremonies.

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/23/23

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TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Did you get stuck in it yesterday afternoon? The Oregon Department of Transportation is officially apologizing for the miles-long backup and long delays in their work zone between Leaburg and Vida, Agency officials say they are working with the contractor to improve traffic flow on that stretch. It's part of a big repaying project on Oregon Highway 126. But travelers are experiencing far longer wait times than expected because the section between Leaburg and Vida includes repaying the approaches to three bridges. Officials say the repaying will not only smooth the pavement but extend its lifespan. The project should wrap up by the end of the year. ODOT managers say their goal is to keep wait time to 20 minutes or less, while still ensuring the safety of travelers and road crew workers. They ask for your patience while they work on streamlining things. There's no roadwork taking place today on that stretch between Leaburg and Vida, nor will there be on weekends. Next week, as crews begin repaving the eastbound lanes, and over the next few weeks, crews expect to be on-site Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays. However, no work is scheduled for the week of July 4. / TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY, EVENTS: It's called "Formula E," a global racing circuit featuring all-electric racing vehicles. This weekend, the circuit is making a stop in Portland. The Southwire Portland E-Prix on takes place Saturday, June 24, at Portland International Raceway. It is North America's 25th Formula E race. The cars are guiet—and fast. The E-Prix circuit is packed with world-class drivers and iconic teams. With two races remaining in the season, just six points separate the top three drivers. This is the first time since 2016 that a Formula E race has come to the West Coast. From here, the drivers and racecars head to Europe for races in Rome and London. / POLITICS, LEGAL, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE: Oregon lawmakers continue to work toward a Sunday adjournment. The bills they're approving and sending to the governor for her signature cover a variety of issues. Among them: A bill that would ban the use of Tik-Tok, the popular Chinese-owned social media app, on government computers and devices. Close to \$90 million dollars to help shore up the state's system of public defenders which has been understaffed for years, leading to delays in some trials and dismissals of charges in others. A bill that mandates a minimum level of staffing in hospitals across the state. It comes after nurses and others complained about understaffing during the pandemic and concerns about burnout among nursing staff. A bill that calls for new setbacks from neighbors for large poultry and

livestock operations, including some modest requirements on the use of groundwater and managing manure. / POLITICS, FINANCES, EDUCATION: One recently approved legislative bill aims to increase students' financial knowledge. Senate Bill 3 adds a requirement for high school students to complete one halfcredit of higher education and career path skills and one half-credit of personal financial education in order to receive their high school diplomas. The bill was backed by Oregon's Credit Unions and others. The legislation was spurred by a study from the Oregon Department of Education, which found that financial education "was the most frequently cited subject that respondents across groups said students should have." The career path curriculum will help students learn to apply for jobs, prepare resumes, practice job interview skills, apply for admission to higher education or career training programs, seek scholarships or financial aid, and become advocates for their own mental, physical, and financial wellness. The personal education curriculum will teach students how to budget, make loan payments, understand the full costs of renting and home ownership, build their credit, prepare their tax returns, and avoid becoming victims of financial fraud. The requirement for high school graduates will apply to diplomas issued on or after January 1, 2027. / YOUTH, CHILDREN, LOW-INCOME, HEALTH, FAMILIES: As the excitement of summer approaches, many families with children face challenges with not having access to school breakfasts and lunches. Kids need three meals a day, all year long. Hunger doesn't take a vacation and Oregon has one of the highest child hunger rates in the nation. FOOD For Lane County and its partners help bridge the gap for families whose budgets and food supplies are already stretched thin. And every child eats free under this program, regardless of family income. All children and youth age 18 and younger are invited to eat lunch for free during the summer months at the FOOD for Lane County Summer Meal Sites. The program starts Monday, June 26, and continues weekdays through Friday, August 25 (with the exception of July 4). Meals are served at participating sites from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Employees serve the meals at parks and community centers throughout Lane County. All food must be consumed on-site. Adults are welcome to accompany children but must bring their own lunch. / WILDLIFE, COMMUNITY, SAFETY: It's summer and bears are getting into people's garbage in search of food. Now is the prime time to look around your property and make sure food sources attractive to bears are secure and inaccessible. If you live along the Oregon coast or own or manage coastal rental property, consider using bear-resistant trash cans. A bear's strongest sense is smell and everything from trash cans to grill drippings can bring them to your property. Finding your trash spread out across the yard or driveway can certainly ruin your day, but the consequences could be much more severe. If bears become habituated to humans (too comfortable around people) they could pose a serious threat to human safety. A bear that loses its wariness of people and becomes conditioned to human-provided sources of food may be humanely killed. This is often the only option to protect humans and ultimately to protect the larger bear population from learning the same behavior. Bears, like all wildlife, have a specialized diet that coincides with seasonal changes. Access to humanprovided food can negatively impact their health, lead to conflict with humans and in many cases have fatal consequences. Bears have a great memory when it comes to food. Not only will they remember where they have found food before, including trash, but female bears will also pass this knowledge down to their

young. Intentionally or unintentionally feeding bears can negatively affect multiple generations of bears. The good news is that most conflict between humans and bears is preventable. Bears don't want to be around humans, but the prospect of an easy meal is often too good to resist. Removing things that attract them to the area is the most important thing you can do to protect people and ensure bears stay wild. Follow these BearWise tips: Never feed or approach bears. Feeding bears, intentionally or unintentionally, will cause them to associate humans with food. It is also against the law in Oregon (ORS 496.730). Secure food, garbage and recycling. Please ensure that your trash and dumpsters are secure from bears by using commercially available garbage cans, metal bars over dumpsters, fully enclosed trash storage, or by storing garbage inside. Take trash out immediately before pick-up, not the night before. Wash garbage cans with bleach to reduce their smell. Food waste is one of the strongest attractants for black bears and allowing bears access could qualify as illegal feeding if appropriate steps are not taken to prevent the issue. Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Birds have plenty of naturally available food sources and bears will commonly feed from and destroy birdfeeders. Never leave pet food outdoors. It attracts bears and other wildlife, putting your pets and wildlife at risk. Clean and store grills after each use. Alert neighbors and ODFW to unusual bear activity (continued sightings during daylight hours, lack of wariness around humans or pets, etc.). If even one person feeds or attracts bears, intentionally or not, it can pose a risk to everyone in the neighborhood. Contact your local ODFW office to report unusual bear activity or for information and resources to help prevent conflict with black bears. / SAFETY, CHILDREN: About 7.5 million "Baby Shark" bath toys are being recalled after multiple lacerations and puncture wounds were reported in children playing with them. Toymaker Zuru said it's recalling both full-size and mini versions of its robotic baby shark toys that have hard plastic top fins. Twelve injuries have already been reported with Zuru's fullsized Robo Alive Junior Baby Shark Sing & Swim Bath Toys — after children sat or fell on the now-recalled toys. Nine of these cases required stitches or medical attention, according to a Thursday release from the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Consumers in possession of these recalled toys are instructed to stop using them immediately and contact Zuru for a full refund. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/26/23

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30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: A reminder that construction resumes today on that stretch of Oregon Highway 126 between Leaburg and Vida. But officials with the Oregon Department of Transportation say they've worked with the contractor to make some changes and avoid the miles-long backups that occurred on Thursday. The repaying project is complex because that stretch also involves redoing the approaches to three bridges. Officials say the repaving will not only smooth the pavement but extend its lifespan. The project should wrap up by the end of the year. ODOT managers say their goal is to keep wait time to 20 minutes or less, while still ensuring the safety of travelers and road crew workers. They ask for your patience while they work on streamlining things. Crews will be on-site Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays. However, the roadwork will pause on weekends and during Fourth of July week. Watch for workers and flagging crews and remember to slow in construction zones. / CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES, LOW-INCOME, HEALTH: As the excitement of summer approaches, many families with children face challenges with not having access to school breakfasts and lunches. Kids need three meals a day, all year long. Hunger doesn't take a vacation and Oregon has one of the highest child hunger rates in the nation. FOOD For Lane County and its partners help bridge the gap for families whose budgets and food supplies are already stretched thin. And every child eats free under this program, regardless of family income. All children and youth ages 18 and younger are invited to eat lunch for free during the summer months at the FOOD for Lane County Summer Meal Sites. The program starts today (June 26), and continues on weekdays through Friday, August 25 (with the exception of July 4). Meals are served at participating sites from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Employees serve the meals at parks and community centers throughout Lane County. All food must be consumed on-site. Adults are welcome to accompany children but must bring their own lunch. / POLITICS, GOVERNMENT: Oregon lawmakers sprinted to the finish line of their regular session Sunday afternoon, having rushed to pass hundreds of backlogged bills during the past week after boycotting GOP senators returned to the state Capitol. The 42-day walkout meant that when the legislature reconvened there was little time to discuss many of the bills awaiting final approval. The Republican walkout forced majority Democrats into compromises on key legislation dealing with abortion and gun control. But under a ballot measure approved in November, ten of those GOP state senators might also be barred from running for reelection.

Republicans have promised legal challenges. Among the session's highlights: Funding to help reduce homelessness and spur building of thousands of affordable housing units. A rent-control bill that caps annual rent increases at 10 percent even when inflation soars. More funding for schools, to educate the state's Kindergarten through 12th graders and continue to recover from the pandemic's educational setbacks. Close to \$90 million dollars to help shore up the state's system of public defenders—which has been understaffed for years. A bill that mandates a minimum level of staffing in hospitals across Oregon. More than \$200 million has been set aside to try to lure more semiconductor manufacturing plants to the state. Lawmakers voted to end Oregon's ban on selfserve gas. But gas stations would still have to staff at least half of their open pumps and would not be able to charge a higher price per gallon when attendants do the fueling. They also passed a bill that bans the use of Tik-Tok, the popular Chinese-owned social media app, on government computers and devices. Another new bill calls for new setbacks from neighbors for large poultry and livestock operations, including some modest requirements on the use of groundwater and managing manure. There also was new funding set aside for some major road projects, including the planned new interstate 5 bridge between Oregon and Washington. / FAMILIES, EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMY, CHILDREN: You don't need to tell working parents about the challenges of finding and paying for childcare. Among parents of young children under the age of six, analysts with the Oregon Employment Department say nine out of 10 fathers and two of every three mothers are working. Parents who have children under six years of age make up 12 percent of Oregon's workforce, and those with kids and teens ages six to 17 make up another 19 percent. As we learned during the pandemic years, without available and affordable childcare, employers struggle to maintain a stable, reliable, and productive workforce. Analyst Jessica Nelson says employment in child daycare services dropped a staggering 35 percent in one month between March and April of 2020, and the industry still has not regained all of those lost jobs. By the end of last year, childcare businesses were only back to 81 percent of where they'd been pre-pandemic. That's a challenge as employers continue to try to fill vacancies for a variety of jobs across Oregon. Some prospective workers say they cannot take a job because of the challenge of finding childcare. And even those hiring in the childcare and preschool industry report having significant difficulty filling their open positions. As of December 2022, almost all Oregon counties are considered "childcare deserts" for infants and toddlers, while half of all counties remain childcare deserts for preschoolers. Average wages are low in the industry, but increased significantly in 2022, rising above \$30,000 per year on average for the first time amid high inflation, an increased minimum wage, and stiff competition for workers to fill record levels of iob openings across the economy. While well above pre-pandemic wages, the child-care average annual income is about half the private-sector average of \$65,400. That's due to the low-wage nature of childcare and preschool occupations. For example, the median wage for a preschool teacher in Oregon last year was \$17.58 per hour. The 2022 median wage for childcare workers was \$15.28. These two occupations account for almost two-thirds of employment in the childcare industry. / CRIME: Deputies with the Lane County Sheriff's Office and agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency last week searched a property about two miles east of Woahink Lake on the outskirts of Westlake. They say they

found more than 2,300 marijuana plants inside one building and evidence that plants had been recently harvested in several other growing rooms. They believe the operation had been in place for at least two years, with 5,000 plants typically in cultivation, and that the marijuana was being shipped out of state. One suspect was detained. Investigators say Chanh Nguyen had been arrested previously in Washington state for similar crimes. He was cited and released on marijuana related charges and might face money laundering charges. Deputies say they also seized more than \$20,000 in U.S. Currency and a 2023 Dodge TRX truck valued at more than \$80,000 and believed purchased with drug proceeds. Law enforcement officials say such illegal operations pose dangers because they often include structural hazards and can have negative impacts on surrounding lands. In this case, officials say inspectors found mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work conducted without permits or inspections; unsafe storage of hazardous materials, including CO2 tanks; and illegal water use. Officials say the operation also used approximately 70,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity monthly—enough to per month for up to 45 typical homes. / SAFETY: Officials say a patient on oxygen lit a cigarette to smoke on Friday afternoon, triggering a fire that damaged their room at Roseburg's Mercy Medical Center. Hospital employees quickly knocked down the blaze and fire crews worked to clear the smoke. But the patient suffered burns to their upper body and was in serious condition. Other patients in nearby rooms were relocated while the smoke cleared. But it's a reminder that it is never safe to smoke while on or near a patient using oxygen and that smoking is not allowed in medical facilities.; About 7.5 million "Baby Shark" bath toys are being recalled after multiple lacerations and puncture wounds were reported in children playing with them. Toymaker Zuru said it's recalling both full-size and mini versions of its robotic baby shark toys that have hard plastic top fins. Twelve injuries have already been reported with Zuru's full-sized Robo Alive Junior Baby Shark Sing & Swim Bath Toys — after children sat or fell on the now-recalled toys. Nine of these cases required stitches or medical attention, according to a Thursday release from the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Consumers in possession of these recalled toys are instructed to stop using them immediately and contact Zuru for a full refund. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/27/23

TIME OF BROADCAST

5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

SAFETY, CRIME: It happens far too often. You're traveling Interstate 5 when a speedster goes blowing by, rattling your nerves and potentially putting others at risk, Early Sunday morning, at 1:45 a.m., deputies with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office spotted a black BMW sedan on I-5 near Wilsonville that was traveling in excess of 100 miles per hour—with its lights off. When deputies tried to make a traffic stop, they saw the driver take the next exit but lost control and slammed into a tree. The car burst into flames and despite efforts to extinguish them and get him out, the driver died at the scene. Investigators still are working to identify his identity. / SAFETY: A 31-year-old Florence man died Saturday morning after the car he was driving was struck at a stop sign by a pick-up truck that veered across Highway 101 near Sutton Lake Road. Logan Jacob Scott died at the scene. Investigators say the pick-up's driver, a 24-year-old man from Fort Bragg, California, was headed north on Highway 101 when, for an unknown reason, his vehicle crossed over a turn lane, left the roadway, and struck Scott's vehicle. / UTILITIES, COMMUNITY, DISASTERS: This summer, EWEB is launching several construction water pipeline projects. The upgrades are part of a multi-year plan to modernize aging infrastructure and build new water facilities designed to withstand a large earthquake or other natural disaster. EWEB has planned much of the work in conjunction with City of Eugene road construction work with the goal of minimizing the impacts of construction. One of the biggest projects will carry water from the new, earthquake-proof water storage tanks on E. 40th Street in South Eugene to the rest of EWEB's water system. EWEB is also upgrading nearly one mile of existing drinking water pipe, which will improve reliability and fire protection in the area. Then there's the Chambers Street pipeline: EWEB is upgrading a half-mile stretch of 6-inch cast iron pipe to 8-inch ductile iron pipe. EWEB is upgrading a one-quarter mile stretch of water pipeline on Agate Street approximately from Black Oak Road to Firland Drive. The new pipeline will replace a critical section between two EWEB water storage tanks on North Shasta Loop and Agate Street. EWEB also is looping together two pipelines to improve water quality and increase fire flows in the area. The work is expected to begin in late June or early July and will impact traffic for two to three weeks at the intersection of Amazon Parkway and E. 24th Avenue. / FAMILIES: Some old favorites continue to dominate the list of top baby names here in Oregon. The Social Security Administration keeps track of the trends. In 2022, the top girls' name in our state was Olivia. The top boy's name was Oliver. After Olivia, the rest of the Top Five for girls includes Amelia, Charlotte, Evelyn, and Emma. The Top Five for boys includes Oliver, Liam, Henry, Theodore, and Noah. Twenty-five years ago, in 1998, the top baby names were Emily and Jacob. A half century ago in 1973: Jennifer and Jason. / GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, EDUCATION, LOW-INCOME: President Joe Biden says high-speed internet is no longer a luxury but rather an "absolute necessity." To that end, he pledged Monday that every household in the U.S. would have access by 2030, using cables made in the country. Biden announced that more than \$40 billion would be distributed across the country to deliver high-speed internet in places where there's either no service, or service is too slow. Oregon Governor Tina Kotek announced yesterday that our state will receive \$689 million from the federal government. Biden says his administration is working with service providers to bring down costs on what has become a household utility — like water or electricity — but is often priced at a premium. Congress approved the program, along with several other internet expansion initiatives, through the infrastructure bill Biden signed in 2021. States have until the end of the year to submit proposals outlining how they plan to use that money. Once the Commerce Department signs off on those initial plans, states will award grants to telecommunications companies, electric cooperatives, and other providers to expand internet infrastructure. Under the rules of the program, states must prioritize connecting predominantly unserved areas before bolstering service in underserved areas, with an added focus on in schools, libraries, and other community institutions. / GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION: The U.S. Department of Transportation is awarding almost \$1.7 billion in grants for buying zero- and low-emission buses, with the money going to transit projects in 46 states and territories. The grants will enable transit agencies and state and local governments to buy 1,700 U.S.-built buses, nearly half of which will have zero carbon emissions. Funding for the grants comes from the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure bill signed into law by President Biden. Biden has made it a priority to put more electric vehicles on the road — especially for schools and public transit — in an effort to contain the damage from climate change. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttiglieg said in a call with reporters that every day, millions of Americans climb aboard more than 60,000 buses to get to work, to school, doctor's appointments, and everywhere else they need to be. He says the grants represent unprecedented levels of investment when it comes to putting modern, cleaner buses on the road. The Biden administration said that the new buses will improve public health as diesel exhaust will no longer be going into the air and that the new buses will be easier to maintain. Yesterday's announcement represents a second round of such grants. Government officials expect to award roughly \$5 billion more over the next three years. / EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT, LEGAL: After three years, the pandemic-era freeze on federal student loan payments will end this fall. It might seem tempting to just keep not making payments, but the consequences can be severe, including a hit to your credit score and exclusion from future aid and benefits. More than 40 million Americans will have to start making payments again under the terms of a debt ceiling deal approved by Congress, though many could see their balances reduced or erased if the Supreme Court allows President Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness plan to go ahead. A decision is expected this week, though the court appeared ready to reject the plan. Student loan interest will start accruing on September 1 and payments will restart in October. That means tough decisions

for many borrowers, especially those in already difficult financial situations. Experts say that delinquency and bankruptcy should be options of last resort, and that deferment and forbearance — which pause payments, though interest may continue to accrue — are often better in the short term. / HEALTH, YOUTH, BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT: The number of different electronic cigarette devices sold in the U.S. has nearly tripled to more than 9,000 brands and varieties since 2020. And an analysis of sales data obtained by The Associated Press finds it is driven almost entirely by a wave of unauthorized disposable vapes from China. Analysts say the numbers demonstrate the Food and Drug Administration's inability to control the tumultuous vaping market previously dominated by Juul and other brands and more than three years after declaring a crackdown on kidfriendly flavors. Most of the disposable e-cigarettes, which are thrown away after they're used up, come in sweet and fruity flavors like pink lemonade, gummy bear and watermelon that have made them the favorite tobacco product among teenagers. They are all technically illegal, but their influx has turned FDA's regulatory model on its head. Instead of carefully reviewing individual products that might help adult smokers, regulators must now somehow claw back thousands of illegal products sold by under-the-radar importers and distributors. Complicating regulation, officials say companies copy each other's designs, blurring the line between the real and counterfeit. Entrepreneurs can launch a new product by simply sending their logo and flavor requests to Chinese manufacturers, who promise to deliver tens of thousands of devices within weeks. Cheaper disposables made up 40 percent of the roughly \$7 billion retail market for e-cigarettes last year. Many are sold by convenience stores, gas stations, and other retailers. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/28/23

TIME OF BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KKNU-FM

NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

SAFETY, WILDFIRES, COMMUNITY: Eugene Springfield Fire is conducting a simulated wildfire exercise at Golden Gardens Park in Eugene today. That's in the Bethel neighborhood, off Jessen Drive. The exercise begins around 9:30 a.m. and provides hands-on training for crews working in our community. At no point in time will live fire be used. Instead, responding units will simulate fire movement and spread. However, residents and passersby occasionally will see fire personnel and engines moving around, similar to what you might see during an actual urban brushfire or wildfire. Fire crews will stage at the east end of Jessen Street and near the smaller Golden Gardens pond on the park's northeast corner. / HOLIDAYS, SAFETY: The extended Fourth of July holiday weekend is a big one for boaters. But it's also a potentially dangerous one for those who are boating under the influence of intoxicants. On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, marine law enforcement officers across the state will increase enforcement of Oregon's BUII laws as part of "Operation Dry Water." They say their message is a simple one: "Don't boat impaired." Those laws apply to all motorized and non-motorized boat operators, including paddlers. Drug and alcohol-impairment puts everyone at risk, endangering the lives of boat operators and others. Impaired boaters can expect to be arrested or face serious penalties. In Oregon, if you're convicted of Boating Under the Influence, you face the possibility of jail time, \$6,250 in fines, a loss of boating privileges, a one-to-three-year suspension of your boater education card, and a potential being court-mandated to take another boating safety course before you're allowed back in your watercraft. Marine officers can arrest boaters anytime they observe impairment and can legally obtain blood, breath, or urine samples if a boater fails standardized field sobriety testing. Officials note that, overall, recreational boating is a safe activity—especially when boaters wear life jackets, boat sober, and recreate responsibly. If you see an impaired operator or someone who is operating in a way that threatens others' safety, call 911 to report it. / SAFETY, CHILDREN: Summertime is peak season at swimming pools and hot tubs. But they pose a hazard for young children, many of whom can't swim or don't realize the water is deep. New numbers from the Consumer Product Safety Commission show little change over the years in the number of fatal drownings and non-fatal drownings that still require a medical response or a trip to the hospital. Of the close to 280 fatal drownings reported in 2020, for example, 75 percent were children under the age of five. The agency counted another 6,300 pool- or spa-related visits to hospital emergency departments. Most of those

incidents occurred at residential pools and hot tubs—usually at the child's home or that of a family member, friend, or neighbor. Never leave a child unattended in or near the water, and always designate someone to be the official adult Water Watcher. That means no texting, using a phone, reading, eating, napping, or being otherwise distracted. If you own a pool or spa, make sure children cannot get to the water unless an adult allows it. That might involve using door alarms, pool covers, and self-closing, self-latching devices on fence gates and doors. Keep children away from pool drains, pipes, and other openings to avoid entrapment. That means ensuring there you have approved drain safety covers. Learn how to swim and teach your child how to swim. Learn how to perform CPR on children and adults. Many communities offer online CPR training. And remember, pools and spas might pose the biggest risks, but young children also run the risk of drowning in bathtubs, buckets, decorative ponds, and fountains. / COMMUNITY, SPORTS, BUSINESS, DEVELOPMENT: Is Eugene at risk of losing its Minor League Baseball team? Inflation is pushing up construction costs for a planned stadium at the Lane County Fairgrounds, off West 13th Avenue in Eugene. During yesterday's meeting of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, members learned that the price tag might have climbed by anywhere from \$20 million to \$40 million since late last year. The Eugene Emeralds, like other High-A Minor League teams, are facing deadlines from Major League Baseball to either upgrade their existing stadium or build a new one. The Ems currently use the University of Oregon's PK Park but will need a different facility to avoid scheduling conflicts and to satisfy MLB's facility requirements. Lane County has been looking at ways to help fund the stadium because the team and its games are a big summer economic driver, and a new facility could help spearhead a complete revamping of the fairgrounds parcel. But there's not unanimous support since some key county leaders think the team should foot most if not all of the stadium costs. Ems General Manager Alan Benevides told the panel that the franchise remains committed to Eugene but is facing pressure to come up with a stadium site and funding package for Major League Baseball in the next year or so. / LABOR, GOVERNMENT: You might see some informational pickets outside the Oregon Department of Human Services offices on West 11th Avenue during the noon hour. Workers represented by SEIU Local 503 are bargaining for a new contract. The union has planned informational pickets today at close to five dozen worksites across the state. / LAW ENFORCEMENT: The Lane County Sheriff's Office recovered partial human remains that have been identified as belonging to a missing Blue River man. Shane Sprenger was reported missing in November of 2021. The then 47-yearold had last been in contact while he was possibly mushroom picking near Blue River Reservoir. He reportedly told a family member during a phone call or message that he had lost his keys to his truck and needed a ride home. Relatives located Sprenger's truck a few days later but found no sign of him. Search crews also were unable to locate Sprenger. Officials have not released many details about the discovery of Sprenger's remains, saying only that this is an active investigation and asking anyone with information to contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4150. / WILDFIRES, SAFETY, COMMUNITY: Using chainsaws, heavy machinery and controlled burns, the Biden administration is trying to turn the tide on worsening wildfires in the West through a multi-billiondollar cleanup of forests choked with dead trees and undergrowth. By logging and

burning trees and low-lying vegetation, officials hope to lessen forest fuels and keep fires that originate on federal lands from exploding through nearby cities and towns. Yet one year into a planned decade-long effort, federal land managers already have fallen behind on several of their priority forests for thinning. And they've skipped over some highly at-risk communities to work in less threatened areas, according to data obtained by The Associated Press, public records, and Congressional testimony. That underscores the challenge of reversing decades of lax forest management and aggressive fire suppression. Administration officials say the thinning work is making a difference and that the projects announced so far—when complete—will lessen wildfire dangers in more than 500 communities across 10 states, including Oregon. But with climate change making the situation increasingly dire, the mixed early results from the administration's initiative underscore the challenge of reversing decades of lax forest management and aggressive fire suppression that allowed many woodlands to become tinderboxes. The ambitious effort also comes amid pushback from lawmakers dissatisfied with progress to date and criticism from some environmentalists for cutting too many trees. The federal infrastructure bill that passed two years ago with bipartisan support included a requirement for the administration to treat forests across 10 million acres — more than 15,000 square miles — by the year 2027. But less than 10 percent of that acreage was treated in the first year of the program. Key to the government's strategy is addressing forest patches where computer simulations show wildfire could easily spread to inhabited areas. Used to predict areas that pose the greatest risk, those scenarios showed fires that burn on only 10- to 20percent of some forestlands would account for 80 percent of the hazards to nearby communities. Hundreds of communities are threatened by the potential for fires to ignite on federal forests and spread to populated areas. Many are in areas where trees are dead or dying from drought stress or insect infestations. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/29/23

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NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

GOVERNMENT, UTILITIES, DEVELOPMENT: Officials with the City of Eugene and the Eugene Water and Electric Board say they've finalized a \$12 million deal for the city to purchase the utility's former riverfront headquarters property. The 4.4-acre site on East 4th Avenue at the Ferry Street Bridge will become Eugene's new City Hall, keeping the parcel in public ownership and maintaining access to the riverfront. The location includes two buildings and adjacent parking lots. It will be the first time in years Eugene has had a City Hall. The old one at 8th and Pearl Streets was demolished and city services have operated out of a handful of locations around downtown. The Eugene City Council has borrowed space at the Lane County Courthouse for its meetings. The City Manager's office and several others will be the first to relocate to the site. Officials are working to determine what other offices and departments will make the move. They say the former EWEB headquarters needs some renovation before city workers move in. The first employees are expected to relocate sometime early next year. EWEB officials say they will maintain a reduced customer service office at the site. Most of the utility's operations and personnel now work out of West Eugene, at EWEB's facility off Roosevelt Boulevard. / SAFETY, WEATHER, HOLIDAYS: Amid increasing fire danger, the Eugene Water & Electric Board again this year is closing its College Hill Reservoir site to the public during the Fourth of July holiday and holiday weekend. EWEB will lock the gates to the surface of the South Reservoir Friday, June 30. The gates will re-open Wednesday, July 5. The ungated area remains open. For several years now, utility officials have restricted access to the covered reservoir over the holiday to prevent people from setting off fireworks that could damage the cover, potentially harming the stored drinking water. Approximately 80,000 people in Eugene rely on the 15 million-gallon College Hill Reservoir for their drinking water. The restrictions coincide with the City of Eugene's fireworks ban. Fireworks also are prohibited in Lane County's open space, parks and recreation areas, as well as in areas managed by state and federal agencies including Oregon State Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. / CRIME: A Eugene man who is already facing local weapons charges now is under federal indictment. 35-yearold Joshua Allen Lampe has been charged with illegally possessing two firearms that were converted into fully automatic machine guns, as well as possessing a silencer. According to court documents, an August 2022 search of Lampe's Eugene residence yielded dozens of firearms, knives, ammunition, firearm

accessories and parts, scopes, laser sights, packaging materials, tactical gear, and other types of armaments. In December 2022, investigators sought and obtained a warrant to search Lampe's home for a second time in just four months. They discovered Lampe had quickly amassed hand tools, a rifle, firearm parts, machine gun switches, a 3D printer used to make switches, several ghost guns, a silencer, and packaging materials as well as methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl pills. Analysis and testing by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives confirmed that two pistols seized from Lampe's residence were operative machine guns having been converted with switches. An analysis also confirmed the silencer seized was an operative device. Machine gun switches, sometimes referred to as "Glock switches," are small attachments used to convert firearms from semi-automatic to fully automatic. Lampe was arraigned, pleaded not guilty, and released pending a jury trial scheduled to begin on September 5. Illegally possessing a machine gun and a silencer are punishable by up to ten years in federal prison per count of conviction. / CRIME, BIPOC: The U.S. Department of Justice will be funneling more resources toward addressing the alarming rate of disappearances and killings among Native Americans. The agency announced a new outreach program Wednesday. Five attorneys and five coordinators will be dispatched to several regions around the country to help with investigations of unsolved cases and related crimes. Their reach will span from Oregon and Washington to New Mexico and Arizona, from Alaska to Oklahoma, and from South Dakota to Michigan and Minnesota. The announcement came as a special commission gathered in Albuquerque for one of its final field hearings as it works to develop recommendations for addressing the crisis. The disappearances and killings have shattered the lives of victims, their families, and entire tribal communities. / GOVERNMENT: Oregon Governor Tina Kotek has appointed a new secretary of state. LaVonne Griffin-Valade will take over from Shemia Fagan, who resigned in May after coming under fire for her consultancy work for a marijuana business. A news release from Kotek's office Wednesday says Griffin-Valade worked as a government auditor for more than 16 years, including for the city of Portland. Kotek says she hopes the new secretary will restore public faith in the office. Fagan, the previous secretary, quit in early May following criticism of her highly paid side gig for an affiliate of the marijuana retailer La Mota. / LEGAL, EDUCATION, RACE: The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that colleges and universities must stop considering an applicant's race in admissions. It marks the end of affirmative action in higher education. In a 6-3 decision, the court struck down admissions plans at Harvard, the nation's oldest private college, and the University of North Carolina, the country's oldest public college. The outcome applies to all U.S. higher ed institutions. As a result, colleges and universities now must look for new ways to achieve diverse student bodies. Writing the opinion for the court's conservative majority. Chief Justice John Roberts said that affirmative action programs violate the Constitution's equal protection clause. In dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor says the decision rolls back decades of legal precedent and racial progress. For decades and as recently as 2016, the high court had upheld race-conscious college admissions programs. But the court now has a conservative majority. During arguments in late October, all six conservative justices expressed doubts about the practice. / LEGAL, BUSINESS, RELIGION: The high court also has sided with an Evangelical Christian mail carrier who refused to work Sundays when he was

required to deliver Amazon packages. The decision is a victory for religious rights and indicates some businesses must do more to accommodate employees' religious beliefs. When the court heard arguments in April both liberal and conservative justices seemed in broad agreement that businesses like the Postal Service cannot cite minor costs or hardships in order to reject requests to accommodate religious practices. As a result, the ruling had support from both liberal and conservative justices. Among the rulings still being awaited: Those dealing with President Biden's student loan-forgiveness program. Regardless of what happens at the high court, loan payments that have been on hold since the start of the coronavirus pandemic three years ago will resume this summer. There's also a pending ruling in a legal clash over gay rights and religious rights. That case involves a Christian graphic artist from Colorado who wants to begin designing wedding websites but objects to making wedding websites for samesex couples. / HEALTH, CRIME: The Justice Department has charged dozens of people in several health care fraud and prescription drug schemes. They include one totaling \$1.9 billion and a doctor accused of ordering fake ankle braces for a patient whose leg had been amputated. The bogus claims case is one of the largest health care fraud cases ever brought by the Justice Department, which has been cracking down on health care fraud and prescription drug abuse schemes in states around the country. In all, 78 people were charged in 16 states. ; Cracking down on fraud has been a big focus for the federal government this year, although it's increasingly difficult to recover money that was stolen. Earlier this week, the federal watchdog investigating federally funded pandemic relief programs for small businesses estimated that more than \$200 billion may have been stolen from two large COVID-19 relief initiatives. The numbers from the Small Business Administration's inspector general underscore how vulnerable the Paycheck Protection and Economic Injury Disaster Loan programs were to fraudsters, particularly during the early stages of the pandemic. /

DATE OF BROADCAST 06/30/23

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NAME OF PROGRAM

Morning News

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

30 Seconds

ISSUE OR SUBJECT DISCUSSED

TRANSPORTATION, RECREATION, EVENTS, SAFETY, ECONOMY: AAA expects record-breaking travel for the Independence Day holiday, surpassing the previous record set in 2019. AAA projects 50.7 million Americans—more than 15 percent of the population—will hit the road. And most of them will be on the road, rather than flying or taking other modes of transportation. That includes 587,000 Oregonians. The numbers are up more than four percent from last year and beat 2019—the busy pre-pandemic year—by 3.7 percent. Pack your patience and your wallet. Fuel and lodging prices are higher this summer. So, too, are meals in restaurants and groceries for your campsite. / HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT: Summer is officially here, and so are the mosquitos and ticks that accompany the warm weather here in the Willamette Valley. Lane County does not spray to minimize mosquito and tick populations. Instead, Lane County Environmental Health uses trapping and surveillance, along with community education, to reduce the likelihood of what are known as vector-borne illnesses in humans and animals. The surveillance program sets traps at "hot spots" around Lane County, collects the samples, sorts them by species, then sends the samples to a lab that detects the presence of any pathogens. Among the things the lab tests for: the presence of West Nile Virus, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, anaplasmosis, and Lyme Disease. If any are detected, the lab notifies Lane County Environment Health and officials notify the community. Over the years, scattered cases of West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, and anaplasmosis have been detected in Lane County. That underscores the importance of prevention. Want to reduce your exposure to mosquitos? Here are a few tips: When outdoors, use repellents containing DEET. DEET-free alternatives, such as lemon eucalyptus oil and citronella, are also effective. Mosquito species that carry West Nile Virus are most active from dusk to dawn. Mosquito species that carry Zika are most active during daylight hours. Use insect repellent and wear covered clothing, such as long-sleeved tops and long pants. Or stay indoors during those times. Inspect your home to ensure that mosquitos are unable to enter. Ensure windows are protected with screens, and that there are no openings to the outside. Empty any standing water in things such as flowerpots, buckets, rain gutters, and other outdoor items. Mosquitos breed in standing water. Change water in pet dishes and bird baths weekly, if not more often. To prevent exposure to ticks: Apply a tick repellent. Wear long pants when hiking, especially through tall grass or brush. Avoid touching grass and branches hanging over trails. Screen for ticks immediately after a hike or after

being in a wooded area or grassland. / LABOR, ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, LOW-INCOME: Oregon's minimum wage increases tomorrow. There are three tiers of minimum wage: One is set for the Portland metropolitan area, another for Lane and other counties with medium-size populations, a third tier for rural counties: In Lane, Linn, and Benton counties, and a handful of other counties with mid-sized populations, the minimum wage will climb from \$13.50 per hour to \$14.20 per hour. In Douglas, Coos, and a number of what are considered "nonurban" counties, the minimum wage is increasing to \$13.20. In the three-county Portland metro area, the wage will rise to \$15.45 per hour. The hikes will make Oregon's three minimum wages among the top state-level minimum wages in the nation. This time last year, about four percent of all jobs in Oregon were minimum wage. That works out to more than 91,600 workers statewide, including more than 7,300 here in Lane County. For years, our state's minimum wage has been set annually by the legislature. But now it is tied to the Consumer Price Index from March of the previous year through March of this year. / BUSINESS, ENVIRONMENT: According to some estimates, close to \$149 billion worth of food in the U.S. is never eaten or sold. Instead, it is discarded by residents, stores, restaurants, and other food operations. But food waste reductions efforts are taking shape across the country. Some started years ago here in Lane County. Now, they're expanding. WasteWise Lane County—which is part of the Lane County Waste Management Division—is starting a new commercial food waste reduction effort in Springfield. Coordinators will contact large food businesses to encourage food donation, food scrap collection, and provide technical assistance when it's needed. Waste Reduction Specialist Maya Buelow says reducing food waste also is good for business, helps feed those in need, and cuts down on waste in landfills—reducing greenhouse gases. The effort will operate through early August, at which point coordinators will analyze its success and hope to create a permanent program. Among the things they'd like to determine: How much commercial food waste is being produced, and the concerns or barriers that affect businesses when donating or composting their wasted food. The effort piggybacks on the program Sanipac introduced last year to accept food waste in Springfield residential yard waste bins. / LEGAL, EDUCATION: A sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court ruled this morning that the Biden administration overstepped its authority in trying to cancel or reduce student loans for millions of Americans. With this morning's 6-3 decision, the conservative justices in the majority effectively killed the \$400 billion plan, announced by President Biden last year. That leaves borrowers on the hook for repayments that are expected to resume later this summer. The Biden Administration announced the plan in September 2022. The order was challenged by six states, arguing it overstepped executive authority and unfairly disqualified some American borrowers. But the high court ruled found that the administration needs Congress' endorsement before undertaking such an expensive program. The majority rejected arguments that a bipartisan 2003 law dealing with student loans provided the authority Biden claimed. : The Supreme Court's decision affects close to 44 million Americans with student loan debts totaling more than \$1.7 trillion, according to the Education Data Initiative. Most students pay about \$500 per month, and it often takes two decades after graduation to pay off the debt. Not surprisingly, those with advanced degrees have more obligations, with doctoral students paying as much as \$1,100 per month based on income. A study conducted by CreditDonkey

found the top 10 states in student loan debt include Oregon. / LEGAL EDUCATION, RACE: Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court yesterday struck down affirmative action in college admissions, declaring race cannot be a factor and forcing institutions of higher education to look for new ways to achieve diverse student bodies. Previously, the Supreme Court had allowed the use of race in admissions in decisions reaching back to 1978. And it had had twice upheld raceconscious college admissions programs in the past 20 years, including as recently as 2016. Now, however, with a six-justice conservative majority, the justices overturned admissions plans at Harvard and the University of North Carolina, the nation's oldest private and public colleges, respectively. Chief Justice John Roberts said that for too long universities have "concluded, wrongly, that the touchstone of an individual's identity is not challenges bested, skills built, or lessons learned but the color of their skin. Our constitutional history does not tolerate that choice." The decision, like last year's momentous abortion ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade, marked the realization of a long-sought conservative legal goal. Colleges and universities will be forced to reshape their admissions practices, especially at top schools that are more likely to consider the race of applicants. / LEGAL, BUSINESS, RELIGION: The U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority also ruling this morning in favor of a Christian graphic artist who wants to design wedding websites can refuse to work with same-sex couples. The decision is considered a victory for religious rights and a defeat for gay rights. The 6-3 decision came amid a legal challenge over a Colorado law that bars discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, gender and other characteristics. The wedding website designer argued that the law violates her First Amendment free-speech rights by forcing her and other artists to perform work that goes against their beliefs. Opponents had warned that if the website designer won her cases, it would allow a range of businesses to engage in discrimination. They warn that could extend beyond same-sex customers to those of different races or ethnic groups, immigrants, even different religions.; This is the second major decision this week from the high court that expands religious rights. Yesterday, the justices unanimously backed the claims of a Christian mail carrier who did not want to work Sundays because he says it is a time for church and family. The justices made clear that workers who ask for accommodations, such as taking the Sabbath off, should get them unless their employers can show that doing so would result in "substantial increased costs" to the business. Conservative and liberal justices both agreed businesses needed to show more compelling documentation if refusing a workers' request. At the same time, the justices did not say whether the mail carrier should win his case. Instead, they sent it back to lower courts for further review based on their decision. / HEALTH, OLDER ADULTS: Americans 60 and older can receive the RSV vaccine for older adults. But you should discuss it with your doctor first. Experts with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say the vaccines are expected to be ready this fall. RSV is a common cause of cold-like symptoms. But it can be dangerous for infants and the elderly. The CDC says adults with chronic heart or lung disease, weakened immune systems and those living in long-term care facilities are at higher risk for RSV respiratory infection. /