

KKNU-FM 93.3

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

**QUARTERLY POSTING OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS, NEEDS AND
INTERESTS**

Fourth Quarter, 2021: October 1 through December 31

Posted: January 10, 2022

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:

1. 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 4Q, 2021, ISSUES LIST:

KKNU-FM / KMGE-FM / KEUG-FM

Quarter	October 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021
	<i>*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</i>
1-tie	<u>ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, FINANCES, BUSINESS, GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, UTILITIES, COLLEGE & PRO SPORTS, EVENTS:</u> Economic reopening amid COVID-19 waves; Unemployment; Economy; Economic, downtown development, urban renewal, urban density; Affordable housing; UO-OSU Athletics teams, funding; Sports events; Hayward Field & UO Science construction; rebuild, Civic Park; 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.
1-tie	<u>HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, PANDEMIC:</u> COVID-19; Delta and Omicron variants; Vaccine mandates; Mental health; Opioid epidemic, drug abuse; Legal cannabis products; Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) and CCOs, ACA battles; Prescription drug prices; Obesity, diabetes & healthy eating; Food and product recalls; Legal battles over abortion and reproduction; Women's health; Flu, STDs; Measles, other outbreaks, debate over vaccines; Immunizations; Environmental health, wildfire smoke, overall air quality; Safe water; Assisted suicide.
1-tie	<u>DISASTERS, WILDFIRES, WILDFIRE RECOVERY, ENVIRONMENT, WEATHER, AGRICULTURE, WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, RECREATION:</u> McKenzie wildfire recovery, this summer's wildfires; Record heatwave in early summer; Disaster preparedness; Air quality; Climate change, COVID-19; Snowpack, drought; Legislative "cap & trade" debate; Agriculture, Horticulture, Sustainable landscaping; Earthquake, "Climate Kids" lawsuit; Cannabis & hemp; Pollinators; Pesticides, herbicides; Cougar, wolves; Ocean health, Fisheries; Forest, wildlife, habitat; Power generation; Alternate energy; Hazardous materials.
4	<u>SCHOOLS, EDUCATION:</u> COVID-19 & post-wildfire in-person and home learning; Local-state budgets for higher ed, community colleges, K-12 education; College affordability; Curriculum, academic standards; Student honors; Student activism; Teacher contracts; New schools.
5	<u>SOCIAL SERVICES, LOW-INCOME, HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS, COMMUNITY, CHARITY:</u> Wildfire housing; COVID-19; Debate over police funding shifts to social services; Affordable housing; Homeless veterans, individuals, families, youth; Homeless "rest stops"; "The Working Poor"; Minimum wage and living wages; Community agencies; Mental health; Older adults: Protection, health, housing, finances /
6	<u>CRIME, SAFETY, POLICING, LAW ENFORCEMENT, ILLEGAL DRUGS:</u> Police funding and policing guidelines; Community enforcement, social service funding shift; protests, rioting; COVID-19; Drug & alcohol abuse, treatment; Mental health; Traffic safety; Human trafficking; Youth protection; School safety; Child abuse; Gangs; Cybersecurity; Severe weather, storms, natural disasters; Terrorism.
7	<u>RACIAL JUSTICE, RACISM, BIPOC (BLACKS, INDIGENOUS, PEOPLE OF COLOR), LATINX, IMMIGRATION, CIVIL RIGHTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, DISABILITIES, LEGAL, COMMUNITY, FAMILY, YOUTH, ELDER, RELIGION, WOMEN, LGBTQ, GENDER ISSUES, SEXUAL HARASSMENT:</u> Racial equality and administration of justice; Civil rights, Civil liberties; COVID-19; 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.

8	<u>POLITICS, ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENT:</u> COVID-19; Legislative session & emergency funding; Federal stimulus, state and local programs; U.S. Capitol insurrection aftermath; Racial justice & policing; School funding; Elections; Timber Unity, climate change bills; Biden administration, Congress, Federal and state courts; Immigration and border; Health care; Women; Offshore drilling, pipelines, oil trains, other environmental matters; Gun control, mass shootings, school violence; Mental health treatment; Marijuana and cannabis enforcement; Opioid epidemic; Low-income, affordable housing; Cybersecurity, data breaches /
9	<u>TRANSPORTATION:</u> COVID-19; Infrastructure needs and projects, I-105, Franklin Blvd., Local repaving; Road and gas fees and taxes; Pedestrian, biker, rider safety; Hiking-biking trails; Airlines; Eugene's airport; Lane Transit District; Hybrid, electric vehicles; Airline disruptions; Boeing 737 investigations; Spring-summer travel; Rail safety; Infrastructure bill.
10	<u>MILITARY, VETERANS, WAR ON TERRORISM:</u> COVID-19; 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 4th Quarter, 2021, Issues List was formulated by Tracy Berry - KKNV-FM and from previous quarters' ascertainties, 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.

KKNU-FM KMGE-FM KEUG-FM ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

ISSUES: COMMUNITY, EDUCATION, YOUTH, FAMILIES, LOW-INCOME, HOMELESSNESS, EMPLOYMENT, PANDEMIC

NAME OF PROGRAM: COMMUNITY FORUM
Locally produced / Regularly scheduled

DATE: 10/03/21 and 10/10/21

TIME: 6:30 a.m.-KKNU / 7:00 a.m.: KMGE & KEUG

LENGTH: 30 minutes

GUEST:

Name, Title, Organization: Ben Schorzman, Content and Community Engagement Manager, Eugene Public Library
Contact information: 541-682-5450
City and State: Eugene, Oregon

TOPIC AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION: This morning, we get an update on how the Eugene Library is relaunching and expanding its services as the pandemic eases. The library had a huge amount of online business during the early “stay home” months. But longtime patrons and newcomers are learning just how much the Eugene Library offers. In addition to the collection at the main library and its Sheldon and Bethel branches, there are plenty of online offerings. Your library card gets you access free. Ben Schorzman with the library tells us that those online offerings include eBooks, digital newspapers and magazines, streaming music and video, free access to Ancestry.com, LinkedIn Learning, Mango Languages, even Chilton Guides for auto enthusiasts. Library cards are available to all Eugene residents and students in the Eugene and Bethel districts. As the reopening continues, patrons again will be able to access the maker spaces and other more hands-on activities. For those seeking work and connections to social services, the library’s computer labs, subscription services, and databases provide a lifeline.

KKNU-FM KMGE-FM KEUG-FM ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

ISSUES: *LOW-INCOME, HOMELESSNESS, SOCIAL SERVICES, PANDEMIC, YOUTH, FAMILY, ELDERS, CHARITY*

NAME OF PROGRAM: COMMUNITY FORUM
Locally produced / Regularly scheduled

DATE: 10/17/21

TIME: 6:30 a.m.-KKNU / 7:00 a.m.: KMGE & KEUG

LENGTH: 30 minutes

GUEST:

Name, Title, Organization: Tom Mulhern, Executive Director, FOOD for Lane County

Contact information: 541-343-2822

City and State: Eugene-Springfield / Lane County, Oregon

TOPIC AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Officials with FOOD for Lane County, our local food bank, this week shared more details of their big year-end fundraising push renovate their aging warehouse off West Eugene's Bailey Hill Road. They say they only need to raise another \$500,000 between now and December 31 to complete their multi-year, \$9.5-million-dollar capital campaign. The renovation will add refrigeration and a "Cool Room" to quickly process perishable foods, a training center for members of agencies that partner with FOOD for Lane County, and improved workspace for the food bank's volunteers. FOOD for Lane County has been a lifeline for thousands of individuals and families during the pandemic. It is an essential service for thousands more, even when the economy is good. Executive director Tom Mulhern tells us more about the capital campaign, which began several years ago. In 2017, it provided the funds to purchase and renovate the building that became the food bank's West Broadway Distribution Center. The facility, which receives, processes, and stores bulk food donations, opened in 2019. The Bailey Hill warehouse is the agency's primary distribution facility and includes storage, an industrial-grade kitchen to process and prepare donated food, administrative offices, and more. If fundraising is successful, renovations will begin in January. Mulhern also discusses long-term efforts to address hunger across Lane County, including its network of food pantry partnerships with other local organizations that stretch from Florence and Veneta to Oakridge and Cottage Grove.

KKNU-FM KMGE-FM KEUG-FM ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

ISSUES: *YOUTH, MENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY, SOCIAL SERVICES, PANDEMIC, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION*

NAME OF PROGRAM: COMMUNITY FORUM
Locally produced / Regularly scheduled

DATE: 10/24/21

TIME: 6:30 a.m.-KKNU / 7:00 a.m.: KMGE & KEUG

LENGTH: 30 minutes

GUEST:

Name, Title, Organization: Beau Garner, Executive Director, Jasper Mountain Center

Contact information: 541-747-1235

City and State: Jasper, Oregon

TOPIC AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION: We've been hearing for months now about employment and staffing shortages across the country—yet another impact of the pandemic that is affecting all types of businesses and organizations. That includes social service agencies assisting some of our most vulnerable residents: children and teens. Across Lane County, the staffing shortages have affected in-patient treatment programs as well as outpatient, counseling, education, and other forms of support. Many agencies are using multiple methods to recruit new staff. They include Jasper Mountain, which provides a range of services to abused and emotionally disturbed children. Executive Director Beau Garner explains how if they don't have enough trained staff, they can't fill all their residential treatment spots. In the same way that the Oregon National Guard was deployed to help shore up staffing at many Oregon hospitals, FEMA—the Federal Emergency Management Agency—has deployed mental health professionals to our state to help close critical staffing gaps at some social service agencies. Jasper Mountain is one of those who is getting assistance from people from Texas and other states.

KKNU-FM KMGE-FM KEUG-FM ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

ISSUES: *YOUTH, HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY, SOCIAL SERVICES, PANDEMIC, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION*

NAME OF PROGRAM: COMMUNITY FORUM
Locally produced / Regularly scheduled

DATE: 10/31/21

TIME: 6:30 a.m.-KKNU / 7:00 a.m.: KMGE & KEUG

LENGTH: 30 minutes

GUEST:

Name, Title, Organization: Craig Opperman, President and Chief Executive officer, Looking Glass Community Services

Contact information: 541-686-2688

City and State: Eugene-Springfield, Oregon

TOPIC AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION: This week, we continue our focus on how employment and staffing shortages across the country—yet another impact of the pandemic that is affecting all types of businesses and organizations. That includes social service agencies assisting some of our most vulnerable residents: children and teens. Across Lane County, the staffing shortages have affected in-patient treatment programs as well as outpatient, counseling, education. and other forms of support. Many agencies are using multiple methods to recruit new staff. They include Looking Glass Community services, with its programs that assist at-risk teens struggling with homelessness, abuse, addiction, mental health, and other issues. Looking Glass' President and Chief Executive Officer Craig Opperman talks about the staffing challenges, but also highlights some of their groundbreaking programs. They include counseling, adolescent recovery, and crisis response. There are programs that assist homeless teens and their families across Lane County, including in rural areas. Looking Glass also offers a range of educational and vocational services.

KKNU-FM KMGE-FM KEUG-FM ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

ISSUES: *HEALTH, ELDERS, LOW-INCOME, GOVERNMENT, PANDEMIC*

NAME OF PROGRAM: COMMUNITY FORUM

Locally produced / Regularly scheduled

DATE: 11/07/21 and 11/14/21

TIME: 6:30 a.m.-KKNU / 7:00 a.m.: KMGE & KEUG

LENGTH: 30 minutes

GUEST:

Name, Title, Organization: Brian Price, Volunteer trainer and SHIBA advisor,
Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA)

Contact information: shiba.oregon.gov

City and State: Eugene, Oregon, and other locations across Lane County

TOPIC AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Every October, open enrollment begins for Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug plans. Medicare plans and coverage for prescription drugs change each year, so it is important for Oregonians who are enrolled in Medicare to evaluate their plan options and make changes during open enrollment. Open enrollment for the 2022 Medicare plan year began Friday, Oct. 15, and continues through Dec. 7. The Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is available to help Oregonians understand their Medicare options and benefits, provide enrollment guidance, and answer any questions related to Medicare benefits. Brian Price, who is one of the longtime volunteers here in Lane County, talks about the program—which is virtual again this season. Local SHIBA counselors are available to help and can be found by visiting SHIBA.Oregon.gov or calling (800) 722-4134 (toll-free). To accommodate COVID-19 safety precautions, SHIBA counselors are providing telephone and limited in-person support. SHIBA's 2022 Oregon Guide to Medicare Insurance Plans is expected to be available on SHIBA.Oregon.gov in the coming days. SHIBA provides trained counselors to educate and advocate for Oregonians with Medicare. Get local Medicare help visiting SHIBA.Oregon.gov or (800) 722-4134 (toll-free). Price discusses the importance of choosing a Medicare Advantage plan that is right for you and meets your prescription drug needs. He also discusses ways to enroll, low-income options, and preventing fraud.

KKNU-FM KMGE-FM KEUG-FM ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

ISSUES: *EDUCATION, YOUTH, FAMILIES, DISABILITIES*

NAME OF PROGRAM: COMMUNITY FORUM

Locally produced / Regularly scheduled

DATE: 11/21/21

TIME: 6:30 a.m.-KKNU / 7:00 a.m.: KMGE & KEUG

LENGTH: 30 minutes

GUEST:

Name, Title, Organization: Kim Giansante, Co-Director, Early Childhood CARES

Contact information: 541-346-2578

City and State: Eugene, Oregon

TOPIC AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION: For children with learning and other disabilities, early childhood education and early intervention services can be critical in preparing youngsters for success in school. But the pandemic has kept many young children out of preschools with parents working to protect their families. But even during these challenging times Early Childhood CARES has continued to screen, evaluate and, if eligible, provide early intervention or early childhood special education services to children in Lane County under the age of five who have special needs. Co-director Kim Giansante tells us about the program. While based on the University of Oregon campus, the organization is funded by federal and state grants and education funds. The funds flow from the Oregon Department of Education to the Lane Education Service District (ESD) to Early Childhood CARES. Anyone can refer a child to the program. The majority of the referrals come from parents, doctors, preschools and Oregon's Department of Human Services. Developmental information is collected and reviewed by a developmental specialist. If the child is referred for an evaluation and found eligible, services are designed to meet the needs of the child and family. Services provided may include but are not limited to home visits, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and preschool placement for children over the age of three. The services are provided to children and their families free of charge. Early Childhood CARES has hundreds of employees who regularly serve children in community preschools, Head Start, Pearl Buck and Relief Nursery. The organization also runs its own classrooms throughout Lane County including in Florence, Cottage Grove and Oakridge. Studies have shown

that starting services and supports to children and families early helps to build the foundational skills needed for success in school and later in life.

KKNU-FM KMGE-FM KEUG-FM ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

ISSUES: HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL HEALTH, HEALTH, PANDEMIC, LOW-INCOME, HOUSING, VETERANS, WOMEN, YOUTH, EMPLOYMENT SAFETY

NAME OF PROGRAM: COMMUNITY FORUM
Locally produced / Regularly scheduled

DATE: 11/28/21 and 12/12/21

TIME: 6:30 a.m.-KKNU / 7:00 a.m.: KMGE & KEUG

LENGTH: 30 minutes

GUEST:

Name, Title, Organization: Sheryl Balthrop, Executive Director, Eugene Mission

Contact information: 541-344-3251

City and State: Eugene, Oregon

TOPIC AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Eugene Mission serves hundreds of men, women, and children every year. Even as the pandemic forced Lane County's social service agencies to adapt their programs to protect clients and staff, the Mission worked to maintain its programs that provide a wide range of treatment for those working to change their lives. Executive Director Sheryl Balthrop outlines the programs, which offers a path off the streets for homeless individuals and families. Some are homeless because of mental health and/or addiction issues and are very low-income. With its reduced capacity, the Mission currently offers 18 crisis (rescue) beds and can safely serve up to 275 long-term guests. In inclement weather (under 30 degrees, severe rain, severe heat, etc.), the Mission welcomes guests into their classroom space to help protect them from the elements. Balthrop says the first step for those looking to change their lives involves developing long-term skills, from setting regular schedules to learning basic living routines (doing their own cooking, laundry, etc.), which many have never experienced. Those with alcohol or substance abuse addictions enter long-term recovery programs designed to help prevent relapse. The sober and secure residential units house men in one set of dormitories and women and children in another. The revitalization programs provide a personalized plan based on an individual's goals and social, vocational, mental, and physical health challenges. The individual programs often can last 12-28 months. The Eugene Mission relies on donations. Balthrop talks about that and other donations, including clothing and basic furnishings and household supplies for when guests

move into independent housing. She also discusses efforts to integrate volunteers back to the programs as the pandemic eases.

KKNU-FM KMGE-FM KEUG-FM ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

ISSUES: *HOMELESSNESS, LOW-INCOME, FAMILIES, RELIGION, SOCIAL SERVICES*

NAME OF PROGRAM: COMMUNITY FORUM
Locally produced / Regularly scheduled

DATE: 12/05/21

TIME: 6:30 a.m.: KKNU / 7:00 a.m.: KMGE & KEUG

LENGTH: 30 minutes

GUEST:

Name, Title, Organization: Kevin Hanson, Lane County Coordinator, Salvation Army

Contact information: 541-343-3328

City and State: Eugene and Lane County, Oregon

TOPIC AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Lane County's chapter of the Salvation Army provides a range of services to homeless and low-income individuals and families. It is a key partner in our local network of food pantries. It provides support and connection to other social services. It provides holiday gifts to many children of low-income families. It also conducts its annual holiday "Red Kettle" campaign, which is increasingly moving online during the pandemic. The organization is based on the principles of Christian charity. Major Kevin Hanson, the Salvation Army's Lane County Coordinator, discusses these and other efforts and plans for the future.

KKNU-FM KMGE-FM KEUG-FM ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

ISSUES: *COMMUNITY, HEALTH, YOUTH, FAMILY, ELDERS, DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, PANDEMIC, CHARITY*

NAME OF PROGRAM: COMMUNITY FORUM
Locally produced / Regularly scheduled

DATE: 12/19/21 and 12/26/21

TIME: 6:30 a.m.: KKNU / 7:00 a.m.: KMGE & KEUG

LENGTH: 30 minutes

GUEST:

Name, Title, Organization: Brian Steffen, CEO, and Danielle Uhlhorn, Chief Development Officer, Eugene Family YMCA

Contact information: 541-686-9622

City and State: Eugene, Oregon

TOPIC AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION: They've been fundraising since 2014. But now, the Eugene Family YMCA is just \$5 million away from its \$42 million dollar goal to fund and build its new facility. The non-profit YMCA just received a \$500,000 challenge donation from an anonymous donor, whose children benefitted from the Eugene Y's programs. That means they'll match dollar-for-dollar every contribution up to the half-million-dollar amount. As planning progresses for work on the new facility at 24th and Hilyard Streets in South Eugene, we chat with CEO Brian Steffen and Chief Development Officer Danielle Uhlhorn. YMCA officials say the City of Eugene this month finalized and approved the building permit for the project. Groundbreaking is set for July of next year. The Y offers youth and adult fitness classes, activities, and wellness programs. Among the features in the new Y will be an indoor, circular track above the gym; a dedicated cycle studio; a new splash pad in the Aquatics Center; maker spaces; and a teaching kitchen that focuses on nutrition. Leaders of the Y say they are proud of their renewed focus on wellness, with programs for those living with diabetes or survivors of cancer. They say they are Lane County's largest childcare provider and point to their work in the early days of the pandemic providing childcare for parents who were first responders and essential workers. The Y also offers summer camps and other youth activities.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTING FORM

DATE OF
BROADCAST 10/01/21

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

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED BUSINESS, HEALTH, COMMUNITY: Bi-Mart is getting out of the pharmacy business and selling its patient prescription records and pharmacy inventory to Walgreen's. Yesterday's announcement affects tens of thousands of Lane County and Northwest residents who go to Bi-Mart for their prescription medications. The process of transferring Bi-Mart customer prescriptions to Walgreen's begins the middle of this month and will include patient prescription files and related pharmacy inventory. Patients whose prescriptions are being transferred will be notified by mail and representatives of both companies say they'll work to smooth the transition over the next few months. Bi-Mart stores will remain open. But once the patient records transfer is complete, Bi-Mart will close its pharmacies. The only exceptions will be in areas where there is no easy access to Walgreen's stores—in, for example, rural areas. In those cases, Walgreen's is looking at opening its own pharmacy inside a number of Bi-Mart locations. No word on which Bi-Mart locations might host a Walgreen's pharmacy. Walgreen's is expected to make that announcement later this month. Bi-Mart has 11 pharmacy locations in Lane County, 56 total across Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Corporate officials say closing the pharmacies was a hard decision, but it puts their retail stores on a stronger financial footing. Bi-Mart pharmacists and pharmacy staff will be able to apply for new jobs with Walgreen's. Most pharmacy techs and assistants are expected to remain with Bi-Mart and move into cashier or other positions at the company's retail stores. / EMPLOYMENT: Oregon's labor picture continues to improve—gradually. But we still have a way to go to recover our pre-pandemic employment levels. Oregon Employment Department economist Gail Krumenauer says schools have staffed up, adding teachers, office staff, school bus drivers, and other positions. And she says the return of in-person classes has made it possible for parents to return to in-person jobs. But she says many families still have childcare challenges because not as many childcare spots are available. In some cases, prospective workers are staying home because they have concerns about their weakened immune systems and the increased risk of COVID complications. Others say they are caring for someone who has or recently had COVID. Krumenauer says that between April and June, Oregon employers had a record 98,000 job vacancies. But she says those who are looking for work often do not have skills that match the current openings. Others are looking for jobs

with higher wages and benefits or the ability to work remotely at least part-time. Many current job openings require the applicant work entirely in-person. Other sectors are still recovering from the early pandemic-related closures and disruptions. Krumenauer notes that the Leisure and Hospitality area, which includes hotels, motels, bars, restaurants, and related businesses, is still 35,000 jobs below its pre-pandemic employment level. Many of those businesses are advertising for workers. But others say they cannot expand their payrolls until the economy and spending recover more. Krumenauer says close to 81,000 people saw their jobless benefits end when expanded federal benefits expired last month. She says 49,000 of those were people receiving benefits under the Pandemic Employment Unemployment Compensation (or PEUC) program. Another 32,000 were self-employed freelance and "gig" workers covered under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or "PUA" program. / CRIME: They say he was driving recklessly and was intoxicated. Now, Springfield man is in custody facing multiple charges after a pursuit yesterday evening during rush hour. Springfield Police say they were called after other drivers said a man threw a beer bottle out of his vehicle near Pioneer Parkway and Centennial Blvd. When an officer tried to stop the vehicle, it sped away. The driver headed through Springfield into Glenwood, traveled south on Franklin Blvd, onto McVay Highway, ultimately taking the Interstate 5 south-bound on-ramp from 30th Avenue. At the Dillard Road underpass, police say the driver suddenly made an abrupt right turn, intentionally colliding with the concrete barriers on the west side of the freeway. That's when officers say the vehicle, a Toyota truck, rolled several times before coming to a stop on its driver's side. The driver, identified as 56-year-old John Charles Wilkinson, Wilkinson, had to be extracted from the vehicle by Fire and EMS personnel. Wilkinson was taken to the hospital or treatment of minor injuries, then to jail. Police said Wilkinson made several statements to officers concerning his level of intoxication and that his crashing into the cement barriers was an intentional attempt to end his own life. ; Eugene Police say they've tied a series of summer business burglaries to the suspect in a similar series of crimes that occurred last month. Investigators say 39-year-old Thomas Dale Young III was charged in connection with burglaries of five local businesses early on the morning of July 28. Police say he broke windows or doors at McMenamin's North Bank, Steelhead Brewery & McKenzie Brewing Company, Tap & Growler, Cornucopia, and All-Med Medical Supply Store to gain entry. In each case, they say the suspect caused significant damage to each business. Young was arrested on September 22 for a similar series of overnight crimes involving Friendly Neighborhood Pub and two Coburg Road area businesses, Ta-Ra-Rin and Papa Murphy's Pizza. / WILDLIFE, RECREATION: Oregon's general deer season opens this weekend. Don't forget to buy your tag. Heading out to hunt? The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has some terrific resources at <https://myodfw.com/> The ODFW does not close hunting seasons due to fire danger. But hunters, you might encounter access restrictions in active fire zones or areas with extreme fire danger. / COMMUNITY, FAMILIES, YOUTH: Sunday morning on Community Forum. we get an update on how the Eugene Library is relaunching and expanding its services as the pandemic eases. The library had a huge amount of online business during the early "stay home" months. But longtime patrons and newcomers are learning just how much the Eugene Library offers. In addition to the collection at the main library and its Sheldon and Bethel

branches, there are plenty of online offerings. Your library card gets you access free. Those online offerings include eBooks, digital newspapers and magazines, streaming music and video, free access to Ancestry.com, LinkedIn Learning, Mango Languages, even Chilton Guides for auto enthusiasts. Library cards are available to all Eugene residents and students in the Eugene and Bethel districts.

/ SPORTS: No. 3 Oregon heads to Stanford tomorrow looking for its first 5-0 start since 2013. The Ducks started 8-0 that season before losing on the road to the Cardinal. Stanford is playing its third ranked opponent in the past four games, having beaten No. 14 USC and lost to No. 24 UCLA. Kick-off is shortly after 12:30 p.m. on KEZI-TV (ABC). ; The Oregon Beavers host Washington Saturday. As the team celebrated last weekend's big win at USC, coach Jonathan Smith proclaimed in the locker room: "We ain't done yet." Now they're back in Corvallis, ready to prove that the victory over the Trojans wasn't just a fluke. Kick-off is shortly after 6 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. Heading to Reser Stadium on Saturday? All attendees 12 and older must show proof of vaccination or negative results from a COVID-19 test taken in the previous three days. If you are showing proof of vaccination, you must be two weeks past either your first dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine or two weeks past your second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. There also is an outdoor facemask requirement for everyone ages 5 and older. ; The NCAA is exploring the idea of holding a joint Final Four. That would mean both the men's and women's basketball tournaments would play their semifinals and title games in the same city on the same weekend. There is no guarantee it will happen and the earliest it could take place is 2027. The Final Fours from 2027-31 for both tournaments will be announced next fall. Combining the tournaments was one of the recommendations stemming from an external review of gender equity issues at the tournaments. The NCAA earlier this week said the women's tournament can start using "March Madness" in marketing and branding this season.

/ LEGAL, CRIME: The Register-Guard is reporting that a man serving a life sentence for a 2012 murder in Eugene had four of his robbery charges dismissed last week in Lane County Circuit Court due to a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling. That ruling prevents convicting someone accused of a criminal offense from being convicted through a non-unanimous jury verdict. The R-G notes that A.J. Scott Nelson was 26 when he was found guilty of aggravated murder and sentenced to life without parole in 2016 for the killing of 22-year-old Eugene resident Celestino Gutierrez Jr. Reporter Louis Krauss writes that Nelson was found guilty of 18 charges, which included murder and first- and second-degree robbery for robbing a Siuslaw Bank branch in Mapleton along with two others and using Gutierrez's car to assist them after murdering Gutierrez. Prosecutors charged Nelson with several interpretations of robbery, but one juror voted "not guilty" for one of the second-degree robbery charges, according to Lane County senior prosecutor Christopher Parosa. The case may be brought back before a judge after the Supreme Court ruling that prevents convicting someone of a criminal offense with a non-unanimous jury. It came in April 2020 in a case out of Louisiana. Louisiana and Oregon were, at the time, the only states that allowed such convictions with dissenting juror votes. Those arguing the case said non-unanimous jury verdicts allowed for racial discrimination and amounted to "Jim Crow" laws. Nelson's case was flagged in response since he had non-unanimous convictions. Because the second-degree robbery charge had no effect on the unanimous life sentence without parole for aggravated murder, Parosa

said prosecutors decided to dismiss the charges. / HEALTH, YOUTH:

Government researchers reported a big drop in teen vaping this year as many students stayed home from school during the pandemic. Survey results give the first indication of how COVID-19 disruptions may have slowed the underage use of electronic cigarettes. Government officials urged caution in comparing the latest survey numbers to prior years, because of differences in how the results were gathered. But outside researchers said the drop is likely real and makes sense given that young people often vape socially. In the survey 11 percent of high school students said they regularly vape, down from nearly 20 percent last year. / MILITARY, HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH:

The number of military suicides jumped by 15 percent in 2020, fueled by significant increases in the Army and Marine Corps. Senior leaders said the numbers were concerning and reinforce the need for more prevention efforts. Data released by the Pentagon showed there were 580 suicides last year, compared to 504 the prior year. Of those, the number of suicides by Army National Guard personnel jumped by about 35 percent, from 76 in 2019, to 103 last year, and the active-duty Army saw a nearly 20 percent rise. /

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SPORTS: Tanner McKee threw a TD pass on an untimed down at the end of regulation to tie the game and another on the opening possession of overtime to lead Stanford to a 31-24 victory over No. 3 Oregon. McKee came back after leaving for a play on the final drive of regulation with an injury to tie the game on a 2-yard pass to Elijah Higgins after a holding penalty by Oregon in the end zone extended the game one play. McKee then gave the Cardinal (3-2, 2-1) the lead with a 14-yarder to John Humphreys in overtime. Oregon was seeking its first 5-0 starts in eight years. ; B.J. Baylor had 20 carries for 110 yards and two touchdowns, Everett Hayes kicked a 24-yard field goal as time expired and Oregon State beat Washington 27-24. It's still relatively early in the season, but Oregon State's win combined with Stanford's upset of No. 3 Oregon in overtime puts the Beavers (4-1, 2-0 Pac-12) in first place. Oregon State snapped a nine-game losing streak to Washington (2-3, 1-1 Pac-12) and is 2-0 in conference play for the first time since 2013. ; No. 8 Oregon Ducks have the week off. They return to action on Friday, October 15, when they host Cal at Autzen Stadium. ; The Oregon State Beavers are on the road Saturday when they visit Washington State in Pullman. Kick-off is 1 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. / SAFETY, YOUTH, FAMILIES, COMMUNITY: October is National Fire Prevention Month. Nationally and in Oregon, firefighters respond each year to structure fires that injure or kill people where the smoke alarm is not functioning or is missing altogether. Officials say residents can save their lives and others by having a working smoke alarm, understanding the sounds their smoke alarms make, and knowing what actions they can take to protect themselves. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms make different beeps and chirping noises to let you know that maintenance is needed: One chirp or beep means there is an issue with the alarm getting power. Recurring beeps or three beeps in a row is the smoke alarm telling you it needs to be replaced. If you noticed your smoke alarm is only activated when you're cooking or using your shower, it might need to be moved to a better location. If your smoke alarm is beeping continuously, get low, use your family escape route, and call 911 from a safe place outside. The Oregon State Fire Marshal and local agencies are launching a four-week social media campaign #KnowYourBeepingAlarm to illustrate the importance of knowing what your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are saying. ; Eugene-Springfield Fire is

holding a "Virtual Fire Prevention Week" this week. It's part of an effort to make fire safety educational resources more accessible to everyone and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Ordinarily, firefighters and other personnel would visit all of the area's second-grade classrooms in person. Instead, they'll send lessons plans and online resources directly to local school districts and will the information available on their website for at-home educators and caregivers. Eugene-Springfield Fire's Virtual Fire Prevention Week includes educational videos and materials with topics that connect with kids. The subject matter includes the sounds of fire safety, personal protective equipment used by firefighters, a virtual firetruck tour, when and how to call 9-1-1, and more. Activities include home fire safety planning, music videos, coloring and activity sheets, and story-time with Fire Chief Chris Heppel. ; Big fire safety event coming up Saturday at the Eugene and Springfield Jerry's Home Improvement Stores. It runs from ten a.m. to two p.m. The theme of this year's 25th Annual "Jerry's Fire Safety Saturday" is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." At Jerry's in Eugene: 2600 Hwy 99N, Lane Fire Authority will provide important information on fire safety and prevention and conduct a variety of demonstrations. Lane Fire Authority Firefighters will teach children what to do in case of a fire and provide fire safety information that saves lives and prevents fires. Children will be able to participate in a variety of safety activities. At Jerry's in Springfield: 2525 Olympic Street, Eugene Springfield Fire will conduct a variety of demonstrations and various fire suppression techniques. Eugene Bomb Squad, Lane County Sheriff and Oregon Department of Forestry will be there as well with Smokey Bear. In addition, Lane Fire Authority and Eugene Springfield Fire will have Fire Engines, Medical Rescue Units and Ladder Trucks on display from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at both locations. Firefighters will be available to answer questions and provide information on fire safety. There will be free Fire Safety informational handouts, pamphlets, and informational displays. Children attending either event will receive a free Fire Helmet, Fire Safety Stickers and handouts. ; Flags across Oregon flew at half-staff yesterday to mark National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day. It was the 40th observance honoring those who lost their lives in the line of duty. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation updates the memorial each year. The name of Frumencio Ruiz Carapia, the firefighter who died this summer while battling the Gales Fire near Fall Creek will be added for next year's observance. / EDUCATION, HOUSING: Eugene-Springfield's newest college residence hall is a converted motel off Franklin Boulevard in Eugene. Bushnell University purchased and updated the former Phoenix Inn at the corner of Franklin and Alder. The Jim and Sharron Kay Womack Hall honors a retired former president of the private Christian college and his wife. The new dorm hall will house up to 150 Bushnell students. Campus leaders say the new residence hall will contain a Welcome Center to serve as the school's "front porch," gathering spaces, and classroom space. / CRIME: Lane County Sheriff's officials say a woman involved in a standoff with law enforcement in Mapleton on Saturday night died from what appears to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Investigators say the incident began with a call about a domestic dispute at a residence off Rice Road. The caller said that 28-year-old Jazmine Thein used a firearm to shoot at her brother. The brother fled to a neighbor's house. Deputies worked over the next several hours to negotiate with Thein and de-escalate the situation. But shortly after 6:00 a.m. Sunday morning, deputies entered the residence and found her deceased in a bedroom. Sheriff's officials

say there were no shots fired by deputies during the incident. / GOVERNMENT, LEGAL: Oregon's attorney general has filed lawsuits against two counties that had adopted ordinances that seek to nullify new statewide gun safety laws and declaring themselves "Second Amendment Sanctuaries." In her lawsuits against Yamhill and Harney counties, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum asked the circuit courts in those jurisdictions to declare the ordinances invalid because they conflict with paramount state law. The ordinances, passed by county commissioners in the two counties earlier this year, applied to new firearms regulations. A new state law mandates the safe storage of guns and bans them from the Oregon State Capitol and Portland International Airport. /

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DISCUSSED WILDFIRES., GOVERNMENT: Three more Oregon Department of Forestry districts in western Oregon are declaring an end to their local fire season and dropping industrial fire precaution restrictions starting today. The Western Lane, South Cascade, and West Oregon districts cover Lane, Benton, Lincoln, Polk, and the southern part of Linn and Yamhill counties. The North Cascade and Northwest Oregon districts ended their fire season on Oct. 1. It comes after recent rain reduced fire danger to "Low," days grew shorter, and outdoor temperatures cooled. Still, officials say once local outdoor burning seasons begin, it's important to use care to ensure debris fires do not spark brushfires and wildfires. Lane County's outdoor burning season is set to begin on October 15. / CRIME: Federal prosecutors say it is the largest single seizure of methamphetamine in state history, part of a takedown of a Lane County drug trafficking cell. The operation was led by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration with assistance from the Springfield and Eugene Police Departments and the Lane Interagency Narcotics Enforcement Team. Officials say they targeted the leader and several associates of a Lane County drug trafficking cell. Investigators say they seized 384 pounds of methamphetamine, valued at over one million dollars. It came as law enforcement executed federal search warrants at multiple locations in Lane County. They also seized 14 firearms—some of which officials say were stolen—and more than \$76,000 in cash. Five people were taken into custody during the operation, which culminated in mid-September. They include 47-year-old Martin Manzo-Negrete, also known as Javier Cardenas-Manzo, whom prosecutors describe as the drug cell's leader. Investigators say Manzo-Negrete has a long history of drug trafficking and previously served 14 years in federal prison. He's charged with possessing with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Four of Manzo-Negrete's associates—all from Eugene—also were arrested and face federal drug charges. They are 45-year-old Gustavo Manzo-Mares; 52-year-old Candice L. Barrett; 59-year-old John C. Willis; and 46-year-old Nathan Lee Daniels. Prosecutors say that a fifth associate, 52-year-old Frank Buehler of Eugene has been charged, but remains at large. Prosecutors say the DEA and members of the Eugene Police Department's Street Crimes Unit began investigating the Manzo-Mares cell in October 2020 for its role in trafficking large quantities of methamphetamine from California to Oregon for resale in and around Lane County. They say the drug

trafficking organization transported large quantities of methamphetamine by car from Southern California to Oregon, then stored, divided, and distributed the meth in the community. Acting U.S. Attorney Scott Erik Asphaug of the District of Oregon made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph H. Huynh is prosecuting the case. ; A Florida man was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in federal prison yesterday in connection with filing 745 false tax returns in 19 different states, including Oregon. Prosecutors say 40-year-old Damian Barrett used his specialized knowledge as a tax preparer to perpetrate the long-term fraud. He'd been indicted by a federal grand jury in Portland. According to court documents, Barrett owned two tax preparation companies and used the names, Social Security numbers, and Employer Identification Numbers of various individuals, some of whom were his clients, to submit the bogus returns. IRS investigators say Barrett also set up bank accounts in the names of some of his victims to receive fraudulent refunds. In all, prosecutors say Barrett sought nearly \$900,000 and received more than \$234,000 in fraudulent refunds between January of 2015 through December of 2018. The Oregon Department of Revenue alone received 348 tax returns requesting more than \$322,000 in fraudulent refunds. Investigators say the agency paid out more than \$130,000 in fraudulent refunds to Barrett. At the same time, officials say Barrett in two instances intentionally excluded income from his personal income tax return and failed to file a personal income tax return. In July, Damien Barrett pleaded guilty to mail fraud, filing a false tax return, and aggravated identity theft. In addition to his prison sentence, he must serve three years' supervised release and pay more than \$300,000 in restitution to state and federal tax authorities. /

HOMELESSNESS, GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY, SOCIAL SERVICES: The City of Eugene yesterday opened its first "Safe Sleep" site. The goal is to provide a secure overnight location for those experiencing homelessness, and at the same time help connect them to services to help get their lives back on-track. City officials say "Safe Sleep" sites will help reduce the impacts of unsanctioned campsites across town. The site at 310 Garfield Street, along with future locations, will be managed by social service providers. They will offer a place for people to legally park their vehicles or sleep in tents. The "Second and Garfield" site, as it's known, will accommodate up to 55 vehicles being used for shelter, along with space to park additional vehicles being used by those residents for transportation. The five-acre property is owned by Lane Transit District, which is leasing the site to the City at no cost for the first two years. St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County will run the site and coordinate 'round-the-clock staffing. The city is paying the annual operations cost of about \$585,000. That's in addition to site preparation costs, which included grading, gravel, electrical, plumbing, fencing and structures to be used by residents and site staff. The occupants were contacted in advance and mostly come from unsanctioned street locations in the West Eugene area. Several of the new Safe Sleep site residents moved short-term to the area of West 5th Avenue east of Bailey Hill Road to prepare for their transition to the new site. A second location, Chase Commons Park, is planned for four acres of City property will hold up to 20 Conestoga huts. That project is on hold while the city seeks a service provider to manage the site and spends additional time working with neighbors. People staying at the two large temporary camps at 13th Avenue and Washington Jefferson Park will receive priority to move into any Safe Sleep sites that accommodate tents or small structures.

People living in vehicles in West Eugene will have the first opportunity to move into the safe parking sites. Last week, the Eugene City Council approved three future Safe Sleep sites. Those locations could eventually host up to 150 spaces for people experiencing homelessness. The sites are at 2243 Roosevelt Boulevard, 410 Garfield Street, and on Dani Street. / LABOR, HEALTH: The union representing more than 400 employees at McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center say members are beginning a two-day walkout this morning. SEIU Local 49 represents workers in a range of hospital jobs, including certified nursing assistants, respiratory therapists, pharmacy technicians, housekeepers, and others. Their contract expired at the end of August. Union officials say picket lines will be up between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. both days. McKenzie-Willamette officials say there will be no impact on those patients already being cared for at the hospital and that its emergency department remains open to walk-ins. But they say ambulances are being redirected to other hospitals during the walkout and some elective surgeries are being rescheduled. / HEALTH, COMMUNITY: A longtime local television news anchor and reporter has died. KVAL-TV announced that David Walker passed away Monday morning following a long illness. He was 67. Walker started his career in the Coos Bay area as a radio personality and sportscaster before joining KVAL sister station KCBY. During his time with KVAL, he covered everything from breaking news to in-depth projects. Topics ranged from the wreck of the New Carissa on the Oregon Coast, to coverage of the Oregon Legislature, and accompanying an Honor Flight that took local military veterans to the nation's Capitol. He also was involved in a number of community charitable projects. David Walker's family says charitable contributions may be made in his memory to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. / SPORTS: No. 8 Oregon Ducks have the week off. They return to action on Friday, October 15, when they host Cal at Autzen Stadium. The Oregon State Beavers are on the road Saturday when they visit Washington State in Pullman. Kick-off is 1 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. ; Justin Herbert threw for three touchdowns, Austin Ekeler rushed for 117 yards and scored twice, and the Los Angeles Chargers knocked the Las Vegas Raiders from the unbeaten ranks with a 28-14 victory. Los Angeles, 3-1 for the first time since 2014, is part of a three-way tie atop the AFC West with Las Vegas and Denver. The Raiders' loss leaves the Arizona Cardinals as the NFL's lone undefeated team after four weeks. Herbert, who completed 25 of 38 passes for 222 yards, accounted for all of his TDs in the first half as the Chargers built a 21-0 halftime lead. The Raiders scored on their first two possessions of the second half to draw within a touchdown, but Ekeler gave Los Angeles some breathing room with an 11-yard scoring run. /

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DISCUSSED SAFETY, TRANSPORTATION: The days are getting shorter, marked with more rain and fog. Experts with the Oregon Department of Transportation are reminding drivers and pedestrians of the importance of safety whether you're commuting to work, running errands, or getting some exercise. October is Pedestrian Safety Month. Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicates close to three in every four fatal crashes involving pedestrians take place more often at night or in the early morning when visibility is lower. Often, these crashes are away from intersections where pedestrians are trying to cross lanes of traffic or are walking at the edge of the roadway. In 2019, the most recent data year, more than 6,200 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes and another 76,000 were injured. Eighty-five of those deaths were in Oregon. Traffic safety officials say most of those deaths are preventable. They encourage drivers and pedestrians to remain aware of their surroundings; focus on the task at hand—whether it's driving or walking. Don't be distracted by cellphones, vehicle passengers, or walking or bicycling companions; drive, walk, bicycle, and roll sober; obey traffic and right-of-way laws; be cautious at intersections and crosswalks; obey speed limits; and slow down and be extra-cautious in low-visibility conditions. Pedestrians: Watch for vehicles making turns, entering or exiting driveways, or backing up in parking lots. Make eye contact with drivers if crossing in front of a vehicle. And be visible: Wear bright clothing, add reflective material or a blinking light to your jacket or backpack; or carry a flashlight at night. Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections, where drivers expect to see pedestrians. / CRIME: Eugene Police have arrested two men and charged them in connection with repeatedly breaking into a local construction business. Investigators say 35-year-old Luke Daniel Holland and 38-year-old Anthony Ray Puckett face multiple charges for the after-hours incidents on Saturday and Monday at Edge Construction Supply on South Bertelsen Road. Police say the men cut a fence Saturday evening and got into a parked limousine inside the gated area, damaging the inside while ripping out a CD deck. Workers at the business repaired the damage and installed new equipment. Early Monday morning, investigators say the suspects returned through the same fence to the same limousine, stealing a second CD deck, speakers, amplifiers, and other sound equipment, as well as cutting a lock on a propane tank cage and taking

nine full propane tanks. A company employee driving by later in the day spotted the suspect's truck and called 911. Officers arrested Holland and Puckett on multiple charges and say they recovered a significant amount of the stolen stereo equipment, which was returned to the company. ; Springfield Police early Monday arrested a 20-year-old Cottage Grove man he allegedly led them on a pursuit by car and on foot. It's the second time in slightly more than four months police have charged Clayton William Altemus in a vehicle pursuit. During an incident in late May, investigators say he struck multiple vehicles on Highway 126 in Springfield, sending another driver to the hospital. In Monday's incident, police say an officer spotted a vehicle in the 4500 block of Main Street that was being driven poorly and had a rear window that was either shattered or missing. The vehicle sped off when the officer attempted a traffic stop, traveling at more than 60 miles per hour on Daisy Street. Investigators say the suspect pulled into an apartment complex parking space, jumped out and tried to hide behind a truck in the next spot. He was arrested moments later. Police say they found evidence of inhalants on the floorboard of the driver's seat and that Altemus was intoxicated. He's charged with DUII, Reckless Driving, Driving While Suspended, Eluding by Vehicle and by Foot, and faces an earlier felony warrant for Identity Theft. / SAFETY: The Lane County Sheriff's Office is attempting to locate 22-year-old Medford man who was last seen in mid-September in the Creswell area. Juda Johnson was reported missing by family members on Sunday. He is possibly traveling with a white male by the name of "Bobby" in a 1970s model Ford highboy pickup. The pickup is tan on the top and bottom with a lighter colored stripe along the middle. It also has a canopy. Johnson was last observed on September 13 in the Creswell area. Officials say he might be in the McCredie Hot Springs area near Oakridge. Johnson is described as a white male adult with black hair and blue eyes. His hair might have blonde highlights. He's about six-foot-five tall, weighs about 160 pounds, has facial piercings, but likely has no facial hair. If you have any information on Juda Johnson's whereabouts, contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4150. Select option 1. / CRIME: Eugene Police on Monday evening arrested a 60-year-old man for Kidnapping and Unlawful Use Weapon after they say he held a gun on another man for about 30 minutes in an apartment. It happened in a unit in the 1400 block of Bailey Hill Road. Police say the suspect and victim had been watching television when John David Winder allegedly pointed the gun at the victim and threatened to kill him. Winder refused a Central Lane 911 dispatcher's requests to put down the weapon. But he later told the dispatcher he had disassembled the gun and would come outside to speak with officers. He was taken into custody without incident. Police say the victim was uninjured and that the firearm was located and had been separated from the magazine, but that a round remained in the chamber. ; A jury in Oregon has found a member of the far-right group the Proud Boys guilty of assault, menacing and unlawful use of a weapon for pulling out a loaded revolver, firing paintballs and spraying bear mace at people during Portland protests last year. Prosecutors called 51-year-old Alan Swinney a "vigilante cowboy," while Swinney and his lawyer argued he was acting in self-defense against "agitators" who wouldn't stop harassing him. Swinney, of Texas, was found guilty on Tuesday. The Oregonian and OregonLive reports the charges stem from August 2020 demonstrations that erupted nationwide after George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: More than 705,00 Americans have died

from COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Federal health officials say more people died this year than last year, even though we have vaccines to help protect people from the coronavirus. They blame the delta variant and misinformation spread across social media and other outlets. The number of newly identified COVID-19 cases has declined in Oregon for a fifth week in a row. Oregon recorded about 10,400 cases in the last week, a nine percent drop from a week earlier. The Oregonian and OregonLive report the state's summer coronavirus rise and autumn decline generally mirror the national trend. But the highly transmissible delta variant produced some of the state's highest case counts and hospitalizations of the pandemic. Oregon yesterday reported more than 1,600 new infections and 44 additional pandemic-related deaths. That includes four new deaths in Lane County. ; Washington state health authorities say a woman in her late 30s has died from a rare blood-clotting syndrome after receiving the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Officials in King County, Washington, said the woman was the fourth person in the United States to die from the rare complication out of 12.5 million J&J vaccine doses administered. The Oregonian and OregonLive quote family members who say the Seattle-area woman is 37-year-old Jessica Berg Wilson, who grew up in the Portland area and graduated from Oregon State University. Officials say she received her shot on August 26 and died on September 7. Nationwide, 38 people have suffered confirmed cases of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome. The majority of these people have recovered. / EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH: The Oregon Employment Department and WorkSource Oregon are hosting a statewide virtual job fair today to help fill the growing number of job vacancies in the health care sector across the state. It's called "Hiring Heroes in Health Care" and takes place online from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Employment analysts say there are about 15,000 job vacancies in health care across the state—many of which have been open for months. The goal of the job fair is to fill openings in direct health care and other positions that support the health care industry, like food service, facilities, and business administration. So far, more than 30 employers have signed up to participate in this event, and the job fair is being marketed nationally to recruit out-of-state job seekers to Oregon healthcare open positions. If you are looking for work, go online to the state Employment Department's WorkSource Oregon page to register for today's online event and visit the WorkSource Oregon LinkedIn page for other hiring events with a focus on health care. / WILDFIRES, GOVERNMENT: U.S. officials have approved a long-lasting fire retardant that Forest Service officials say could significantly aid in fighting increasingly destructive wildfires. The retardant, made by Missouri-based Perimeter Solutions, is designed to be applied weeks if not months in advance of fire season. Applications could be used on utility poles and railroad trestles, commercial properties, and homes. The product also can be applied along roadsides. Company officials say it is similar to the red-dyed retardant dropped from aircraft but that this new product is clear and lasts much longer. Fire managers with the U.S. Forest Service say they're increasingly having to tie up crew members protecting structures and infrastructure. But they say this product could help make those battles easier and free up more personnel to directly fight the flames. Perimeter Solutions says their product can withstand up to a couple inches of rain. They say the one-and-done treatment for a 20-foot wide application of the fire retardant ranges in price from \$7,000 to \$15,000 per mile.

Company officials say it will be most effective in the drier climates in the West, allowing crews to begin treating vulnerable locations and buildings in the Spring. /

GOVERNMENT, FINANCES: The Willamette National Forest is offering free personal-use firewood permits, with a limit of six cords per household, per year. Ordinarily, you'd be able to walk into your nearby ranger station, fill out an application, and receive your permit. But since the pandemic's still going on, permits this year are only available by phone. Permits will be mailed to you along with a map. The process generally takes 5-7 business days. Commercial-use firewood permits or sales might also be available. Contact your local Willamette National Forest district office to confirm permit availability, as it varies depending on the district, the availability of wood and the type of permit. On districts that offer district-wide collection, please check fire closure areas prior to heading out for collection. /

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HEALTH, PANDEMIC, YOUTH: Pfizer is asking the U.S. government to allow use of its COVID-19 vaccine in children ages 5 to 11. If regulators agree, pediatric doses could be available within a matter of weeks. Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech today officially filed its application with the Food and Drug Administration. FDA's advisers are scheduled to debate the evidence later this month. If the FDA approves the doses, experts with the Centers for Disease Control and prevention will conduct their own review and approval process. Currently, Pfizer's vaccine is available only to those ages 12 and older. But many parents and pediatricians are clamoring for protection for younger kids, especially with in-person classes back in session and the holiday vacation and travel period ahead. Pfizer officials say their research shows children should receive a dose that is one-third of what is given to those ages 12 and older. After their second dose, Pfizer's researchers said the 5- to 11-year-olds developed virus-fighting antibody levels just as strong as those that teens and young adults develop after receiving regular-strength vaccine doses. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Oregon's weekly COVID-19 case count, hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline following the state's worst coronavirus surge during the pandemic. Although the number of coronavirus cases is easing across the state, officials say the strain on Oregon's hospital system and intensive-care unit beds continues. More than nine in ten regular hospital beds are also filled, many by COVID patients. Health experts say the overwhelming majority of coronavirus patients who are hospitalized are unvaccinated. Monday was marked the final day for certain workers in both Oregon and Washington to get a COVID-19 vaccine and lose their jobs or be put on unpaid leave. While state officials hope the statewide requirements will increase vaccination numbers, some healthcare facilities and companies are seeing staffing issues as other vaccination deadlines approach. ; Lane County Public Health yesterday reported three more COVID-19 related deaths. While infection rates continue their slow decline, there were still 127 new cases reported yesterday. The Oregon Health Authority received reports on Wednesday of 1,564 additional infections and 33 new deaths statewide. Officials say 3,900 Oregonians have died from COVID-19 and its complications during the pandemic and more than 338,000 have tested positive for the virus. / BUSINESS, AGRICULTURE: A California forest products company has completed its

purchase of Eugene-based Seneca. Officials with Sierra Pacific Industries say completion of the acquisition means they now have a combined more than 2.3 million acres of timberlands, 18 sawmills and eight renewable biomass energy cogeneration facilities, along with millwork and windows operations. Sierra Pacific is based in Anderson, California, south of Redding. It owns and manages timberland in Oregon, California, and Washington and is one of the largest U.S. lumber manufacturers. Seneca was founded in Eugene in 1953. It owned 131,000 acres of land in Douglas County. / FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT, ECONOMY: Oregon Governor Kate Brown is requesting disaster relief from the federal government for the state's strained commercial salmon industry. In her letter to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Brown wrote that since 2018, the economic return from commercial salmon fishing along most of the coast has been less than one-third of that of previous years. The governor noted that the trend is having severe effects on already distressed rural communities and businesses that depend on salmon. There is no timeline for when the U.S. Department of Commerce might make its decision. The governor's letter notes that while economic assistance is essential to address the impacts of closures and restrictions on the state's salmon fisheries. But she adds that it is vital that federal, state, tribal, and local governments continue to work together to recover and restore salmon populations and develop management strategies to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our salmon fisheries. / ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES: A big habitat restoration effort ramps up today off Highway 36 in the Upper Deadwood Creek area. A helicopter will begin placing 600 trees in three streams: Deadwood, Fawn, and Panther Creeks. The Siuslaw National Forest is partnered with the Siuslaw Watershed Council on the project. The goal is to improve habitat for salmon and other aquatic species. The work continues for the next week. Project managers say the trees, with their attached root wads, will help slow the slowing water, create pools that are attractive to fish, add more nutrients to the water, and shore up the floodplain. Hunters are encouraged to avoid the Upper Deadwood Creek area until the work is complete. / BUSINESS, WILDFIRES, ECONOMY: A fabled fly-fishing resort on southern Oregon's Umpqua River is for sale. The Oregonian and OregonLive quote a real estate agent representing owners of The Steamboat Inn, who says the ideal buyer is someone who wants to build the resort's prestige in the heart of the Umpqua National Forest. The inn sits on 23 acres leased from the U.S. Forest Service along Steamboat Creek and the North Umpqua River, 38 miles east of Roseburg. The sale price: \$3.75 million. The resort has 18 rooms and can host up to 58 overnight guests. The Steamboat Inn Restaurant can serve up to 200 diners a day. The sale also includes a gift shop, owner or manager's quarters, and wedding and event spaces. Owners Melinda and Travis Woodward say they are in no hurry to sell the destination, which is renowned for its nearby world-class fly-fishing, whitewater challenges for rafters and kayakers, and waterfall hikes. Over the past few years, the inn and other hospitality businesses along the North Umpqua River were dealt a blow by the pandemic and nearby wildfires. The Steamboat Inn itself needed repairs after experiencing some wildfire damage last year and was impacted by heavy snows in 2019. But tourism officials say resort properties that survived are recovering as people seek places to return to nature, unplug from daily stress, and reconnect with friends and family. The Steamboat Inn has had three owners since it opened in 1957. Among its noted guests:

President Jimmy Carter, author Ernest Hemingway's son Jack, adventure writer Zane Grey, and famous chefs and winemakers. / SAFETY: Oregon State Police say a 52-year-old Florence woman died in yesterday's early-morning crash on Highway 58 about eight miles west of Oakridge. It happened Wednesday morning, shortly after 1:00 a.m. According to investigators, an eastbound Honda Civic operated by Ellen Fiske of Florence crossed into the oncoming lane and struck a Peterbilt commercial truck driven by a 48-year-old Klamath Falls man. Fiske died at the scene. The truck driver was not injured. The crash and investigation closed the highway for two hours, then restricted traffic for another five hours. / CRIME: Lane County Sheriff's investigators say a suspect in a Tuesday afternoon domestic violence incident north of Marcola was shot and wounded by the woman he allegedly attacked. It happened at a residence in the 40000 block of Log Creek Road. Responding deputies and state police troopers said the suspect, 42-year-old Jesse Yoakum, had a gunshot wound to his shoulder. Investigators say Yoakum had strangled a 35-year-old woman and attempted to hit her with a bat. Officials say she armed herself with a handgun and shot Yoakum once, wounding him. Yoakum was treated at a hospital, then jailed and charged with Strangulation, Menacing and Assault IV (four). / SAFETY, TRANSPORTATION: It was suspicious, but it was not an explosive. Eugene Police say they reopened roads near a field in West Eugene after checking out a report just before noon yesterday of a suspicious object. The Metro Explosives Unit took a closer look and determined it was no threat. Officials aren't saying what the object was. But they reopened roadways in the West Seventh Avenue area near Seneca and Bailey Hill Roads shortly after 1:30 yesterday afternoon. / SAFETY: Thanks to everyone for their tips. Officials with the Lane County Sheriff's Office say a 22-year-old Medford man, Juda Johnson, has been located. He is healthy and safe and is no longer considered missing. /

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DISCUSSED LEGAL, GOVERNMENT, HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Another setback for a group of state workers seeking a temporary halt to a mandate that requires them to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18. The Oregonian and OregonLive report that a judge yesterday rejected a request by 33 Oregon State Police troopers. The judge noted that the governor and the State of Oregon have an unquestioned interest in protecting the health and wellbeing of the state's employees. Likewise, the ruling stated, they have undeniable interest in protecting the public from the dangers posed by COVID-19. Governor Kate Brown has mandated vaccinations not only for the state's executive branch employees, including the state police troopers, but also for hundreds of thousands of healthcare workers and Kindergarten through 12th-Grade educators and volunteers. Her orders allow for individuals to seek religious or medical exemptions. At least eight lawsuits have been filed. Thursday's ruling is the second denying plaintiffs a request to temporarily halt the mandates. On Tuesday, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled that arguments made by a group of 25 healthcare workers, firefighters, and paramedics who are opposed to vaccination have "little-to-no likelihood of success" if hashed out in further court proceedings. In Oregon, teachers, state employees and health care workers are required to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18 to keep their jobs. Monday was the final day for individuals to either get their second dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine — or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson shot — to be considered fully vaccinated by the statewide deadline. ; Since early September, more than 70 workers who fall under the governor's mandate have signed on as plaintiffs in the eight lawsuits. Among their arguments: The governor and state public health officials have overstepped their authority; their right to shun vaccines under the First Amendment's freedom of expression clause is under attack; and they'll suffer irreparable harm if they're fired or the vaccine causes side effects days or years down the road. Some also argue they should be allowed to wear masks and get tested once a week instead of undergoing vaccinations. Many medical experts argue higher vaccination rates are the best tool for ending the pandemic. Just 60 percent of Oregonians of all ages are fully vaccinated, and some experts say that might need to reach 90 percent against the delta variant. Research shows unvaccinated people are five times more likely to get infected than fully

vaccinated people, and that once infected, they're contagious for longer periods of time. But three of five troopers who testified Wednesday said they've already had COVID-19 and don't think they should be forced to get vaccinated. In their legal filings, attorneys for the state point to, among other things, a landmark 1905 U.S. Supreme Court case -- *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* -- that upheld the authority of states to establish vaccine mandates: in that case, smallpox vaccinations. Attorneys for the state also highlighted the state's power to require school children to undergo vaccinations. Nationwide, many vaccine mandates are faring well in the courts. State lawyers noted that initial efforts to undermine employee or student mandates at educational institutions such as Indiana University, the University of Massachusetts and New York City's schools have so far failed. A Houston hospital's mandate has withstood challenges and so has United Airlines', although the litigation continues. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health yesterday reported two more COVID-19 related deaths. We've seen 15 local residents die from the coronavirus and its complications in the past week along. While infection rates continue their slow decline, there were still 125 new cases reported yesterday. The Oregon Health Authority received reports on Wednesday of 1,453 additional infections and a staggering 59 new deaths statewide. Officials say more than 3,950 Oregonians have died from COVID-19 and its complications during the pandemic and more than 339,000 have tested positive for the virus. ; The Oregon Health Authority continues to track the number of "breakthrough" COVID cases. These are instances where a patient, often an older adult or someone else with a weakened immune system, contracts a case of the coronavirus—often from an unvaccinated person. It found that while close to three in every four new COVID-19 cases in the state involves unvaccinated or not-fully-vaccinated people, the other 24 percent of new infections are breakthrough cases. In most instances, health officials have said breakthrough cases are fairly mild. But when a patient has a weakened immune system or underlying health problems, their coronavirus cases can result in hospitalization or death. Officials say widespread vaccination is the best way to turn the tide on the pandemic and reduce the number of breakthrough infections. / HEALTH, LABOR: As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to overwhelm Oregon's health system — with hospital beds more than 90 percent full — the looming statewide vaccine mandate, which applies to healthcare workers, is the latest hurdle in a longtime nursing shortage. On Thursday, officials from the Oregon Nurses Association—the state's largest nursing union—said they're hearing from growing numbers of their members who have indicated that they are considering leaving the profession entirely. Health care workers say the staffing crisis is a culmination of issues, including reliance on traveling nurses, pay disparities, claims that some hospital systems are putting profit ahead of patients, and the pandemic. ONA leaders say the past 18 months of COVID-19 cases has resulted in overworked and exhausted employees. The Oregon Nurses' Association says about 90 percent of its close to 15,000 members are vaccinated. But union leaders say hospitals faced staffing issues long before COVID-19 or a vaccine mandate. The ONA is proposing a loan forgiveness program for nursing students who agree to complete four years of work in areas of the state with the most serious staffing shortages. In addition, the union is urging hospitals to honor legally required meal and rest breaks for nurses and immediately put an end to all "buddy-break" system — the practice where if a nurse takes a rest break, they

must pass all their patients onto another nurse, doubling that person's workload. The ONA also is calling on hospitals and state legislators to invest in an expansion of the Oregon Wellness Program, with a focus on nurses' mental health. / PANDEMIC, EDUCATION: It's been a challenging 18 months for Oregon's students, as the pandemic first closed schools leading to online learning, then a gradual return to classrooms. Along the way, educators say it was difficult to provide individual attention to students needing extra help, or even tell which ones needed the additional support. That was especially true for high school freshmen, who often rely on strong connections with teachers, counselors, and administrators for academic success. Now, a new report from the Oregon Department of Education underscores what's happened. It finds that, after climbing steadily for years to a peak of 85 percent the share of Oregon high school freshmen who passed enough classes to be on track for graduation plummeted to just 74 percent last year. That works out to close to 12,000 freshmen who failed too many classes. If things can't be turned around during the remaining years of high school, experts warn the teens are at increased risk of dropping out and will struggle to find family-wage jobs. That, in turn, can be a long-term drag on the state's economy. Oregon schools chief Colt Gill says he's optimistic Oregon educators will not let mass course failures undercut the state's current sophomore class. Gill predicted the gut-wrenching statistics will spur action in high schools and school districts to get this year's sophomores back on track. / CRIME: A 20-year-old man is facing charges that he attacked his 76-year-old grandfather with a machete, sending the victim to the hospital with multiple injuries. Lane County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ethan Wolcott on Wednesday afternoon following the attack at a residence off Highway 36 in Blachly. The motive for the attack is unknown. Investigators say that although the victim's injuries were serious, officials say they did not appear life-threatening. Wolcott was jailed on charges of Assault in the First Degree and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. ; Springfield Police yesterday warned they are investigating multiple incidents where criminals recently faked being stranded on the side of Interstate 105 or approached people in the parking lot of the Springfield Jerry's Home Improvement store. The scammers said they needed money and were trying to sell expensive jewelry at high prices to Good Samaritans. And, unfortunately, some people gave them money and learned they'd instead purchased inexpensive trinkets. Investigators received a series of calls about the incidents on Sunday and Monday and said that while reports all differed slightly, they all followed a similar pattern. In each instance, police said a newer dark-blue or black Chevrolet SUV was involved. Along the side of I-105 near the interchange with Interstate 5, witnesses said the Chevy Suburban was parked with its flashers on and a man flagging down passing drivers. Witnesses said another man driving was driving with a woman, and three children inside the Suburban. When a driver pulls over to help, the man, says he is travelling with his family, ran out of gas and lost his wallet. In one case the good Samaritan offered to buy them gas at the Fred Meyer on Q Street in Springfield. After they meet there, the man who was wearing a lot of jewelry offered to sell the jewelry to the good Samaritan. The man claimed that each of the two necklaces he was selling were worth more than \$2,000.00, and the rings were one Troy ounce of 18-karat gold. Police say the good Samaritan agreed to buy the jewelry for \$440.00 and went into Fred Meyer to withdraw the money from an ATM. The seller followed him into Fred Meyer,

where security cameras recorded the withdrawal. The suspect in that case is described as "Middle Eastern with a heavy accent, about 5' 7", in his late 30s or early 40s, weighing approximately 230 pounds." On Sunday, Springfield Police received multiple reports of three men approaching customers in the Jerry's Home Improvement parking lot and asking them to buy rings. Witnesses say these men were driving a black Chevrolet Tahoe with a Florida license plate, LDKW49. Springfield Police say the men left before officers arrived. If you have any leads in the case or witness similar activity, please contact Springfield Police detectives at 541-726-3714. / CRIME, WILDLIFE: In southern Douglas County, Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers are asking for tips from anyone who might know about the unlawful shooting of a five-point bull elk that was left to waste. The carcass was located on a Bureau of Land Management road in South Douglas County just east of Interstate-5 and Canyon Mountain, between Turkey Creek and Upper Cow Creek Road. Preliminary investigation has revealed that the animal was shot once through the back on a gravel roadway. Investigators say the vehicle of interest has large mud terrain-type tires and left the area after shooting the elk, leaving it to waste. Any person with information related to this incident is encouraged to call the OSP TIP (Turn-In-Poachers) Reward line at 1-800-452-7888 or by cell at OSP (677) or send an email tip to TIP@osp.oregon.gov. A reminder: The Oregon Hunters Association TIP reward offers preference points or cash rewards for information leading to an arrest or issuance of a citation for the unlawful take / possession or waste of Oregon wildlife. This includes Bighorn Sheep, Rocky Mountain Goat, Moose, Elk, Deer, Antelope, Bear, Cougar, Wolf, Upland Birds, Waterfowl, Furbearers, Game Fish and Shellfish. Cash rewards may also be awarded for turning in people who destroy habitat, illegally obtain licenses and tags, and for the unlawful lending or borrowing of big game tags. / CRIME, LEGAL: The Oregon Supreme Court yesterday struck down the death sentence of an inmate in a ruling that found lawmakers had fundamentally altered what are known as "prevailing societal standards" for executions with a 2019 law change. Oregon Public Broadcasting quotes legal experts who believe the decision could eliminate the death sentence for all inmates facing the penalty, clearing the way for them instead to be sentenced to life in prison. In 2019, state lawmakers passed a bill (SB 1013) that narrows what crimes qualify as aggravated murder — the only charge that carries capital punishment in Oregon. While the law change included a provision that did not make it retroactive, the court's ruling appears to do that, relying on a section of the state's Constitution that prohibits disproportionate punishments. The law limits the charge to murders of children younger than 14 years old, murders of law-enforcement officers, terrorist attacks that kill at least two people, and prison killings carried out by someone who'd previously been convicted of murder. That's a narrower scope than what formerly constituted aggravated murder. While the law change included a provision that did not make it retroactive, the court's ruling appears to do that, relying on a section of the state's Constitution that prohibits disproportionate punishments. / SPORTS: Oregon State is the only undefeated team in conference play in the Pac-12 North. It's the first time the Beavers have ever been in sole possession of the division's top spot. OSU also is riding its first four-game winning streak since 2013. The Beavs lead the league in scoring offense with an average of 36 points a game. Conference play continues this week as Oregon State travels to Pullman on Saturday for a game against Washington State. Kick-off is 1

p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. No. 8 Oregon Ducks have the week off. They return to action next Friday, October 15, when they host Cal at Autzen Stadium. /

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WEATHER: Snow fell on Oregon's mountain passes overnight. Willamette Pass is reporting a temperature of 28 degrees, snow flurries, and packed snow. Santiam Pass is reporting a temperature of 30 degrees, snow flurries and a slushy snowpack that is starting to break up. As wintry conditions arrive on Oregon's mountain highways, carry chains or traction tires should driving conditions require them. ; A Frost Advisory is in effect from midnight tonight through 9 a.m. Tuesday. Temperatures between 32 and 36 degrees will result in frost formation. Freezing temperatures near 30 degrees possible in rural areas in the central and southern Willamette Valley and on the Coast. Frost could kill uncovered sensitive outdoor vegetation. Consider harvesting or protecting tender vegetation. Potted plants normally left outdoors should be covered or brought inside away from the cold. / BIPOC, RACIAL JUSTICE, EVENTS: The second Monday in October, long celebrated as Columbus Day, will officially be recognized as Indigenous Peoples Day in Oregon. The Oregonian and OregonLive reports that among tribal leaders in Oregon, the change represents overdue recognition and hope for the future, as well as a feeling that more could be done to recognize and support Indigenous communities. The Legislature this spring overwhelmingly approved a bill declaring Oct. 11 to be Indigenous Peoples Day. The legislation was sponsored by the Legislature's only Indigenous lawmakers, Representative Tawna Sanchez and Representative Teresa Alonso-Leon. Oregon tribes said the local effort has been years in the making, with tribal officials and youth activists leading the way. Oregon is one of 13 states to recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day. The others are Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Vermont, and Wisconsin. South Dakota observes Native American Day, and Hawaii observes Discoverers' Day. Oregon has many different Indigenous communities including nine federally recognized tribes: Burns Paiute of Harney County; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Confederated Tribes of Siletz; Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Reservation; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians; Coquille Indian Tribe; and Klamath Tribes. According to the 2020 census, there are 129,081 Oregonians who identify as full or part American Indian and Alaska Native, comprising 3.1

percent of the state's population. / **HEALTH, PANDEMIC:** Lane County Public Health yesterday reported two more COVID-19 related deaths, bringing our pandemic total to 282. We've seen 12 local residents die from the coronavirus and its complications in the past week alone. While infection rates continue their slow decline, there were still 98 new cases reported yesterday. Fifty-seven local patients remain hospitalized. Of those, 15 are intensive-care units with eight of those ICU patients on ventilators. But for the first time in more than two months, the number of people in Lane County considered infectious dipped below 600, to 585. / **TRANSPORTATION:** A big air travel disruption over the weekend is continuing. Southwest Airlines has canceled hundreds more flights today following two days of major service disruptions. According to FlightAware, the carrier already has cancelled 360 flights today and delayed another 600 flights. The Dallas-based airline had blamed air traffic control issues and weather for its weekend "operational challenges" that saw over 1,000 cancelled flights on Sunday alone. But Southwest Airlines was the only airline to report the issues on that scale. On Saturday, Southwest canceled 800 flights. Some weekend flights were delayed into and out of Eugene, but today's departures to Oakland, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada, currently are listed as on-time. The pilot union issued a statement saying its members were not protesting in advance of a COVID-19 vaccine mandate by calling in sick. /

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HEALTH, PANDEMIC: More than four-thousand Oregonians have died from COVID-19 and its complications. And it comes just two months after the state hit the grim milestone of 3,000 deaths—driven by the spread of the highly contagious delta variant. The Oregon Health Authority yesterday received reports of 20 coronavirus-related deaths over the weekend, which put the state's pandemic death toll to 4,002. The agency also received reports of close to 2,900 new infections over the weekend reporting period. That brings Oregon's cumulative number of COVID cases to just shy of 394,000 since the start of the pandemic. As they marked the more than 4,000 deaths, Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen sent his condolences to everyone who has lost a loved one, a family member, a friend, or a neighbor. And he noted that many of those deaths could have been prevented given that vaccines are widely available, and vaccination can slow the spread of COVID, reducing the number of serious illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. ; More than a quarter-million Lane County residents have received at least their first dose of COVID vaccine. Of those, 232,000 are considered fully inoculated. Our local vaccination numbers grew as the delta variant surged through our communities. Lane County Public Health yesterday reported one more COVID-19 related death, bringing our pandemic toll to 283. While infection rates continue their slow decline, there were still 63 new cases reported yesterday. Hospitalizations are falling, as some people recover but others succumb to complications of the virus. Thirty-six local patients remain hospitalized. Of those, 15 are intensive-care units with eight of those ICU patients on ventilators. Since the pandemic began, more than 26,500 residents have tested positive for COVID-19. / HEALTH, LABOR: Thousands of nurses and other workers at Kaiser Permanente's health care systems in Oregon and southwest Washington have voted to authorize a strike. No date set. Union leaders would need to provide Kaiser with a 10-day notice that its 3,400 members are walking out. A similar vote was approved in California among Kaiser workers and those in several other states are considering their own ballots. Kaiser employs an estimated 11,000 workers in the region and operates two Oregon hospitals—in Clackamas and Hillsboro—along with 50 clinics and other facilities, including here in Lane County. The Oregonian and OregonLive report that voting by union membership ended Sunday night and union officials met yesterday to plan their

bargaining strategy. Union leaders say they're unhappy with Kaiser's proposal to create a separate compensation system with lower pay and reduced benefits for new hires. Kaiser officials declined to discuss negotiation details. The timing of the strike comes at a difficult time for Kaiser and its employees. They are dealing with an unprecedented pandemic while already facing a nationwide shortage of nurses. The health care system, like others across the Northwest, is struggling to respond to high COVID-related caseloads that are filling hospital beds and leaving frontline workers exhausted and disheartened. Kaiser, like many health care systems, has mandated its workers be vaccinated against COVID-19. Its leaders said last week that 89 percent of its more than 11,000 employees in Oregon and Southwest Washington have been vaccinated. The health system has placed about 190 of its regional employees on administrative leave, representing about 1.5 percent of its active workforce, because they were not vaccinated and had not sought an exemption. About 1,000 Kaiser workers have applied for exemptions from the mandate but it remains to be seen how many of those applications Kaiser will approve. It's been 33 years since Kaiser faced a major strike. / CRIME: Eugene Police are investigating a fight early Sunday morning at a bar downtown, followed by multiple reports of shots fired near the intersection of West 8th Avenue and Olive Street. They're working to determine whether the two incidents are connected. Officers say the shots were fired near the corner of West 8th Avenue and Willamette Street. They located a vehicle nearby that had multiple bullet holes. Bystanders said the shots were fired after a fight involving several people at a bar at 77 West Broadway. One of those at the bar, 22-year-old Wyatt Thomas Galloway III, was considered a victim of assault. But he was arrested on multiple charges, including Unlawful Use of Weapon, Menacing, and Assault in the Fourth Degree, in connection with an incident that occurred last year. Investigators say they're dealing with some uncooperative the victims from Sunday's early-morning incident. If you have any tips in the case, Eugene Police would like to hear from you. Contact Eugene Police. Contact Detective Chris Vreim at 541-682-5192. ; Lane County Sheriff's deputies are investigating a traffic crash followed by some sort of dispute and reports of gunshots in connection with an incident shortly after 6:30 yesterday morning in a Springfield neighborhood south of Jasper Road. The incident occurred in the 3800 block of Richland Street. Residents told investigators that some of those involved fled on foot, while others possibly left in vehicles. Now, investigators want to speak with the occupants of two vehicles that might have been in the area around that time. The first is described as a newer white sedan. The second: a gray Toyota Tacoma with a canopy and roof rack. Deputies say they located evidence of a vehicle crash, along with at least one shell-casing from a small-caliber handgun. Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4150 and select Option 1 when they hear the message. ; Springfield Police say they've arrested a man in connection with a string of weekend robberies. They say the suspect is 27-year-old Joshua Medrano. Investigators say he matched the description of the suspect in the Sunday night robbery of the Dari-Mart in the 1100 block of Springfield's Harlow Road, as well as a robbery the night before at a second Dari-Mart, in the 400 block of Harlow Road. Officers were told the suspect also had robbed a nearby fast-food restaurant and was reportedly armed with at least a knife. As they continued their investigation, the suspect was observed entering the Menchies

Yogurt Shop in the 2800 block of Gateway Street. Medrano was contacted there and ordered multiple times to surrender. Police say he disobeyed their commands. They deployed a Taser to take him into custody and discovered that Medrano was carrying a loaded semiautomatic pistol with an extended 33-round magazine. / SAFETY: Oregon State Police say one person is dead after an overnight crash on Highway 126 near Leaburg at Milepost 19. Preliminary investigation revealed that a Toyota 4-Runner, operated by 29-year-old Nathan Lee Langan of Harrisburg, was traveling westbound when it crossed into the oncoming lane striking an eastbound Ford F-350 Pickup, operated by 42-year-old Richard Edwin Andrews of Blue River. State Police say Langan died. Andrews sustained minor injuries. The crash closed that stretch of the highway for close to three hours. State Police were assisted by the Lane County Sheriff's Office, McKenzie Fire, and the Oregon Department of Transportation. /

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ECONOMY, FINANCES, GOVERNMENT: You might have a big tax credit coming on your next Oregon income tax filing. State officials announced yesterday that Oregonians will get 17 percent of their 2020 Oregon income taxes back as a credit under the state's unique "kicker" law, which returns money to residents when revenues exceed budget projections by more than a certain amount. The Oregon Department of Revenue determined more than one month ago that Oregon's unique kicker rebate law would generate close to \$1.9 billion. Want a rough sense of how big your tax credit will be? Go to your 2020 Oregon income tax return that you filed this year and look at Line 22 of 2020 Form OR. It shows your tax liability. Multiply that by point-one-seven (0.17) and you'll have a close estimate. Oregonians Receive get a kicker rebate when the state's revenue exceeds projections by two percent or more. No other state has a similar law. People who paid 2020 Oregon income taxes may file for and receive the credit in 2022, even if they don't owe Oregon taxes on their 2021 income. A "What's My Kicker?" calculator is on the revenue agency's website for personal income tax filers. To calculate your kicker, you'll enter your name, Social Security Number, and filing status for 2020 and 2021. If you owe the state money, whether for back taxes or for other items such as court fines or child support, however, the state may use all or part of your kicker that debt first. Taxpayers who claimed a credit for tax paid to another state would need to subtract the credit amount from their liability before calculating the credit. Free tax preparation services are available for low- to moderate-income taxpayers through AARP and CASH Oregon. United Way also offers free tax help through their MyFreeTaxes program. There are free or low-cost preparation options available for both federal and Oregon tax returns. Some software companies offer free software use and e-filing for eligible taxpayers. / ELDERS, GOVERNMENT: Millions of retirees on Social Security will get a 5.9 percent boost in benefits for 2022. The biggest cost-of-living adjustment in 39 years follows a burst in inflation as the economy struggles to shake off the drag of the pandemic. The cost-of-living increase amounts to \$92 a month for the average retired worker. According to the Social Security Administration, the increase affects household budgets for about 1 in 5 Americans, nearly 70 million people, including Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and federal retirees. Policymakers say the intent is to help protect benefits against a

continued loss of purchasing power. / ECONOMY, FINANCES: An unexpected burst of inflation this year is reflected in sharply higher prices for food and energy, new and used cars, hotel rooms, clothing, and furniture, among other goods and services. The Labor Department reported this morning that consumer prices rose 0.4 percent last month, pushing annual inflation back to the highest increase in 13 years. The consumer price index rose 5.4 percent in September compared to one year ago. COVID-19 has shut down factories in Asia and slowed U.S. port operations, leaving container ships anchored at sea and consumers and businesses paying more for goods that don't arrive for months. / SAFETY, CRIME: Microsoft yesterday issued updates to plug more than 70 security holes in its Windows operating systems and other software, including one vulnerability that is already being exploited in active attacks. Security expert Brian Krebs says this month's "Patch Tuesday" also includes security fixes for the newly released Windows 11 operating system. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: The Oregon Health Authority yesterday received reports of 82 coronavirus-related deaths—a single-day record—and more than 1,400 new COVID-19 infections. Officials say many of those reported deaths occurred in previous weeks or months, although details were not immediately disclosed. The state indicated the lag in reported deaths represents a "reconciliation" of publicly reported data with their existing records, something that last occurred Oct. 7, with a then-record 59 reported fatalities. Lane County Public Health yesterday reported three more pandemic-related deaths, bringing our pandemic toll to 286. There were 115 new local infections reported yesterday. Forty-eight Lane County patients remain hospitalized. Of those, 15 are intensive-care units with ten of those ICU patients on ventilators. / SAFETY: Oregon State Police say one person is dead after a Monday night crash on Highway 126 near Leaburg at Milepost 19. Investigators say a Toyota 4-Runner, operated by 29-year-old Nathan Lee Langan of Harrisburg, was traveling westbound when it crossed into the oncoming lane striking an eastbound Ford F-350 Pickup, operated by 42-year-old Richard Edwin Andrews of Blue River. State Police say Langan died. Andrews sustained minor injuries. The crash closed that stretch of the highway for close to three hours. State Police were assisted by the Lane County Sheriff's Office, McKenzie Fire, and the Oregon Department of Transportation. / CRIME: Eugene Police say a man from Boise, Idaho, has been sentenced to more than five years in prison with three years of post-prison supervision after engaging in the online sexual corruption of a child. EPD investigators say that in 2018 they received a report that a man, later identified as Matthew Christopher Kruzich, was virtually meeting juveniles on the social media app Grindr to arrange exchanges of marijuana for sexual acts. The case was assigned to a Eugene Police Violent Crimes Detective and the now 53-year-old Kruzich was arrested and charged in Circuit Court. This month, Kruzich pleaded guilty to two counts of Online Sexual Corruption of a Child in the First Degree, two counts of Rape in the Third Degree, and two counts of Unlawful Delivery of Marijuana to a Minor. / SAFETY: Have you seen her? Junction City Police overnight issued an alert asking for tips from anyone who might have seen or been in contact with 13-year-old McKenzie Helena Xiarhos. Investigators say she ran away from her Junction City home at about 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11th. McKenzie is described as 5'06", 140 lbs, with brown & green hair, blue eyes, and was last seen wearing a black, 1/2-cut Nirvana t-shirt, black-colored hooded sweatshirt, grey sweatpants, and white shoes. Anyone with information

about McKenzie is requested to contact Junction City Police at 541-998-1245. /

POLITICS, ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENT: Former Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno and three other Republicans have filed a lawsuit to challenge new congressional districts recently passed by state lawmakers. They say the new maps are partisan gerrymandering, unconstitutional and contrary to state law. Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the suit, filed Monday in Marion County Circuit Court, is the first such attempt to alter the six-district map that Democrats pushed through during a contentious special legislative session last month. Democrats passed a map that could lead to Democratic control of five of the state's now-six seats in the U.S. House. Oregon picked up an additional seat because of population gains recorded by the recent U.S. Census. Former Eugene Republican lawmaker Larry Campbell is one of the four lead plaintiffs. /

SPORTS: The Oregon Women's Basketball team is picked to finish second in the Pac-12 regular season, according to a preseason poll of conference coaches. The Oregon State Women are picked to finish Fourth. Reigning NCAA champion Stanford is picked to win the Pac-12 title. Oregon last season made a run to the Sweet 16. The Duck Women begin conference play on New Year's Eve at Eugene's Matthew Knight Arena when they host Utah. Oregon State opens also open conference on Dec. 31, hosting Colorado at Gill Coliseum. /

HEALTH, LABOR: This week's strike authorization vote by 3,400 Kaiser Permanente healthcare workers in Oregon and southwestern Washington was among votes by more than 24,000 nurses and other health care workers at Kaiser on the West Coast. Union leaders say they are bargaining to improve pay and working conditions strained by the coronavirus pandemic. Similar strike votes could come in a half-dozen other states against Kaiser, one of the nation's largest health care providers. Union officials say they object to Kaiser's proposal to give newer employees lower pay and fewer health protections. They also want 4 percent raises for each of the next three years and a commitment to hire more nurses to relieve staffing shortages. Kaiser is offering 1 percent a year and says it must reduce labor costs to remain competitive. /

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SAFETY: It might have looked a bit alarming if you were driving along Highway 126 east of Springfield yesterday near Hendricks Wayside. Emergency responders were deployed along the shore and on the McKenzie River, setting out containment booms and other equipment. But there was no spill: It was a drill, allowing response teams to fine-tune their skills. Such scenarios might involve a hypothetical spill of thousands of gallons of diesel fuel from a tanker crash or other emergencies. Crews and experts from more than one dozen local, state, and federal agencies took part in yesterday's practice session. The goal: protect the river, its habitat, and a critical water source for more than 200,000 customers of the Eugene Water & Electric Board. / CRIME: Officials with southern Oregon's Jackson County say they are so overwhelmed by an increase in the number and size of illegal marijuana farms that they are declared a state of emergency, appealing to the governor and the Legislature's leaders for help. In a letter to the state, they say law enforcement officers, county and state regulators, and code enforcers are overwhelmed, and more resources are needed. They warn of an imminent threat to the public health and safety of Jackson County citizens from the illegal production of cannabis. Illegal marijuana grows have been a persistent problem throughout the West, even in states like Oregon, which have legalized cannabis for medical and recreational use. Licensed growers complain illegal marijuana farms undercut prices. Criminals selling on the black market also deprive the state of taxes. Enforcement agencies say the illegal products are sometimes tainted with pesticides and other chemicals. Law enforcement officials say that because they are criminal enterprises, those working at illegal cannabis farms often carry firearms and other weapons. Communities also are concerned amid the West's megadrought as illegal growers steal water, depriving farmers, homeowners, and others of an increasingly precious resource. Neighboring Josephine County also has been hurt by illegal grows that have drained creeks and siphoned off groundwater. Josephine County's Sheriff believes there are hundreds of illegal operations in his jurisdiction alone. One with 72,000 marijuana plants was drawing water from the Illinois River and was raided after a dying worker was dropped off in a nearby community. Investigators in Jackson County say illegal marijuana farms often pose as legal hemp farms. The Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission recently reported that

nearly 50 percent of registered hemp farms inspected in the state are illegally growing cannabis containing THC content — the compound that gives marijuana its high — at greater-than-legal limits. State agencies say about 25 percent or one in every four registered hemp farms refused entry to inspectors. ; A former Portland-area resident yesterday pleaded guilty in federal court for illegally exporting marijuana grown in Oregon to Georgia for resale, then laundering the proceeds. 29-year-old Dante Baldocchi—a former Milwaukie, Oregon, resident now living in California—faces a maximum sentence of 60 years in federal prison with a five-year mandatory minimum, a \$5.5 million fine, and four years of supervised release. According to court documents, between January 2017 and June 2020, Baldocchi purchased marijuana in Oregon and arranged to have it shipped via freight to Georgia where he and others sold it to distributors in the Atlanta area and in North Carolina. Prosecutors said Baldocchi and his associates shipped portions of the proceeds from Georgia back to Oregon in vacuum-sealed bags and other portions concealed in buckets of drywall spackle. When a federal search warrant was executed on Baldocchi's then-residence in Milwaukie, investigators located more than 330 pounds of marijuana grown in Oregon. /

DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY: Seven offshore wind farms would be developed on the West and East coasts—including off the coast of Oregon—and in the Gulf of Mexico under new plan from the Biden administration. The projects are part of an effort to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by the year 2030. Biden administration experts say that would generate enough electricity to power more than 10 million homes. The projects are part of Biden's effort plan to confront climate change and avoid creating 78 million metric tons of planet-warming emissions. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland says her department hopes to hold lease sales by 2025 off the coasts of Oregon, California, Maine, New York and the mid-Atlantic, as well as the Carolinas, and the Gulf of Mexico. /

HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Even with the widespread availability of vaccines, officials with the Oregon Health Authority say at least 610 Oregonians died from COVID-19 complications in September, the highest fatality count of any month of the pandemic. The death toll increased Wednesday as officials announced 1,278 cases and 33 more fatalities connected to COVID-19, with 15 of those deaths from September. State data shows that pushed last month's total of 610 beyond the prior record of 606 deaths set in December. It came as the highly transmissible delta variant drove a summer COVID-19 surge in people who were mostly unvaccinated. Oregon's deadliest span from 2020 occurred before vaccines were widely available. Lane County Public Health yesterday reported two more pandemic-related deaths, bringing our local tally to 288. There were 150 new local COVID-19 infections reported yesterday. Fifty-two Lane County patients remain hospitalized. Of those, 17 are intensive-care units with nine of those ICU patients on ventilators. ; The Oregon Health Authority received reports of more than nine-thousand new coronavirus infections last week. But officials say that represents a 13 percent decrease in cases from the previous week and is the sixth consecutive week of declining case counts. Still, officials say new infection reports continue to be far higher in counties where vaccination rates are below 50 percent. Hospitalizations also are continuing a slow decline statewide. There were 416 new COVID-19 hospitalizations last week, down from 462 previous week. That is a 10 percent reduction and the fifth consecutive week of declines. But COVID-19 related deaths were up last week, with 179 pandemic-related fatalities

compared to 114 the week before. The Oregon Health Authority reports this was the highest weekly death toll since mid-January (the week of Jan. 11–17). The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests was 8.1 percent last week, down from 8.8 percent the previous week. But there are 148 active outbreaks in senior living communities and congregate living settings—including at 18 Lane County facilities. / GOVERNMENT, WILDFIRES: U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland is in Oregon this week to highlight investments in the proposed infrastructure deal that would help reduce destructive wildfires and the climate crisis. Haaland also will meet with federal firefighting personnel; state, local, and federal officials; and Tribal leaders. Today, Haaland and Oregon U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley head to Jackson County and the site of one of last year's big wildfires to discuss how to better prepare communities for the threat of wildland fire. On Friday, the two head and their staff members head to Warm Springs, to discuss how investments in the infrastructure bill would help improve water systems and quality for local communities. / BUSINESS: The Oregonian and OregonLive are reporting that the parent company of Portland-based Umpqua Bank is being acquired by Columbia Banking System. The \$5.1-(b)billion, all-stock deal will retain the Umpqua name and split the business' headquarters between Tacoma and Lake Oswego. Umpqua is Oregon's largest bank; its shareholders will own 62 percent of the combined business when the deal closes in the middle of next year. Analysts say it's an unusual deal, in that Columbia is the legal acquirer and will be the corporate entity after the transaction closes. But Umpqua is the bigger bank, and its name will survive as the company's retail brand. Founded in Canyonville in 1953, Umpqua was originally South Umpqua State Bank. The corporate headquarters moved from Roseburg to Portland in 2001. Umpqua employs 4,000. Columbia had 2,100 workers at the start of the year. The combined bank will have operations in Oregon, Washington Idaho, California, and Nevada. The combined entity will have \$43 billion in deposits after the deal, \$16 billion in Oregon. ; A popular Portland ice cream chain is opening a retail outlet in Eugene. The Oregonian and OregonLive report Salt & Straw is planning to open its first shop outside the Portland area in the spring at Eugene's Oakway Center. Salt & Straw was started a decade ago by a former Starbucks' marketing executive. Its ice creams feature premium and unusual flavors, often using ingredients from Oregon companies. For example, Salt & Straw sources from Eugene-based Singing Dog Vanilla and Red Ape Cinnamon. / LEGAL: Have business with Lane County Circuit Courts? The courts will be closed on Friday for a computer system upgrade. Online Services for Oregon's circuit courts will be unavailable from the close of business this evening through early Monday morning. These services include Online Records and Calendar Search, Oregon eCourt Case Information (OECI), ePayment, eCitation, Electronic Violations Bureau, and Online Juror Response Forms. Lane County Circuit Courts will reopen on Monday at 8:00 a.m. / SAFETY: Junction City Police say a missing teen runaway returned home yesterday. They say 13-year-old McKenzie Helena Xiarhos is safe and thank everyone for their assistance in the case. // SPORTS: The Oregon Men's Basketball team is picked to finish second in the conference this season, behind UCLA. The Ducks has won the past two Pac-12 regular-season titles and have a look roster featuring many new players. According to the pre-season poll of Pac-12 coaches, the Oregon State men are expected to finish fifth. The Pac-12 enters the new men's basketball season after a strong showing

in the 2021 NCAA Tournament. Three teams—Oregon, USC, and UCLA—reached the Elite Eight and UCLA played in the Final Four. /

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DISCUSSED ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY: Light 'em up but do it carefully. Lane County's Outdoor Burning Season opens today (Oct. 15). See details, regulations, and precautions from the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency at <https://www.lrapa.org/177/Outdoor-Burning-Program> / WEATHER, ENVIRONMENT: Federal meteorologists say that for a second straight year, the weather phenomenon known as "La Niña" has formed. The West has been experiencing a two decade-plus megadrought that's worsened the last couple of years. For the Northwest — including Oregon, Washington, maybe parts of Idaho and Montana — meteorologists say La Niña means a good chance rain and drought relief. But for the entire southern one-third of the country and especially the Southwest, a La Niña often means drier and warmer weather. That might mean continued wildfires. Meteorologists say there's also an increased chance of a more active Atlantic hurricane season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration made the announcement yesterday, saying this season's La Niña comes on the heels of one last winter and spring that contributed to similar conditions. La Niña is the natural cooling of some of the equatorial Pacific. It tends to change weather around the world for months. La Niña's natural cooling is the flip side of a warmer El Niño pattern. While the changes to the world's weather patterns can last months and sometimes years, the changes vary from place to place and are not weather certainties, just tendencies. La Niñas tend to cause more agricultural and drought damage to the United States than El Niños and neutral conditions, according to a 1999 study. That study found La Niñas in general cause \$2.2 billion to \$6.5 billion in damage to the U.S. agriculture. During last year's La Niña, the Atlantic set a record with 30 named storms. This year, without La Niña, the season has still been busier than normal with 20 named storms and only one name left unused on the primary storm name list: Wanda. La Niñas tend to make Atlantic seasons more active because one key ingredient in formation of storms is the winds near the top of them. An El Niño triggers more crosswinds that decapitate storms, while a La Niña has fewer crosswinds, allowing storms to develop and grow. / SPORTS: The No. 9 Oregon Ducks host Cal tonight in a game at Autzen Stadium in Eugene. Game time is 7:30 p.m. on ESPN. Oregon State has the week off. The Beavers are back in action on Saturday, October 23, when they host Utah in Corvallis. That Oct. 23 game will

kick off at 4:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. / **LEGAL:** Quick reminder: Lane County Circuit Courts are closed today for a computer system upgrade. That means online services for circuit courts are unavailable through early Monday morning. These services include Online Records and Calendar Search, Oregon eCourt Case Information (OECl), ePayment, eCitation, Electronic Violations Bureau, and Online Juror Response Forms. Lane County Circuit Courts reopen on Monday at 8:00 a.m. / **HEALTH, PANDEMIC:** Two more Lane County residents have died from complications of COVID-19. That raises our pandemic death toll to 290. Lane County Public Health yesterday received reports of 95 new infections. Sixty-two local patients remain hospitalized, with 17 of those in intensive-care beds and nine of those 17 on ventilators. The Oregon Health Authority yesterday received reports of 1,237 new coronavirus-related infections and 24 additional deaths. The state's pandemic death toll is 4,141. It came as the highly transmissible delta variant drove a summer COVID-19 surge in people who were mostly unvaccinated. September was the deadliest month of the pandemic. / **SAFETY:** A water rescue yesterday evening at the base of a popular Willamette River footbridge in Eugene. Specialists with the Eugene-Springfield Fire Department assisted a man who was stranded underneath the Frohnmayer Footbridge, also known as the Autzen Footbridge. Officials say the middle-aged man was stuck against a bridge pier. Crews lowered a life jacket and a hot pack by rope, as water rescue team members used an inflatable rescue boat to get to him. The man was treated at the scene, then transported to the hospital for further care. No word on how he became stranded against the bridge pier. / **CRIME:** Earlier this week, they raised alarms about the level of illegal drug activity in their Southern Oregon county. Now, officials with the Jackson County Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Team say they served a search warrant on a marijuana processing facility and grow site Wednesday morning. They say they seized 3,900 pounds of processed marijuana and 17,500 illegal cannabis plants from the location outside Medford, including from its two large warehouses, and surrounding fields. Law enforcement officials arrested 26 migrant workers at the illegal operation, which sold marijuana through the black market. Investigators say the primary suspect was not at the property but will be contacted and charged. / **SOCIAL SERVICES, LOW-INCOME, CHARITY:** Officials with FOOD for Lane County, our local food bank, yesterday shared more details of their big year-end fundraising push renovate their aging warehouse off West Eugene's Bailey Hill Road. They say they only need to raise another \$500,000 between now and December 31 to complete their multi-year, \$9.5-(m)illion-dollar capital campaign. The renovation will add refrigeration and a "Cool Room" to quickly process perishable foods, a training center for members of agencies that partner with FOOD for Lane County, and improved workspace for the food bank's volunteers. FOOD for Lane County has been a lifeline for thousands of individuals and families during the pandemic. It is an essential service for thousands more, even when the economy is good. The capital campaign, which began several years ago, in 2017 provided the funds to purchase and renovate the building that became the food bank's West Broadway Distribution Center. The facility, which receives, processes, and stores bulk food donations, opened in 2019. The Bailey Hill warehouse is the agency's primary distribution facility and includes storage, an industrial-grade kitchen to process and prepare donated food, administrative offices, and more. If fundraising is successful, renovations will begin in January. / **LEGAL, BUSINESS, SAFETY,**

YOUTH: The Oregon Court of Appeals this week reversed a lower court's decision to throw out an age discrimination lawsuit against a gun retailer in a case out of Lane County, declaring it illegal to deny gun sales to buyers between the ages of 18 and 20. The case is being sent back to Lane County Circuit Court. The plaintiff, Brandy Dalbeck, filed a \$10,000 lawsuit against Bi-Mart in 2018 after the company's Florence store refused to sell her a hunting rifle when she was 18. Bi-Mart had announced that year it would no longer sell guns and ammunition to people under the age of 21. Companies like Walmart and Dick's Sporting Goods made similar changes around the same time after 17 students and staff members were killed in a school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Federal law bans firearms retailers from selling handguns, but not rifles or shotguns, to anyone under 21. Oregon law allows residents to buy shotguns or rifles starting at age 18, however. Lane County Circuit Judge Charles Carlson dismissed Dalbeck's case without a trial in 2019. In his order for dismissal, Carlson said Oregon's anti-discrimination law did not prohibit places like Bi-Mart from discriminating against people between the ages of 18 and 20 based on age — and even if the law did, the judge said Bi-Mart could adopt a policy against selling firearms to those under 21 as a matter of public safety. Carlson wrote the anti-discrimination law contained "implied exceptions" to allow for age-discriminatory policies "for public health or if safety is at issue, be it tobacco, marijuana, alcohol, gaming, transportation, or firearms." /

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DISCUSSED HEALTH, PANDEMIC, GOVERNMENT, LEGAL: The deadline for Governor Kate Brown's vaccination mandates for healthcare workers, public school employees, and some state workers arrives today. The Oregonian and OregonLive report that while some service disruptions are expected, state officials hope to avoid mass terminations that could affect hospitals, classrooms, and government agencies. Oregon is among 21 states requiring at least some categories of workers to get vaccinated, according to a tally done by the Kaiser Family Foundation in early October. Other states and big private companies with earlier deadlines have seen big increases in vaccination rates as those dates approached. And while there have been job losses and suspensions, they have generally avoided worst case outcomes that some feared. Across the state, at least 10 lawsuits have been filed challenging the vaccination mandate, but none have notched victories. Still, a handful of counties have declared local emergencies warning of staffing fallout, particularly in rural areas with already low vaccination rates. Some schools and hospitals said at the end of last week that more than 90 percent of their workers are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 compared to just 71 percent of all Oregon adults. The governor announced the vaccination mandates in August, saying required inoculations would help protect students, preserve health care capacity, ensure state workplaces are safe and reduce the delta surge. Workers who refuse to be vaccinated may lose their jobs or be placed on leave. Some are claiming medical or religious exemptions but there's no word on how many have been granted statewide. At the local level, the mandate could lead to rescheduled medical appointments or canceled school bus routes and the number of workers available to watch vulnerable patients in long-term care facilities or guarding the state's 13 prisons. It might also aggravate staffing shortages that already existed in the healthcare industry, leading to postponed surgeries and rationed care. There are 117,000 licensed health care workers in Oregon, according to Oregon Health Authority data, a figure that includes everything from massage therapists and chiropractors to doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers. As of Oct. 4, 82 percent were at least partially vaccinated. The Oregon Health Authority says it does not have data on the proportion of those workers who fall under the vaccine mandate, but officials say they are aware of reports of projected nursing shortages due to the requirement. Some deadlines have shifted with unions for

government employees negotiating extensions to the mandate. Only about 5,000 of 43,000 executive branch workers are now required to be fully vaccinated by today, with the remainder scoring a delay until Nov. 30. The state's prison system faces perhaps the biggest standoff over the mandate, with only about 85 percent of employees fully vaccinated or given exceptions, below the 90 percent average among all executive branch workers. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: As the surge in hospitalizations and deaths tied to the delta variant slowly begins to ease, a new forecast from Oregon Health & Science University concludes that Oregonians should reach something approaching "herd immunity" by December 26. The forecast comes as more Oregonians are being vaccinated, and many of those who were unvaccinated have either fallen ill and recovered or succumbed to the highly contagious strain. The result, say health experts, is that there will be fewer potential hosts who can contract the delta variant, slowly and perhaps eventually stalling its spread. The OHSU prediction notes that slightly more than one in five Oregonians are still vulnerable to infection from the delta variant. But the state's vaccination rate stands at close to 71 percent. It finds that government and workplace mandates taking effect over the coming weeks are helping to increase vaccination rates and reduce potential workplace infections. In the next few weeks, it's also expected vaccines will be authorized for children ages five to 11, paving the way for increased immunity among school-age groups perhaps as early as the holidays. But even if we achieve herd immunity by late December, the OHSU forecast predicts another 177,000 COVID-19 infections in Oregon between now and then. And while reduced infections will ease the strain on hospitals and intensive-care units across the state, the health experts note there are still high caseloads in Eastern and Southern Oregon where vaccination rates are low. Fewer than five percent of Oregon's hospitalized COVID-19 patients are vaccinated. The OHSU forecast also warns that while there's encouraging news about the slow drop in cases fueled by the delta variant, the rise and spread of any new variants could change the equation and lead to another case surge in Oregon. ; Over the past three days, Lane County Public Health has received combined reports of more than 350 new COVID-19 related infections and four new deaths. Forty-six local patients remain hospitalized, with 14 of those in intensive-care beds and seven of those 14 on ventilators. Our pandemic death toll is 294. It comes as summer surge the highly transmissible delta variant continues to slowly ease, but many who are unvaccinated or with waning immunity contract the virus and its complications. ; Members of the University of Oregon Marching Band have placed many of their activities and appearances on hold after more than one dozen members tested positive for COVID-19. The band skipped Friday night's appearance at the Oregon-Cal football game and paused other performances out of an abundance of caution, according to UO officials. The crowd at Autzen instead watched video of earlier pregame and halftime performances on the stadium's video screens. / SPORTS: The Oregon Ducks are Number 10 in the college football polls after a holding off Cal Friday night at Autzen Stadium, 24-17. The Ducks head south on Saturday to meet UCLA and former Oregon coach Chip Kelly. Game time is 12:30 p.m. on ABC. Oregon State, which had last weekend off, hosts Utah on Saturday in Corvallis. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. ; Former Oregon women's basketball standout Ruthy Hebert (HEE'-burt) has added a WNBA Championship to her accomplishments. Her team, the Chicago Sky, yesterday defeated the Phoenix

Mercury to win the WNBA title three games to one. Hebert saw limited play during the finals but had a strong early season while team leader Candace Parker was playing at the Olympics. / HEALTH, ELDERERS: Every October, open enrollment begins for Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug plans. Medicare plans and coverage for prescription drugs change each year, so it is important for Oregonians who are enrolled in Medicare to evaluate their plan options and make changes during open enrollment. Open enrollment for the 2022 Medicare plan year began Friday, Oct. 15, and continues through Dec. 7. The Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is available to help Oregonians understand their Medicare options and benefits, provide enrollment guidance, and answer any questions related to Medicare benefits. Local SHIBA counselors are available to help and can be found by visiting SHIBA.Oregon.gov or calling (800) 722-4134 (toll-free). To accommodate COVID-19 safety precautions, SHIBA counselors are providing telephone and limited in-person support. SHIBA's 2022 Oregon Guide to Medicare Insurance Plans is expected to be available on SHIBA.Oregon.gov in the coming days. SHIBA provides trained counselors to educate and advocate for Oregonians with Medicare. Get local Medicare help visiting SHIBA.Oregon.gov or (800) 722-4134 (toll-free). /

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SUBJECT
DISCUSSED HEALTH, PANDEMIC, GOVERNMENT, LEGAL: A federal judge yesterday denied a last-minute bid by more than three dozen state employees, healthcare providers, and school staff to temporarily block the state's COVID-19 vaccination mandate. The Oregonian and OregonLive report U.S. District Judge Michael Simon rejected their motion for a temporary restraining order. It marks the first federal judge's ruling after several state court decisions thwarted similar efforts to block Governor Kate Brown's and the Oregon Health Authority's power to require certain workers to get the vaccines or risk losing their jobs. At least 10 vaccine mandate challenges have been filed in state and federal court since September. The latest ruling from the federal judge does not end the lawsuit. It allows state enforcement of the vaccine mandates as the case proceeds. In his ruling, Judge Simon wrote that, "In the middle of a global pandemic while infections and hospitalizations continue at high rates, Plaintiffs are not likely to succeed in showing that their individual interests in remaining unvaccinated outweigh the State's interest in public health and welfare." State workers have had two months to prepare for the governor's deadline to be fully vaccinated, which came Monday for about 5,000 employees. It originally extended to about 43,000 executive branch employees, but the deadline for most is now Nov. 30 following negotiations with government employees' unions. While the attorney for the plaintiffs argued his clients were being coerced to receive the vaccines, Simon noted the vaccine mandate offers state employees choices: either get the vaccine, apply for a religious or medical exception, or find a job elsewhere including out of state. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC, GOVERNMENT: Most school districts say the vast majority of their teachers, administrators, and staff have been vaccinated against COVID-19. That meets the governor's deadline, which arrived yesterday. Some have applied for religious or medical exemptions, which district officials are reviewing. Others have declined vaccination, leading to efforts to determine whether they can be reassigned to other positions, programs, or work hours. They must continue wear masks and be tested weekly for the coronavirus. If an accommodation cannot be reached, those educators have been placed on unpaid leave—often through the end of the school year. Some who oppose vaccination have decided to resign.; As the governor's COVID-19 vaccination deadline arrived, officials at healthcare institutions, public schools,

and some state agencies said they anticipated a few disruptions. Protesters also set up outside a few locations. Most organizations say they've seen high levels of vaccination, especially in recent weeks. But some state agencies have seen lower rates than others. The Oregonian and OregonLive report they include the Oregon State Police at 74 percent; Oregon Department of Corrections at 70 percent; and Oregon Department of Forestry at 65 percent. They've also granted a number of religious and medical exemptions. Oregon is among 21 states requiring at least some categories of workers to get vaccinated. Increasing numbers of companies are also using vaccine mandates to protect their staff members and customers. ; Many public agencies say their vaccination levels now exceed 90 percent. Among those sharing that data yesterday: The Eugene Public Schools (District 4J) announced that 98.6 percent of all teachers and administrators have been vaccinated; more than 96 percent of regular staff; and more than 93 percent of classified staff. District officials are reviewing requests for religious or medical exemptions. Eugene-Springfield Fire officials said more than 92 percent of their personnel are vaccinated. The agency employs 314 people and says that 266 are licensed health professionals who fall under the governor's mandate. They say eight percent have requested a religious or medical exemption. Only two have not been vaccinated and not requested an exemption. That's compared to just 71 percent of all Oregon adults. The governor announced the vaccination mandates in August, saying required inoculations would help protect students, preserve health care capacity, ensure state workplaces are safe and reduce the delta surge. Workers who refuse to be vaccinated may lose their jobs or be placed on leave. Some are claiming medical or religious exemptions but there's no word on how many have been granted statewide. At the local level, the mandate could lead to rescheduled medical appointments or canceled school bus routes and the number of workers available to watch vulnerable patients in long-term care facilities or guarding the state's 13 prisons. It might also aggravate staffing shortages that already existed in the healthcare industry, leading to postponed surgeries and rationed care. There are 117,000 licensed health care workers in Oregon, according to Oregon Health Authority data, a figure that includes everything from massage therapists and chiropractors to doctors, nurses, and ambulance drivers. As of Oct. 4, 82 percent were at least partially vaccinated. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC, EDUCATION: The University of Oregon is seeing COVID-19 cases climb in students and staff since classes returned for Fall Term. Last week, the university reported 55 new infections. The bulk of those—37—are in students who live off campus in the community. Another 14 are among those living in residence halls. Four are among staff. U-of-O officials say more than 96 percent of students are vaccinated and 95 percent of employees. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health yesterday received reports of 83 new COVID-19 related infections but no new deaths. Forty-five local patients remain hospitalized, with 14 of those in intensive-care beds and seven of those 14 on ventilators. Our pandemic death toll remains at 294. The Oregon Health Authority received reports of more than 3,200 (3,276) new infections over the weekend and 24 deaths. / SPORTS: The Oregon Men's Basketball team is entering the preseason ranked 13th in the polls. The Ducks open their preseason on Nov. 9 when they host Texas Southern at Eugene's Matthew Knight Arena. Conference play begins Dec. 5 when the Oregon men host Arizona State. Gonzaga is the preseason No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25. UCLA—the only other Pac-12

team in the preseason Top 25—is ranked No. 2 after reaching last year's Final Four. Kansas, Villanova, and Texas round out the top five. Reigning national champion Baylor is ranked No. 8. The Big Ten and Southeastern conferences have the most teams in the Top 25, with five each. ; Oregon Ducks defensive linebacker Noah Sewell has been named the Pac-12 “Freshman of the Week” after leading Oregon’s defense in the Ducks’ 24-17 win over California on Friday night. Sewell paced Oregon with 12 tackles against Cal, reaching double digits for the third straight home game. He was also responsible for a quarterback sack, 1.5 tackles for loss, a pass breakup, and a quarterback hurry. The No. 10 Oregon Ducks head south on Saturday to meet UCLA and former Oregon coach Chip Kelly. Game time is 12:30 p.m. on ABC. Oregon State hosts Utah on Saturday in Corvallis. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. / CRIME: Springfield Police say they arrested a man after some tense moments Sunday morning in connection with a menacing incident at a Gateway-area fast-food restaurant drive-through window. Police were called shortly after 4:30 a.m. Sunday about a man in a black Dodge Charger who allegedly threatened another person with a handgun in the McDonald’s drive-through on Gateway Boulevard. The witness said the suspect left the area after receiving his order. The caller provided a vehicle description and license plate that returned to an address of an apartment in the 4800 block of Aster Street in East Springfield. When officers arrived at the residence, they said they were met at the front door by the suspect, identified as 20-year-old Consavi Gavin Savath, holding a firearm and pointing it in the direction of the officers. Police said Savath refused to drop the firearm and slammed the door on police. After securing the area around the unit, officers said they contacted Savath on his cell phone and persuaded him to surrender. He denied having firearms and investigators say three other adults in the apartment refused to cooperate. After receiving court authorization for a search warrant, detectives say they recovered an AR style rifle, four black semi-automatic pistols, and multiple magazines and ammunition from the apartment. Savath faces charges of being a Possession of a Firearm, Menacing, and Unlawful Use of a Weapon in connection with the incident at the drive-through and police say he also was wanted on a parole warrant for Unlawful Use of a Weapon and Assault 3. ; Last week, police in southern Oregon raided a site that had roughly two tons of processed marijuana and 17,500 pot plants. Jackson County Commissioners say the surge in industrial-scale illegal marijuana growing operations is so serious that they’ve asked Governor Kate Brown to send in the Oregon National Guard. The governor’s spokeswoman notes that the Oregon Military Department already has a full-time National Guard service member embedded in each of three law enforcement teams in southern Oregon. But with the growing season coming to a close, she says Brown will reexamine the situation next year. Commissioners in neighboring county Josephine County wrote to Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney to say that migrant workers at the illegal grow sites are being exploited and subjected to appalling conditions. The workers lack toilets, running water and sanitary cooking facilities, and live in tents. Courtney says he is deeply concerned and thinks Guard members should be deployed. Jackson and Josephine counties are considered the northern extension of the Emerald Triangle, a fabled marijuana-growing epicenter, of which California’s Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties form the major part. The increasing calls for National Guard intervention recall the drug wars of the 1990s, when the citizen-soldiers were

used in several states, including California and Missouri. But the deployments were not universally welcomed. In California's Humboldt County in the 1990s, residents responded with protests. Both Oregon and California in recent years legalized the cultivation, processing, and sale of cannabis products, so long as those involved enter the regulated systems in each state and abide by the rules. While many have done so, with Oregon in particular reaping a bonanza in marijuana taxes, some growers have resisted. Law enforcement officials in Southern Oregon say the problem has gotten worse recently. They say foreign cartels have been setting up hundreds of unlicensed marijuana-growing operations since last spring. Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel said he believes the cartel masterminds expect to lose a few growing operations but that the sheer number of them means many will remain untouched until the marijuana is harvested and sold on the black market outside Oregon. ; Eugene Police say they're continuing to investigate a death involving a firearm at a South Eugene apartment early yesterday morning. The incident was reported shortly after 3:40 a.m. Officials with the Eugene Police Violent Crimes Unit are not releasing many details yet, but say the area was secured, there are no outstanding suspects, and no ongoing threat to the public. / SAFETY: The Lane County Sheriff's Office is looking to contact 38-year-old Sheryl Thornton. Thornton was last observed at approximately 1:00 a.m. on the morning of October 16th at her home in the area of Hwy. 99 and East Enid Road. in Eugene. Thornton has no known vehicles associated with her and she is possibly barefoot. Thornton is described as a white female adult standing approximately 5'03" and weighing about 140 pounds. She has brown hair and blue eyes. She was last seen wearing gray Mickey Mouse yoga pants and a white T-shirt. Anyone with information regarding Thornton's whereabouts are asked to contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4150 Opt. 1. ; Linn County Sheriff's officials say a 23-year-old Hillsboro man was rescued on Saturday evening after getting stuck while making a technical climb at a popular spot in the Cascades known as Wolf Rock. They say Johnathan Takle, became stranded when his gear fell to the ground. Takle used his remaining gear to anchor himself to the rock, then called for help. The Linn County Sheriff's Office, Corvallis Mountain Rescue, Lebanon Fire Department, Sweet Home Fire Department and Benton County Sheriff's Office responded. They worked throughout Saturday night to get Takle off the rock face and down to the trailhead, an effort that lasted close to 20 hours later. Takle was uninjured but exhausted after spending so much time on the rock face and was carried to the trailhead. Officials say Wolf Rock is Oregon's largest monolith, rising nearly 1,000 feet above the surrounding area—making it popular with technical climbers. But officials with the Linn County Sheriff's Office say that popularity has been reflected in 9-1-1 calls related to the location. /

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HEALTH, PANDEMIC, YOUTH: Children ages 5 to 11 will soon be able to get a COVID-19 vaccination dose at their pediatrician's office, local pharmacy, and potentially even their school. The White House is detailing plans today for the expected authorization of the Pfizer vaccine for younger kids. It could happen in a matter of weeks. An advisory group to the FDA meets on Tuesday to hear data about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and the recommended dosage for youngsters. If the FDA gives its approval, the CDC will conduct its own review Nov. 2-3. Officials say the country has ample supplies to vaccinate the roughly 28 million kids ages 5 to 11. Many families are hoping to have their children inoculated before the arrival of the holiday season, to simplify family planning for gatherings and vacations. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health yesterday received reports of 96 new COVID-19 related infections and one new death. That puts our pandemic death toll at 295. Fifty-six local patients remain are hospitalized— up by 11 since Monday. Fifteen of those patients are in intensive-care beds and seven of those 14 on ventilators. The Oregon Health Authority yesterday received reports of 1,366 new infections and 41 additional coronavirus-related deaths. / EDUCATION, SPORTS: They aren't revealing the price tag but say it will be funded entirely through private donations and managed through the University of Oregon Foundation. Over the next few years, a new indoor practice facility will take shape near Autzen Stadium. Duck Athletics has unveiled plans for a 170,000-square foot facility, located between Leo Harris Parkway and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard—the current site of the outdoor football practice fields. Work is set for completion in 2024. Plans call for a 130,000 square-foot practice field and a 40,000 square-foot connector between the field and the Hatfield Dowlin Complex. UO officials say the new facility will create additional access to the Moshofsky Center for Oregon's other sports teams, which currently share the 23-year-old facility with the football team. The Moshofsky Center, which opened in 1998, was the first indoor practice facility what was then the Pac-10. Among the features in the planned new facility: a ventilation system that can be used to offset air quality issues during wildfire season. Outside of poor air-quality periods, designers are planning to rely on natural ventilation. In a nod to the local wood products industry, the facility's exterior shell will be made from Northwest timber in the form of the Oregon "O." The center of the roof will be made from tinted

polymer panels supported by a steel cable system to provide natural light while insulating from extreme heat. Additional lighting will be powered with renewable energy generated on-site. The connector will include an expanded weight room and players' lounge and an outdoor terrace for team use and to host events. ; The No. 10 Oregon Ducks head south on Saturday to meet UCLA and former Oregon coach Chip Kelly. Game time is 12:30 p.m. on ABC. Oregon State hosts Utah on Saturday in Corvallis. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. ; Oregon State was a unanimous choice for most surprising team of the Pac-12 during the first half of the football season. It came during a vote by writers from The Associated Press who cover the league. Kyle Whittingham of Utah was voted the Pac-12 coach of the midseason, in part for keeping the team bonded after defensive back Aaron Lowe was killed in a shooting at a house party. ; The Oregon Women's Basketball team is entering the preseason ranked 10th in the Associated Press Top 25 poll. It is the fourth straight season the Ducks women have opened the preseason in the Top 10 and it comes after their Sweet 16 run at the NCAA Tournament. Oregon will host its first exhibition game on October 28 against Saint Martin's, open the regular season against Idaho State on November 9, then begin conference play on New Year's Eve against Utah in Matthew Knight Arena. The Oregon State Women's Basketball team is ranked Number 14 in the pre-season poll. The Beavs begin exhibition play on Nov. 6 when they host Western Washington. The regular season begins Nov. 12 hosting Loyola-Marymount. Colorado visits on New Year's Eve to open conference play. It should be another competitive Pac-12 conference season: The Stanford Women are ranked No. 3; UCLA No. 20; and Arizona No. 22. South Carolina is ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press preseason women's basketball poll for the second consecutive season. UConn is No. 2. Defending national champion Stanford was third. Maryland and North Carolina State round out the top five. Two Big Ten teams have their best preseason ranking ever: Indiana is No. 8 and Michigan is No. 11. There is excitement in Iowa, too: Iowa is ranked ninth and Iowa State is 12th. / SAFETY: The Lane County Sheriff's Office is thanking everyone for their tips. 38-year-old Sheryl Thornton has been located and is no longer considered missing. / UTILITIES, SAFETY: Drivers taking Highway 126 over the Cascades this afternoon might see a helicopter flying pretty low near the Eugene Water and Electric Board's Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project. EWEB, with the assistance of the Bonneville Power Administration, is using it to trim trees near power lines. Planners say that limits disturbances on forest floors and provides easier access to trees in remote, mountainous terrain that is difficult to from tree-trimming crews to traverse. They also say it's cheaper and faster. Carmen-Smith is EWEB's primary power-generation facility. The trimming is expected to occur between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. today and will continue over the next five days. / EMPLOYMENT: More improvement last month in Oregon's labor picture: Our unemployment rate dropped from 5.0 percent in August to 4.7 percent in September—one-tenth of one percent better than the U.S. jobless rate. But unemployment remains far higher than it was right before the start of the pandemic-caused recession. Analysts with the state say 102,000 Oregonians were unemployed last month, compared to an average of 82,000 in the tight labor market of 2017-2019. Officials say 270,000 Oregonians were jobless in April 2020. Where was most of the hiring going on last month? Employment analysts say professional and business services added 2,500 jobs; leisure and hospitality businesses expanded

with 2,200 additional positions; and transportation, warehousing, and utilities added 1,000 jobs. State officials say the private sector added 3,600 jobs in September, continuing the steady private-sector expansion that averaged 4,600 jobs added per month over the past six months. Job reductions in September were largest in the government sector (-3,800 jobs) and construction (-1,400). Those government job losses were largely the result of some Kindergarten through 12th-Grade schools adding fewer employees than they typically would at the start of the school year. Other local government employers also remain well below the staffing levels they had two years ago, prior to the recession. And despite its gains the past two months, experts say the Leisure and Hospitality sector still accounts for the bulk of Oregon's jobs not recovered since early 2020. Its overall employment rates are more than 42,100 jobs below its peak in February 2020. The industry has regained only 62 percent of the jobs it lost early in the pandemic. The Professional and Technical Services sector has grown at a rapid rate throughout 2021 and is now well above its pre-recession peak. This industry added 11,800 jobs since the low point in April 2020. Most of the jobs in the broader industry are found in firms providing services in the areas of legal, architectural, engineering, computer systems design, management consulting, research, and veterinary. /

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DISASTERS, COMMUNITY: Get ready to drop, cover and hold for one minute today. It's time for the annual "Great Oregon Shake Out." Hundreds of thousands of Oregonians have already registered for the Shake Out and will join tens of millions worldwide. You don't have to do anything special or even do it at a special time: Just take a moment wherever you are to "Drop, Cover and Hold!" to practice your emergency skills. Register for the Great Shake Out at <https://www.shakeout.org/oregon/> This also is a good time to think about emergency planning and chat about it with family, friends, and co-workers. After all, we live in an active earthquake zone that scientists say is overdue for a big temblor. Earthquakes are one of the natural hazards we face in Oregon and "The Great Oregon Shake Out" is a safe and fun way to practice what to do when seismic activity occurs. Many Oregon school students take part each year, as do many businesses. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management also reminds you of the importance of being "2 Weeks Ready" for earthquakes and other disasters. Other earthquake safety tips include strapping down your home's water heater and locating your home's gas and water lines to shut them off quickly should it be necessary. Meet with members of your household to take a walk around your home and identify heavy objects that are on high shelves that could fall; relocate those items to lower shelves and make sure that heavy furniture items are braced for safety. Discuss the best place to meet should you become separated during the event and make a plan to communicate with loved ones. Identify the best place for your preparedness items and make sure everyone in the household knows where those items are located. / WEATHER, TRANSPORTATION: They're closing the snow gates for the season today at 10 a.m. on the west side of the Old McKenzie Highway. That's on Highway 242, about seven miles east of the junction with Oregon Highway 126. The closure stretches up to the summit at the Dee Wright Observatory. But if you still want to see the views of Cascade peaks and lava flows, the east side of scenic highway remains open from the Sisters side to the Dee Wright Observatory—perhaps through November 1. Officials with the Oregon Department of Transportation say the east-side gates might close sooner if there's a heavy snowfall on the narrow, winding, two-lane road. / CRIME: A massive marijuana bust on Tuesday. It came after the Lane County Sheriff's deputies along with several local fire agencies got

a call about a structure fire at a property south of Creswell off Highway 99. There, authorities saw indications the location was being used for a large-scale criminal activity: a marijuana manufacturing and trafficking operation. Deputies obtained a search warrant. They seized more than 2,000 marijuana plants and more than 200 pounds of processed, ready-to-sell marijuana. Investigators say the local street value is more than two million dollars, but that the pot could easily sell for three times that if sold outside the state. Officials say the evidence indicates this was an unlicensed, non-medical grow operation. Officials are developing charges in the case. The Lane County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Oregon State Police Northwest Region Marijuana Team. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC, LEGAL: A second federal judge has denied an emergency motion to halt Oregon's vaccine mandate or make an exception for state workers who have contracted COVID-19. U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken ruled that the U.S. Constitution offers no fundamental right to refuse a vaccination. Aiken wrote that the required shots are in the state's interest to slow disease spread and protect citizens. Additionally, the federal judge saw no need to exempt unvaccinated workers from the vaccine mandate if they already had the virus. In doing so, she cited a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Seven workers had challenged the state mandates, saying they all previously contracted and recovered from COVID-19 and should be exempt from the mandates. But federal and state health officials say temporary immunity resulting from being infected by the coronavirus is neither as durable nor as lasting as vaccines. Aiken's opinion marks the sixth consecutive ruling in state or federal courts in Oregon denying an effort to halt the vaccine requirement. On Monday, another federal judge denied a last-minute bid by more than three dozen state employees, healthcare providers, and school staff to temporarily block the state's COVID-19 vaccination mandate. He rejected claims they were being coerced, noting that the vaccine mandate offers state employees three choices: get the vaccine, apply for a religious or medical exception, or find a job elsewhere including out of state. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health yesterday received reports of 94 new COVID-19 related infections but no new deaths. Fifty-nine local patients remain are hospitalized. Fifteen of those patients are in intensive-care beds and six of those 14 on ventilators. Our pandemic death toll stands at 295. The Oregon Health Authority yesterday received reports of 1,343 new infections and nine additional coronavirus-related deaths. A weekly report from state health officials notes that hospitalization numbers, which were slowly declining the past month, stalled a bit last week as weekly death numbers climbed. / SPORTS: The No. 10 Oregon Ducks head south to Pasadena on Saturday to meet UCLA. Game time is 12:30 p.m. on ABC. And the match-up will be the focus Saturday morning on ESPN's College GameDay. This is the 27th time in program history that the Ducks have been featured on GameDay. Oregon is 15-11 all-time when GameDay is in town and 5-3 on the road in those matchups. Oregon versus UCLA also is pretty popular with the ESPN College GameDay producers: This will be the fourth time the match-up between the two schools is being featured on the show. Meantime, Oregon State hosts Utah on Saturday in Corvallis. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. / GOVERNMENT, HOUSING, ECONOMY, FINANCES: Lane County taxpayers are receiving their 2021-2022 property tax statements in the mail this week. Statements are also available online, along with information about the county value trends, levy changes, and individual property

tax accounts. The first payment is due on November 15, 2021. Lane County Assessment and Taxation collects property tax on behalf of 85 separate taxing districts, including cities, schools, education service districts, water districts, rural fire districts, urban renewal districts and other taxing districts such as park and recreation, library, and ambulance districts. Most properties will continue to see the 3 percent statutory increase in their Maximum Assessed Values. On average, residential property owners will pay tax on just 59.6 percent of their Real Market Value in 2021. Oregon's constitution limits the increase in MAV of each property to 3 percent per year, unless there have been changes made to the property, such as new construction or additions, new partitions or subdivisions, removal from special assessment or exemption programs, or changes in zoning and use of the property. Go to information, at www.lanecounty.org/AT to look up your account. There are approximately 180,900 property tax accounts in Lane County consisting of: 54.5 percent Residential/Tract; 16.9 percent Exempt; 9.7 percent Commercial; 5.8 percent Industrial; 4.2 percent Farm/ Forest; 4.8 percent Multi-Family; and 4.3 percent Business Personal Property, Utilities and Other. The total property tax certified for all tax levies combined in 2021–2022 is \$620.3 million. This is approximately two percent more than in 2020. The total amount of taxes billed changes each year because of the addition of new or renewed local option and bond levies, the expiration of local option and bond levies, the three percent statutory increase in Maximum Assessed Values (MAV), the addition of new properties to the tax roll, the number of exemptions granted, and the number of properties being taxed on their lower market values instead of their Measure 50 MAV. Lane County's January 1, 2021, Real Market Value (RMV) increased from \$70.1 billion to \$77 billion, an overall increase of approximately 10 percent from January 1, 2020. The total taxable value for all properties combined in Lane County increased by 3.4 percent over last year, from \$36.9 billion in 2020 to \$38.1 billion in 2021. Market value changes for individual properties will vary each year due to many factors including the general real estate market, property location and changes made to the property such as new additions, remodels, or demolition. Voters in the past year have approved changes to the tax levies and bond rates, which are then applied to a property's Assessed Value (AV). However, Oregon's constitution limits the total tax rate that can be billed to an individual property to no more than \$10 per \$1,000 of market value for government and \$5 per \$1,000 of market value for schools. These limits do not apply to bonds. If taxpayers believe their properties' market values are incorrect, taxpayers should first contact Lane County Assessment and Taxation. Taxpayers have the right to appeal to the Board of Property Tax Appeals through the Deeds and Records Division of the County Clerk's Office. All appeals must be filed with the Lane County Deeds and Records office by January 3, 2022. /

ENVIRONMENT, UTILITIES, SAFETY: Helicopter tree-trimming is continuing today near the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project up Highway 126. The trimming is expected to continue over the next few days, weather permitting. The Eugene Water and Electric Board, with the assistance of the Bonneville Power Administration, this week is using helicopters equipped with specialized chainsaws to trim back tree limbs that are too close to power lines. Carmen-Smith is EWEB's primary power-generation facility. Planners say that limits disturbances on forest floors and provides easier access to trees in remote, mountainous terrain that is difficult to from tree-trimming crews to traverse. They also say it is

cheaper and faster. / DISASTERS, WILDFIRES, GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORTATION: Oregon Secretary of State auditors have found that the Oregon Department of Transportation can learn from missteps in overseeing the biggest wildfire cleanup job in state history. The auditors did a limited review of the state's post-wildfire hazard tree removal operation at the agency's request after public concern over the number of trees tagged for removal and cut down. In an advisory report released Wednesday, seven state auditors said much of the planning and work was done in a rapid timeframe with staff who had little to no experience with disaster debris management. Auditors say future preparedness efforts should include planning, training, and exercises to better respond and recover from disasters. / WILDLIFE, AGRICULTURE: Officials say Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife employees fatally shot three additional wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack. The Baker City Herald reports two 6-month-olds and one yearling were shot from a helicopter Wednesday. The agency says it has killed eight wolves from the pack, leaving the collared breeding female and up to two juveniles. Officials say the pack killed at least seven head of cattle and injured three others in eastern Baker County since mid-July. The Center for Biological Diversity's senior wolf advocate Amaroq Weiss says they are deeply saddened and angered that bullets have reduced the wolf pack to a shadow of itself. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Another step toward making COVID-19 vaccine boosters available to all Americans and allowing people to choose a different brand. The Food and Drug Administration yesterday authorized Moderna boost doses for everyone six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older and those who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus. A similar decision came last month for those who are six months past their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. For those who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the FDA said all U.S. recipients, no matter their age, could and should receive a second dose at least two months following their initial vaccination. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expected to review and sign off on the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson plans in the coming days. The goal is to provide additional protection against COVID-19 over time. Several studies have shown immunity provided by the vaccines slowly wanes after a number of months, especially for older adults and those with weakened immune systems. Some research indicates people who mix and match, especially if they first received the J&J vaccine, will see dramatically improved resistance to COVID infection. The FDA also has started reviewing whether to expand the Pfizer and Moderna booster authorizations to more people, including those over the age of 40. A decision expected in a few weeks. The nation's vaccine campaign will also expand in the coming weeks if the FDA and the CDC greenlight Pfizer vaccines for children between the ages 5 to 11. ; Health officials remind you it is OK to get your COVID-19 vaccine and flu vaccine at the same time. Experts with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say past experience shows vaccines work as they should whether they're given separately or at the same time. Side effects are similar, too. Experts say staying up to date on all vaccinations is especially important this year since it's unclear how intense the flu season will be as more places reopen. Anyone 6 months and older can get a flu shot. Experts say now is a good time to receive your flu shot. /

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HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health is preparing to begin a new round of COVID-19 booster doses of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines for those who qualify. Beginning Tuesday of next week (Oct. 26), the county is holding a series of boost dose clinics. They will include: Moderna boost doses for everyone six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older and those age 18 to 64 who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus. That includes health care workers, teachers and people in jails or homeless shelters. A similar approval came last month for those who received the Pfizer vaccine. It also includes those age 18 and older who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, no matter their age, and are at least two months following their initial vaccination. That's because the J&J vaccine has not proved as protective as the two-dose Moderna or Pfizer options. Additionally, you may choose any vaccine you wish for your boost dose. Some research indicates people who mix and match, especially if they first received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, will see dramatically improved resistance to COVID infection. The goal is to provide additional protection against COVID-19 over time. Several studies have shown immunity provided by the vaccines slowly wanes after a number of months, especially for older adults and those with weakened immune systems. The boost dose provides additional protection against severe COVID symptoms, hospitalization, and death. The vaccines are widely available through local healthcare providers, pharmacies, and community clinics. Federal health officials also are reviewing whether to expand the Pfizer and Moderna booster authorizations to more people, including those over the age of 40. A decision expected in a few weeks. The nation's vaccine campaign will also expand in the coming weeks if the FDA and the CDC greenlight Pfizer vaccines for children between the ages 5 to 11. ; About two-thirds of Americans eligible for COVID-19 shots are fully vaccinated, and the government says getting first doses to the unvaccinated remain the priority. While health authorities hope boosters will shore up waning immunity against milder coronavirus infections, all the vaccines still offer strong protection against hospitalizations and death, even as the extra-contagious delta variant burned through the country. The vast majority of the nearly 190 million Americans who

are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 have received the Pfizer or Moderna options, while J&J recipients account for only about 15 million. ; Pfizer says child-size doses of its COVID-19 vaccine are safe and nearly 91 percent effective at preventing symptomatic infections in elementary school children. Details of the study were posted online this morning as U.S. regulators consider opening vaccinations to youngsters 5 to 11. The vaccinations could begin early next month if regulators give the go-ahead. If the FDA authorizes the low doses, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will make the final recommendations on who should receive them. Full-strength Pfizer vaccines already are authorized for anyone 12 or older. ; Two more Lane County residents have died from complications of COVID-19. And Lane County Public Health yesterday received reports of 109 new COVID-19 related infections. Sixty-two local patients remain are hospitalized. Fourteen of those patients are in intensive-care beds and five of those 14 on ventilators. Our pandemic death toll stands at 297. The Oregon Health Authority yesterday received reports of 1,407 new infections and 40 additional coronavirus-related deaths. ; In the next few weeks, Oregon will see a big jump in its COVID-related death numbers. The approximately 550 deaths occurred between May and August of this year but, because of a computer glitch they didn't show up in the tallies. As a result, overall daily reported COVID-19-related deaths will be about 13 percent higher than before. The Oregon Health Authority's reporting of COVID-19 deaths involves reconciling death records to case records, which is done manually. There have been periodic backlogs, including during the summer as infections and deaths surged as the delta variant swept the state. State health officials say Oregon currently has the sixth lowest death rate in the nation. Once the additional deaths are added, it will push Oregon's death rate past one or two other states. But they say our state will remain well below the national average and the fatality rates of most other states.

/ HEALTH: U.S. health officials say a salmonella outbreak tied to onions has sickened more than 650 people in 37 states, including Oregon. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says at least 129 people have been hospitalized. No one has died. Nearly all of the illnesses were reported in August and September, and the largest numbers of cases were in Texas and Oklahoma. The outbreak has been traced to whole red, white and yellow onions imported from Chihuahua, Mexico, and distributed throughout the United States by ProSource Inc. The company told health officials that the onions were last imported in late August. But onions can be stored for months, and health experts are concerned some might still be in homes and businesses. Consumers are advised not to buy or eat whole fresh red, white, or yellow onions imported from Chihuahua and distributed by ProSource. If you have onions that do not have a sticker and packaging that indicates their source and you're not sure where they were grown or what company imported them, you're also advised to throw them out. /

SPORTS: Oregon's hopes of reaching the College Football Playoff and UCLA's aspirations of reaching the Pac-12 title game are on the line when the teams meet Saturday. The No. 10 Oregon Ducks are in Pasadena tomorrow to meet the Bruins. Game time is 12:30 p.m. on ABC. The match-up also will be the focus Saturday morning on ESPN's College GameDay. Oregon State hosts Utah on Saturday in Corvallis. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. ; Justin Herbert is having a sophomore surge instead of a slump. The Los Angeles Chargers quarterback continues to add to his accolades after a record-setting first

season when he was voted The Associated Press NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year. Herbert and the Chargers are off to a 4-2 start and tied for the AFC West lead on their bye week. Operating under a new offense installed by first-year coach Brandon Staley and offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi, Herbert has directed the Chargers to three fourth-quarter comebacks, all against teams that made the playoffs last season. / CRIME: Eugene Police are revealing more details of a fatal shooting that occurred early Monday morning at an apartment in the 5400 block of Donald Street. After consulting with the Lane County District Attorney's Office, police say there will be no criminal charges filed in this case. They say a resident fatally shot a man from Tillamook County who been banging on the door, then broke a window and entered the unit, threatening the couple inside. Investigators believe 28-year-old Skyler Weisberg had been looking for his estranged wife, who previously resided at the address. Police say Weisberg refused to leave after pounding the door to awaken the residents, even when told the woman did not live there. Multiple neighbors also called 911. When Weisberg broke into the apartment and began making comments about death, police say the male occupant—who was armed with a handgun—repeatedly warned him to stop advancing. He shot Weisberg twice, but said the suspect began advancing on him again. He shot him a third time in the hallway leading to the apartment's bedroom. The 911 dispatcher instructed the couple in how to provide medical care until responders arrived. Weisberg died at the scene. Investigators say Weisberg had a history of mental illness and at least one prior psychotic episode. ; Eugene Police say a University of Oregon student reported she was robbed at gunpoint on Wednesday night near campus. The woman told investigators she was walking in the 1800 block of Kincaid Street around 11:15 p.m. when she was approached by a white male in his 20s. She described him as being of average height and build. Police are investigating and they are asking anyone who is the victim of such a crime to immediately report robberies and not allow any time delays. They say that improves the chances of apprehending suspects. They also are encouraging pedestrians to always be aware of their surroundings.; Alarmed by the amount of illegal marijuana being produced and distributed in Southern Oregon, members of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners yesterday voted unanimously to declare a local "State of Emergency." They say the illegal growing and processing operations are an ever-increasing threat to the citizens, law enforcement, and the environment. They're asking the state to provide funding and support for enhanced enforcement. The declaration notes that residents who live near the operations are concerned and sometimes afraid to go outside their homes. It also notes that workers at the illegal grow sites and processing locations often endure poor working conditions and are paid little. Members of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners also say they are concerned about the toll illegal grow operations are taking on streams where water is being illegally diverted. They also worry about chemicals being dumped and the piles of waste accumulating in some spots. Law enforcement officials in Southern Oregon say the problem has worsened recently. They say cartels—many based in the U.S. and Mexico have been setting up hundreds of unlicensed marijuana-growing operations since last spring. ; Oregon Governor Kate Brown has commuted the sentences of more than 70 people convicted of felonies while juveniles, but the action doesn't mean they are about to be released. The governor's commutations grant some adults in custody who committed serious

crimes as juveniles the opportunity to appear before a state board to argue for their release after 15 years in prison. The list includes people convicted between 1988 and 2019 for crimes such as murder, assault, rape, and manslaughter while juveniles. A 2019 legislative bill made changes to the mandatory minimum sentences for minors sentenced on or after Jan. 1, 2020. ; A federal grand jury in Eugene yesterday returned an indictment that charges an Oregon restaurateur with tax evasion and hiding cash from his businesses. Corvallis resident Meeraali Shaik has been charged with one count of tax evasion. According to court documents, Shaik owned and operated Evergreen Indian Cuisine locations in Eugene and Corvallis. Investigators say that starting sometime before 2013 and continuing until 2017, Shaik allegedly provided his tax preparer with incomplete bank and income records and false information regarding the cash receipts of his restaurants. Prosecutors say Shaik used a portion of the underreported cash receipts to cover mortgage payments on properties in Eugene and Corvallis, and in Chandler, Arizona—and made wire transfers to a bank account in India. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison, three years' supervised release, and a \$100,000 fine. / ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT, LEGAL: Parties in a lawsuit involving dams on the Columbia and Snake River system are asking a federal court for a pause in litigation. Fishing and conservation groups, along with the state of Oregon, the Nez Perce tribe, and the Biden administration say the pause is needed so they can try to work out a solution to save endangered salmon runs. The lawsuit filed against several federal agencies involves the most recent plan for dam operations issued by the Trump administration in 2020. The stay request would still seek to increase water flow for a short time next spring through the dams to help salmon migrate to the ocean. /

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WEATHER, UTILITIES: There were scattered outages here in Lane County, many occurring mid-afternoon Sunday, as gusty winds swept in from the south. Local agencies fielded a series of calls about downed electrical lines. Many of the calls were in parts of Springfield and Glenwood. There was standing water along some curbs where storm drains were clogged by autumn leaves. Along the coast, there were warnings that high tides might bring some incursions along low-lying beaches and roads. More than 25,000 customers lost power in Portland and in surrounding areas. Most electrical service was restored by nightfall. The strong Pacific storm also slammed the coast of Washington state. Two people were killed when a tree fell on a vehicle 20 miles east of Seattle. Wind gusts topping 60 mph also downed trees on Interstate 90 east of Seattle and cut power to more than 150,000 customers in and around Puget Sound. The storm closed sections of highways in parts of California, toppling trees and causing mud flows in areas burned bare by recent fires across the northern part of the state. Drenching showers and strong winds accompanied the arrival of an atmospheric river — a long and wide plume of moisture pulled in from the Pacific Ocean. Flooding was reported across the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The weather service's Sacramento office warned of "potentially historic rain." / WILDFIRES: Fire season has now ended on all 16 million acres of Oregon forestland protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry. The last three districts - Klamath-Lake, Northeast Oregon, and the Walker Range Forest Patrol Association - ended their fire seasons Friday morning. The 2021 wildfire seasons in ODF's districts and forest protective associations lasted an average of 131 days, tying it with 2018 for fifth longest average fire season since 2000. Statewide more than 800,000 acres burned in wildfires this year - fewer than in 2020 but above the 10-year average. A single fire, the 413,717-acre Bootleg Fire, accounted for about half the acres wildfires have burned so far this year. That fire was the third largest Oregon has experienced since 1900. While wetter conditions, cooler temperatures and shorter days have reduced fire danger, ODF reminds Oregonians that wildfires can and do occur at any time of the year. Exercise caution when engaging in any activity involving burning outdoors, whether from a campfire or burning a debris pile. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health tomorrow begins a new round of COVID-19 booster doses of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines for

those who qualify. That includes: Moderna boost doses for everyone six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older and those age 18 to 64 who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus. A similar approval came last month for those who received the Pfizer vaccine. It also includes those age 18 and older who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, no matter their age, and are at least two months following their initial vaccination. That's because the J&J vaccine has not proved as protective as the two-dose Moderna or Pfizer options. Additionally, you may choose any vaccine you wish for your boost dose. Some research indicates people who mix and match, especially if they first received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, will see dramatically improved resistance to COVID infection. The goal is to provide additional protection against COVID-19 over time. Several studies have shown immunity provided by the vaccines slowly wanes after a number of months, especially for older adults and those with weakened immune systems. The boost dose provides additional protection against severe COVID symptoms, hospitalization, and death. You may schedule an appointment in advance if you want to avoid any lines. But drop-ins also are welcome. Additional clinics will be scheduled in the coming weeks. The vaccines are widely available through local healthcare providers, pharmacies, and community clinics. Federal health officials also are reviewing whether to expand the Pfizer and Moderna booster authorizations to more people, including those over the age of 40. A decision expected in a few weeks. The nation's vaccine campaign will also expand in the coming weeks if the FDA and the CDC greenlight Pfizer vaccines for children between the ages 5 to 11. ; About two-thirds of Americans eligible for COVID-19 shots are fully vaccinated, and the government says getting first doses to the unvaccinated remain the priority. While health authorities hope boosters will shore up waning immunity against milder coronavirus infections, all the vaccines still offer strong protection against hospitalizations and death, even as the extra-contagious delta variant burned through the country. The vast majority of the nearly 190 million Americans who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 have received the Pfizer or Moderna options, while J&J recipients account for only about 15 million. ; Moderna says its low-dose COVID-19 vaccine is safe for children ages six through 11 and produces a powerful immune response. Like Pfizer, Moderna is seeking approval from the Food & Drug Administration to offers child-sized doses to the youngsters. As is the case with Pfizer, Moderna researchers are recommending one-half of the adult dose for elementary-age children. They say the vaccinations dose shots induced strong levels of virus-fighting antibodies in youngsters, with temporary side effects such as fever and fatigue. If regulators give the OK, Pfizer's doses for children ages six to 11 could begin early next month. Moderna's could be approved a short time later. Many families are hoping to have their children inoculated before the arrival of the holiday season, to simplify family planning for gatherings and vacations. /

SPORTS: The Oregon football team moved up three spots to No. 7 in the latest Associated Press Top 25 poll released on Sunday morning. The Ducks are also up two spots to No. 8 in the new USA Today Coaches poll. Oregon is 6-1 overall and 3-1 in conference play following a close 34-31 win against UCLA on Saturday at the Rose Bowl. The Ducks are the lone Pac-12 team to be ranked in either poll. Oregon has now been ranked in the top 10 of both polls for seven consecutive weeks, earning their highest ranking in either poll since coming in at No. 3 in both

on Sept. 26. During the UCLA game, Travis Dye became the first player in Football Bowl Subdivision history to score touchdowns on four consecutive carries and Anthony Brown had 381 yards of total offense. Oregon will return home this Saturday to host Colorado in Autzen Stadium. The game is scheduled for a 12:35 p.m. kickoff on FOX. Fans are encouraged to "Wear Yellow" to the game. This is Homecoming Week at the University of Oregon. The Fall Family Weekend gets underway with events on Thursday and Friday for family and alumni. They include fun runs and a pep rally, followed by the weekend UO football game and Sunday Duck volleyball and Duck soccer matches. ; The Oregon State football team moved to 5-2 on the season and now is 4-0 at home after Saturday evening's 42-34 comeback victory over Utah at Reser Stadium. The Beavers trailed 24-14 at halftime but outscored the Utes 28-10 in the second half to secure the win. It came as Luke Musgrave blocked a punt and returned it 27 yards for a touchdown, B.J. Baylor rushed for over 100 yards and a score. The Beavers hit the road this weekend for a matchup at California. Game time is 4:00 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. / CRIME, BUSINESS: The FBI on Friday warned it has received several reports through its Internet Complaint Center of a new threat that businesses and agencies across the state of Oregon are receiving. The language in every case appears to be very similar. The threat message says that the bad actor has planted bombs in the organization and that if anyone contacts police, the bombs will be detonated remotely. There is a demand for a payment of \$5,000 - \$20,000 to be made through an email or cryptocurrency address. The messages also include death threats to the recipients and their families. So far, the threats are targeting internet service providers, education institutions, and health care providers. If you receive such a threat, the FBI recommends that you do NOT pay the ransom and that you notify us at www.ic3.gov / RELIGION, CRIME: A U.S. religious organization whose 17 members were kidnapped in Haiti asked supporters on Friday to pray and share stories with the victims' families of how their faith helped them through difficult times as efforts to recover them continued. A spokesman for Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries has said the families of those kidnapped are from Amish, Mennonite and other conservative Anabaptist communities in Oregon, five other U.S. states, and Ontario, Canada. The FBI is helping Haitian authorities recover the 16 Americans and one Canadian. A local human rights group said their Haitian driver also was kidnapped. A video was released last week showing the leader of the Haitian gang threatening to kill those who were abducted if his demands are not met. Haitian officials have said the gang is seeking \$1 million ransom per person, although they said it was not clear if that includes the five children in the group, the youngest being 8 months old. / HEALTH, YOUTH: Childhood obesity remains a national health problem, putting millions of children at greater risk for Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and other serious conditions. The newest available data from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's National Survey of Children's Health finds that between 2019 and 2020, more than 16 percent of youth ages 10 to 17 were obese. That more than one in every six. The nation's youth obesity rate has held steady for the past five years. Some health experts are concerned the pandemic and recession have worsened things, as young people stayed home and did not have access to as many school activities, physical education, and sports teams. Black and Latinx youth have disproportionately higher obesity rates compared with White children. There also were significant differences based

on household income. Lower income families, which often had limited access to healthier foods, saw higher rates of youth obesity. The report encourages efforts by federal, state, and local government to expand nutritional access to children and their families—including through the Farm Bill and school meal programs—and expand health care and fitness options for kids. / EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS, SOCIAL SERVICE, YOUTH: We're been hearing for months now about employment and staffing shortages across the country—yet another impact of the pandemic that is affecting all types of businesses and organizations. That includes social service agencies assisting some of our most vulnerable residents: children and teens. Across Lane County, the staffing shortages have affected in-patient treatment programs as well as outpatient, counseling, education, and other forms of support. Many agencies are using multiple methods to recruit new staff. They include Jasper Mountain, which provides a range of services to abused and emotionally disturbed children, and Looking Glass Community services, with its programs that assist at-risk youth, including homeless youth. They say if they don't have enough trained staff, they can't fill all of their residential treatment spots for youth. In the same way that the Oregon National Guard was deployed to help shore up staffing at many Oregon hospitals, FEMA—the Federal Emergency Management Agency—has deployed mental health professionals to our state to help close critical staffing gaps at some social service agencies. Jasper Mountain is one of those who is getting assistance from people from Texas and other states. / ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION: The new movie, "Dune," debuted with more than \$40.1 million in ticket sales in its opening weekend in North America, drawing enough moviegoers to see the sci-fi epic on the big screen despite even though it simultaneously arrived for streaming on HBO Max. The film covers the first half of author Frank Herbert's landmark novel. A sequel is planned. Much of Herbert's inspiration was drawn from the time he spent in Florence in the 1950s, working on a project about ways to counter sand dunes that were encroaching on some parts of the community and portions of nearby roadways. That led to research about the Oregon Dunes and their ecosystem—and ultimately to one of the best-selling novels of all time. Years after his death, Herbert's daughter donated many of his research materials to the Siuslaw Public Library, along with translations of the novel into dozens of languages. This month, to mark the debut of the new "Dune" film, the library is holding a series reading virtual events as part of its online book club. Florence's City Light Cinemas also held special weekend screenings. /

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SUBJECT
DISCUSSED ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY: All those leaves that landed in your yard during the past couple of days of rain and wind? You don't need to rush to pile them at the curb. The leaf pick-up programs for Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County don't get underway for a couple more weeks. That allows a few more trees to drop their foliage. When pick-up time arrives, remember: Do not pile your leaves in a manner that blocks traffic or bicycle lanes or sidewalks. That can be tricky in some neighborhoods but with it staying dark later and the sun setting earlier, it makes things safer for those navigating local streets. / WEATHER: The National Weather Service says a parade of storm fronts is setting up off the north Pacific to bring rain to our region. First there's rain today, turning to showers tonight. More rain arrives Wednesday evening through Thursday. But things will dry out a bit Friday through the weekend. There's still the chance of rain showers, but also occasional clearing. That's good news for Halloween trick-or-treaters. / COMMUNITY, EVENTS, YOUTH, HEALTH: CDC officials say it should be safe for kids to go door-to-door this year, as long as they spread out and avoid closely packed gatherings. And longtime Halloween safety rules still apply: Make sure younger children are accompanied by adults, that they have flashlights or reflective gear so it's easier for drivers to see them. Remind kids of safety when crossing streets. Halloween is a fun holiday because it gets children moving and they have fun. To avoid snacking on nothing but candy, consider feeding them an early dinner so they don't dive right into the sweet stuff. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health today begins offering COVID-19 boost doses of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines for those who qualify. They began offering Pfizer doses a few weeks ago. You may make an appointment online or drop by. The clinics offer: Moderna boost doses for everyone six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older and those age 18 to 64 who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus. A similar approval came last month for those who received the Pfizer vaccine. Johnson & Johnson boost doses for anyone 18 and older who are at least two months past their initial vaccination. You may choose any vaccine you wish for your boost dose. Lane County Public Health vaccination clinic times and locations: Today (Tues., Oct. 26): Lane Events Center: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; NAACP Mims House, 330 High Street, Eugene: Noon to 2 p.m.; Willamalane's Bob Keefer

Center, 250 S. 32nd Street, Springfield: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, October 27: Lane Events Center: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; North Eugene High School: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, October 28: Lane Events Center: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Cascades Middle School: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, October 29: Lane Events Center: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Willamette High School: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, October 30: Lane Events Center: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Siuslaw Middle School: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The vaccines also are widely available through local healthcare providers, pharmacies, and community clinics. ; The Oregon Health Authority yesterday reported close to 2,300 (2,293) new COVID-19 cases and 12 additional deaths. State health officials say cases declined on Monday for an eighth straight week, but The Oregonian and OregonLive report that was largely because of a data issue that preventing counties from reporting their updated infection numbers in a timely fashion. Lane County Public Health officials on Monday said they received reports of close to 70 (69) new cases. Eighty-one local patients remain hospitalized with 17 in intensive care units. Of those, seven are on ventilators. Lane County's pandemic death toll stands at 297. / HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, YOUTH, PANDEMIC: As the pandemic continues, pediatricians at Kaiser Permanente say they're seeing an increase in eating disorders in kids and teens. They say they're concerned the isolation, change in routine and heightened anxiety of the pandemic can contribute to the start of an eating disorder or increase the severity of existing ones. One Portland pediatrician says she's seen a 25-30 percent increase in referrals to Kaiser's eating disorder program for anorexia, bulimia and binge eating disorder. Dr. Ellen Singer says that, for some, shopping for back-to-school clothes was a trigger. For others, the transition back to in-person learning and socializing was challenging and led to hyper-fixations on their appearance and weight, leading to severe dieting or overeating to manage stress and fear. How to tell if your child is struggling with an eating disorder? Warning signs include a child or teen who refused to eat at the table with the family; cooks or prepares food for others that they don't eat—or sneaks food out of the kitchen; wears baggy clothes; eats or exercises in their room; watches a lot of food shows; and overuses social media. You're encouraged to call your pediatrician and schedule appointment for child if concerned. / YOUTH, HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH: A trio of University of Oregon researchers say if you want to support the health and wellness of kids, stop focusing on their weight. Nichole Kelly, Elizabeth Budd, and Nicole Giuliani study health behaviors and say our society is so obsessed with weight we don't spend enough time thinking and talking instead about healthy behavior. They say it's harder for some people to lose weight and they often gain it back. Many describe that process as stressful and exhausting. And the U-of-O researchers say focusing on a child's or teen's weight can contribute to bullying, teasing, and discrimination. They say anywhere from one-quarter to one-half of youth report experiencing teasing or bullying about their body size—experiences that are linked to eating disorders, depression, poor academic performance, and poor health. Instead, the three encourage parents, teachers and medical providers to change how they talk about body image with their kids. Use the words "weight" and "body mass" instead of "fat," "obese," and "overweight." Be supportive of physical activity, good eating habits, provide emotional support and encourage the same from friends and family. Regular physical activity, for example, improves mood and lowers risk for heart disease and type 2 diabetes, even in the absence of weight loss. That's not just for youth,

but for everyone in the family. And just like adults, kids enjoy activities more when they have a say in the activity. So let them choose whenever possible. There are additional physical and mental health benefits if these activities take place outdoors. / TRANSPORTATION, FINANCES: Yes, you are paying more locally at the gas pump. This morning, AAA—the automobile club—reports that Oregon's average price for a gallon of regular fuel stands at \$3.78 per gallon. It's averaging \$3.81 here in Lane County. That is up a penny from last week and seven cents per gallon from one month ago. This time last year, regular gasoline prices were \$1.40 cheaper—with an average price in Lane County of \$2.41. According to the Lundberg Survey, the average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline spiked 13 cents over the past two weeks, to \$3.44 per gallon. / SAFETY: Have you seen him? The Lane County Sheriff's Office is assisting Polk County in a missing persons investigation, after the man's vehicle was located in a parking lot last week in the South Jetty Staging Area south of Florence. They say Guy Vernon Knight of Dallas, Oregon, was last seen more than a week ago—on the morning of Friday, October 15th—driving his two-door yellow Jeep Wrangler with oversized tires and soft top. Last Monday, October 18, the unoccupied vehicle was spotted in the parking lot on the South Jetty, which is popular with those playing at the Oregon Dunes. The vehicle was returned to his family, but search teams found no sign of Knight. Relatives are concerned because they say Knight is diabetic and has some underlying heart conditions which require medications. Without them, he might be experiencing other health issues. Investigators are asking you contact them if you have any leads in the case or saw his vehicle between Oct. 15, when he left his home, and Oct. 18, when his unoccupied Jeep was located. Call the Polk County Sheriff's Office at 503-623-9251 and ask for Deputy Knudson or contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4150 opt. 1. /

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SUBJECT
DISCUSSED [DISASTERS, SAFETY, WILDFIRES, WEATHER: The rainy season has returned. But after two summers of devastating wildfires, officials with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management are urging you to plan ahead. Officials say much of the state is facing an increased risk of flooding, landslides and debris flows.](#) That includes people who live in areas impacted by wildfires, along with everyone who travels into and through those zones. Emergency planners are urging everyone to sign up for emergency alerts at <https://oralert.gov/> which can help provide warnings about flooding, landslides and debris flows. And since some problems happen quickly, you're encouraged to use caution and plan ahead. Wildfires dramatically change the landscape and ground conditions, which can lead to a higher risk of flooding. Natural, unburned vegetation and soil act as a sponge during a heavy rains. But after an intense wildfire, burned vegetation and charred soil form a water repellent layer, blocking water absorption. As a result, properties located below or downstream of the burn areas are at an increased risk for flooding and debris flows. Even areas not traditionally flood-prone are at risk of flooding for up to several years after a wildfire. The impacts of wildfires are often felt for years after the flames are out. Officials with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management remind you that flash floods and debris flows can happen quickly and with little to no warning. They encourage residents and visitors to leave if they are told to evacuate or you feel it is unsafe to remain in your home or other location. Have an evacuation route planned that is least likely to be impacted by flash flooding and debris flow and stay informed by signing up for emergency alerts and monitoring local media. Officials also recommend developing an emergency plan for floods and other hazards. That includes building and maintaining emergency kits for home, work and vehicles. When a disaster occurs, officials say first responders might not be able to reach everyone within hours or even days. Plan on being self-sufficient for at least two weeks following any type of disaster. The "2 Weeks Ready" preparedness program offers several resources. The U.S. Geological Survey provides maps showing the likelihood of debris flow in different areas around specific wildfires. Go to https://landslides.usgs.gov/hazards/postfire_debrisflow/ to see it. The recent atmospheric rivers affecting the Pacific Northwest have proven the rainy season is already underway, and recent data from the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration shows a high possibility of more La Niña-related events continuing throughout this fall and winter. Floods are the most common and expensive natural disaster in the U.S. Just an inch of water in an average-sized home can cause more than \$25,000 in damage. Most homeowners' and renters' insurance policies do not cover flood damage. Flood insurance is a separate policy that protects homes and belongings from floodwater damage so residents can recover after a storm. Policies typically take 30 days to go into effect, so it is important for residents to plan in advance. For more information about flood risk and mitigation, visit [Ready.gov/floods](https://ready.gov/floods) For information on landslides and debris flow, visit [Ready.gov/landslides-debris-flow](https://ready.gov/landslides-debris-flow) For information on flood insurance, visit [Fema.gov/flood-insurance](https://fema.gov/flood-insurance) ; If you're seeing smoke when you drive through Oregon's forest roads and highways, it might be a planned burn. Prescribed burns are underway across the state this fall and winter to eliminate woody fuels that build up after forest thinning and timber harvests. More than a million acres burned in the Labor Day wildfires of 2020 in Oregon, with more than 800,000 more acres this year. Much of that was in prime forestlands. Landowners are working to salvage their investments by harvesting whatever dead or dying trees are large enough and not badly burned enough to still be marketable. In some cases, the harvest volume exceeds the average annual harvest by a wide margin. This results in a larger amount of "slash" or unmarketable felled snags needing to be burned to clear land for replanting and to reduce wildfire risk. Trained professionals monitor the controlled burns to ensure that fires are lit when fire danger is low and weather conditions are favorable for protecting nearby communities from smoke. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and partner agencies also monitor smoke levels and air quality across the state. / **TRANSPORTATION SAFETY:** All this week, bus passengers and community members can pick up a free pedestrian light from a Lane Transit District bus operator or pick one up at the LTD Customer Service Center at 1080 Willamette Street, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clip-on Bike lights are also available at the Customer Service Center. Pedestrian and clip-on bike lights are only available while supplies last. / **HEALTH, PANDEMIC:** The U.S. is another step closer to expanding COVID-19 vaccinations for millions more children. A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel yesterday endorsed kid-size doses of Pfizer's shots for 5- to 11-year-olds, which Pfizer officials say provides strong protection against the coronavirus and symptomatic infection. While children are far less likely than older people to get severe COVID-19, ultimately many panelists decided it's important to give parents the choice to protect their youngsters — especially those at high risk of illness or who live in places where other precautions, like masks in schools, aren't being used. FDA leadership is expected to make a final decision within days. Assuming it signs off, officials with the CDC next week decide whether to recommend the vaccine doses for those youngsters. The Pfizer doses for those ages 5 to 11 would be one-third of the amount given to teens and adults. The vaccines would arrive in special orange-capped vials to indicate they are for younger children. Should parents decide to have their 5- to 11-year-olds vaccinated, more than 25,000 pediatricians and other primary care providers have signed up so far to offer vaccination, which will also be available at pharmacies and other locations. Many parents are supportive of vaccination for their younger children, saying it could help them feel safer about sending them to school and even help lift school

quarantines. They say vaccine doses for youngsters also would clear the way for safer sleepovers and other normal childhood activities. Pfizer officials say that among the more than 2,200 elementary schoolchildren in their study group, those who received their two doses three weeks apart developed virus-fighting antibodies at levels just as strong as teens and young adults who received the full-strength vaccines. Moderna also is studying its vaccine in young children, and Pfizer has additional studies underway in those younger than 5. The highly contagious delta variant caused an alarming rise in pediatric infections. In the 5- to 11-year-old age group, there have been more than 8,300 reported hospitalizations. Health officials say about one third of those patients wound up in intensive-care units and close to 100 youngsters have died. ; Lane County Public Health again today is offering COVID-19 boost doses of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines for those who qualify. The clinics began offering Pfizer doses a few weeks ago. You may make an appointment online or drop by. There are also drive-up clinics available this week. The clinics offer Moderna boost doses for everyone six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older and those age 18 to 64 who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus. A similar approval came last month for those who received the Pfizer vaccine. Johnson & Johnson boost doses for anyone 18 and older who are at least two months past their initial vaccination. You may choose any vaccine you wish for your boost dose. ; Lane County Public Health this week is offering drive-through vaccination clinics for those who have mobility needs or difficulty navigating large indoor spaces. The drive-through clinic is taking place in the parking lot of the Lane Events Center, off West 13th Avenue in Eugene. You may schedule an appointment at the Lane County Public Health COVID-19 vaccination website. The drive-through clinic is operating between noon and 2:00 p.m. today and tomorrow, and from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday. This month's drive-through clinics is considerably smaller than what people might recall from earlier this spring at Autzen Stadium or the Fairgrounds. There will only be 2-3 lanes since many vaccination clinics are taking place at indoor public health venues and at pharmacies and through health care providers. ; Four more Lane County residents have died from complications of COVID-19. Officials say that pushes our local pandemic death toll above 300—to 303. The four were among the 23 additional COVID-19 deaths reported yesterday to the Oregon Health Authority. The Lane County residents ranged in age from 67 to 86. The Oregon Health Authority yesterday also received reports of more than 1,500 (1,557) new coronavirus cases. Lane County Public Health was notified of 142 new infections. Fifty-two local patients remain hospitalized with 11 in intensive care units. Of those, four are on ventilators. / CRIME: A 36-year-old man was arrested late Monday morning at a River Road-area boat landing after resisting arrest and punching a Lane County Sheriff's Deputy in the face. Officials say the deputy had minor injuries but was able to complete his shift. Investigators say it came after a deputy spotted Nicholas Christopher Jenkins at the Whitely Boat Landing. Investigators say Jenkins was standing near a parked black Nissan Altima that had been previously reported as stolen. The deputy recognized Jenkins from previous law enforcement contacts. Deputies said they were able to establish reasonable suspicion that Jenkins was involved with the stolen vehicle. They made contact with him but as they attempted to detain him, they say Jenkins punched one of the deputies in the face, striking the deputy near

his eye. Deputies used a Taser on Jenkins to take him into custody. They say they found methamphetamine paraphernalia in his Jenkins' pocket. ; Up in Linn County, deputies this week served a search warrant at a Scio residential property after receiving complaints of severe animal neglect. They say they found 14 deceased animals, including cows, chickens, and a dog. They seized the six surviving cows and two dogs which were severely emaciated but said one of the cows did not survive the night. Linn County Sheriff's deputies arrested the animals' owner, 66-year-old Lynette McConnell, and charged her with 20 counts of First-Degree Animal Neglect. / LEGAL, GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENT: The Register-Guard is reporting that opponents of a controversial gravel quarry proposed for a butte outside Oakridge won another victory Tuesday. Members of the Lane County Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 to deny an application to dig a quarry at the site of the old Hazeldell Quarry on what now is known as TV Butte. Reporter Adam Duvernay writes that most Oakridge residents have opposed the quarry plans since they were introduced in 2015. On two previous occasions, the commission members approved the quarry, but opponents raised environmental issues with the state. But The Register-Guard reports the battle might not be over: Crown Properties, which owns the butte, may appeal to the Oregon Land use Board of Appeals. The application could also be restarted to further adjust the quarry plan and take into account concerns about wildlife, particularly a herd of elk known to visit the butte. County commissioners Tuesday first voted again on whether the record should be re-opened so it can later accept the incomplete Habitat Management and Mitigation Plan that Crown Properties is working on with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. But commissioners voted 3-2 against re-opening the public record on the issue. Jay Bozievich, District 1, and Pat Farr, District 4, both voted Tuesday to re-open the record to accept the plan. / COMMUNITY, EVENTS, SAFETY, ANIMALS: Getting ready for the return of in-person Halloween? Help your pets prepare, too. Here are some tips from the Greenhill Humane Society: Before you pull out those Halloween decorations and candy, keep in mind the dangers certain common holiday traditions pose to pets. A day filled with candy, parties and scary costumes can be a tough day for pets. Stash candy safely away. Several holiday favorites are toxic to pets. Some kids love to keep their treats all over the house. If your pet ingests candy, especially chocolate, contact your veterinarian right away. Make sure pet costumes are the right fit. Check to make sure the costume does not limit their ability to walk, breathe, bark, or meow. Any extra fabric may cause a choking hazard if chewed on. Wearing costumes can also increase your dog's feeling of discomfort and make them more stressed and anxious. If your pet looks uncomfortable or stressed while wearing the costume, it's best to keep them in their birthday suit for the night. Watch out for the decorative plants and candles. Curious pets may knock over a lit jack-o-lantern or candle and start a fire or get burned. It's better to keep these decorations away from pets, especially corn cobs which can be a choking hazard to dogs. Don't leave glow sticks out. Pets (especially cats) tend to love these and often bite into it leaving a bitter taste in their mouth and can cause severe drooling. Keep your pets in a safe place indoors, including outdoor cats. Halloween can be stressful for dogs and cats due to strange masks and noises. Keep your pets in a closed room where they can relax away from the front door. This will not only help them remain calm, but also prevent them from darting out the door. If your animals are outside, make sure

they are properly secured, have collars, tags and are microchipped. ; If you have lost or found a pet, immediately contact your local animal control office. City of Creswell: 541-895-2531; Cottage Grove - Humane Society of Cottage Grove: 541-942-3130; Eugene - Eugene Animal Services: 541-687-4060; Junction City Police Dept.: 541-998-1245; Springfield Animal Control / Police Dept.: 344 A Street: 541-726-3634; Unincorporated Lane County - Lane County Animal Services: 541-682-3645; Veneta - Veneta Animal Control/City Hall: 88184 8th street: 541-935-2191. To learn more about Greenhill Humane Society and see tips on keeping your pets safe this Halloween, visit www.green-hill.org / SPORTS: The NCAA has fallen short of upholding its commitment to gender equity, spending more on male athletes on average than female ones. That's according to a second report by a law firm, which released its 153-page report Tuesday night. The report includes a series of recommendations to improve the gap among all sports tournaments, going beyond the first set of recommendations regarding men's and women's basketball tournaments. Spending per Division I and national championship participants, excluding basketball, was about \$1,700 less for women than men. / POLITICS, ELECTIONS: Former New York Times reporter and columnist Nicholas Kristof has announced he is running for governor of Oregon, the state where he grew up on a rural farm. Kristof left the newspaper earlier this month and has frequently written about the economic and social problems of the people he grew up with in Oregon as the region's manufacturing and timber economy collapsed. Kristof said he will run as a Democrat in the 2022 race. The political newcomer faces a crowded Democratic field. Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek and state Treasurer Tobias Read are among candidates who have already said they are running. /

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DATE OF
BROADCAST 10/28/21

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

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED

HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health today is offering COVID-19 boost doses of the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines for those who qualify. You may make an appointment online or drop by. The clinics offer Moderna and Pfizer boost doses for everyone six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older and those age 18 to 64 who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus. Johnson & Johnson boost doses for anyone 18 and older who are at least two months past their initial vaccination. You may choose any vaccine you wish for your boost dose. The vaccines also are widely available through local healthcare providers, pharmacies, and community clinics. ; Lane County Public Health yesterday was notified of 85 new COVID-19 infections but no new deaths. There were 1,360 new coronavirus infections reported to the Oregon Health Authority and 16 new deaths. OHA officials say the past week saw a decrease in COVID cases and deaths, but a slight increase in statewide hospitalizations. / ECONOMY, LOW-INCOME, PANDEMIC: As the pandemic continues, many Oregonians are struggling to feed their families. State and federal officials say that lower-income Oregonians who receive what are known as SNAP benefits will receive another emergency allotment in November. SNAP stands for "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," once known as "food stamps." Since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020, the federal government has approved emergency allotments monthly. In November, approximately 398,400 SNAP households will receive approximately \$63 million in extra food benefits in addition to their regular SNAP benefits. The emergency food benefits will be available on November 11 for current SNAP households. New SNAP households will receive the emergency allotments either on November 30 or December 2. SNAP recipients do not have to take any action to receive these benefits; they will be issued directly on their EBT cards. Individuals and families who are experiencing income disruptions and struggling to make ends meet are encouraged to apply for SNAP benefits to help put food on the table. In our state, the federal SNAP program is administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services, providing food assistance to roughly one million eligible, low-income families and individuals, including many older adults and people with disabilities. / LOW-INCOME, UTILITIES: Many Americans' heating bills are climbing this fall and winter amid a spike in oil and natural gas

prices. U.S. prices of natural gas are about three times higher than at this point in 2020. Prices have reached a 13-year high, according to the International Energy Agency, an organization that advises governments on energy policy. Yesterday, natural gas providers in Oregon released their new rate structure for customers for the year ahead. The hikes were recently approved by the Public Utility Commission. Starting November 1, Oregon residential customers of NW Natural can expect rates that are about \$7.50 more a month for those using an average of 54 therms per month. Rates for small-commercial customers in Oregon will be about \$36.21 more a month for customers using an average of 242 therms per month. At the same time, NW Natural's sales customers could see a one-time bill credit in February, an approximately \$35 credit on the average residential customer's bill and an approximately \$165 credit on the average small-commercial customer's bill. It's the result of pipeline and storage efficiency improvements.

/ ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT: Oregon's pandemic-related economic recovery remains slow. Twenty months past the first round of shutdowns, Lane County still has only added back about seven of every ten jobs lost. Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.7 percent last month. But Lane County's jobless rate stood half-a-point higher, at 5.2 percent, with close to 9,500 local workers (9,480) on the jobless rolls. State employment analyst Gail Krumenauer says that includes the hard-hit Leisure and Hospitality sector, which includes hotels, motels, restaurants, conference and event planning, and other businesses related to travel and tourism. Travel and Tourism was a \$1 (b) billion-dollar industry in Lane County in 2019. But as the pandemic recession took hold, that local spending fell by close to 50 percent (49.7 percent). Across all of Oregon and every employment sector, the hiring crunch has aggravated the situation. Oregon employers posted a record 107,000 job vacancies between July and September. Employers in a state survey said four of every five vacancies were hard to fill. They cited a lack of qualified applicants. State analysts say the number of Oregon workers quitting their jobs also grew over the summer. Many workers continue to remain at home, despite the end of expanded unemployment benefits. Some say they are staying on the sidelines because of health concerns or childcare issues. Others have skills that don't quite match available positions. Still others are leaving the workforce temporarily or even permanently.

/ CRIME: Springfield Police say they arrested three wanted felons early yesterday morning after the trio fled an attempted traffic stop. An officer said the driver of a grey Nissan Altima had committed multiple traffic violations. The vehicle and its occupants fled from near 28th and Olympic Streets toward 42nd Street and then out toward Camp Creek Road. Officers broke off the pursuit amid safety concerns. But they later located the vehicle and its occupants hiding near East of Eden Drive. When officers tried to perform a high-risk traffic stop, they say the driver sped off again and also attempted to ram police officers and their vehicles. The driver crashed the car a short time later and fled on foot while the two passengers remained. All three suspects were eventually arrested. Officers say they recovered a loaded 9 mm handgun from the vehicle along with methamphetamine and heroin paraphernalia. Officers also recovered an additional stolen firearm connected to the driver. The driver was identified as 23-year-old Andrew Bushnell. He had warrants for his arrest through Eugene Municipal Court for Failure to Appear-DUI and through the State Police for Probation Violation regarding a Felon in Possession of Firearm charge. Bushnell

was also lodged on new charges of Elude by vehicle, Elude by foot, resisting arrest, reckless driving, reckless endangering, Felon in Possession of a Firearm x2, Theft I, and DUII regarding this incident. The two passengers were identified as 30-year-old Ryan Nguyen and 25-year-old Brandon Duncan, both of whom had warrants for their arrests. Nguyen had warrants out of Springfield Municipal Court for Failure to Appear-DUII, Lane County Circuit Court for Failure to Comply-ID theft, and Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle. Duncan had warrants out of the Lane County Circuit Court for Failure to Appear-Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle x2. All three were lodged at the Lane County Jail. ; Eugene Police say they've arrested a man who broke into a family's residence while they were asleep inside and began breaking items. It happened early Monday morning. Six people were sleeping in the home in the 2400 block of Agate Street when they told investigators they awakened to the sound of a man yelling and destroying their property. The residents locked themselves in a separate part of the house, where they still could hear the suspect breaking things. Police arrived and said they spotted the suspect, 31-year-old Benjamin Mathew Webber, inside the family room yelling and throwing items. They say Webber moved to a bedroom and moments later a window shattered, and a piece of furniture flew out as Webber continued to throw items out of the window and into the yard. Officers were able to subdue him and take him into custody. He was evaluated by medics before being taken to the Lane County Jail. / SAFETY: Searchers with the Lane County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team have located the body of a missing Polk County man, 59-year-old Guy Vernon Knight. Knight was reported missing by family members after he was last seen at his residence in Dallas, Oregon, on October 15. They were concerned because he had diabetes and heart issues and relies on medication. Knight's vehicle had been located last week in the parking lot of the South Jetty staging area south of Florence. His body was spotted yesterday when crews used a drone to survey a nearby wilderness area that was a way away from the main roadway. While the investigation continues, officials say at this point there are no indications that Knight was the victim of a crime or other foul play. They thank everyone for their tips in the case. / BUSINESS, RECREATION: An ancient native myth becomes a reality in a blighted Oregon town in director and co-writer Scott Cooper's moody horror "Antlers." Keri Russell stars as a middle school teacher who has reluctantly come back to her hometown to live with her brother, played by Jesse Plemons, after their abusive father dies. But she has little time to focus on her own trauma when she notices a kid in her class who is clearly starving and neglected. The film might be set in a fictional Oregon town, but it was filmed in British Columbia. The movie was originally set for release in April of last year but was delayed twice because of the pandemic. AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr writes that the film is a messy jumble of depressing metaphors that doesn't quite work. Rated R, "Antlers" opens in theaters Friday. / TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION, COMMUNITY, BIPOC: A nice unveiling ceremony takes place this afternoon at Eugene's Airport, to showcase a new wall mural featuring the artwork that adorns the state's newest vehicle license plate. Similar murals are being showcased in the passenger terminals at Portland, Medford, and Redmond's airports. The vibrant montage was designed by Eugene artist Liza Burns. It features a painting that represents Oregon's landscape, including its mountains and rivers. Overlaid across the image are 127 symbols representing the state's cultural and natural heritage, from

tribal baskets to a pint of beer, musical instruments, Oregon wildlife, and more. The artwork is called Celebrate Oregon! and recognizes the Oregon Cultural Trust's 20th Anniversary. The 33-year-old Burns says she worked with a team of cultural and heritage experts to finalize the design. The new license plates went on sale October 1 on the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles website or at DMV field offices and at car dealerships across the state. The price includes a donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust, which funds programs and activities across the state. /

PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTING FORM

DATE OF
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NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED YOUTH, FAMILY, EVENTS, COMMUNITY, SAFETY, HEALTH: Witches and warlocks, ghosts and ghouls can breathe a little easier this Halloween: Coronavirus cases in the U.S. are on the decline, and trick-or-treaters can feel safer collecting candy. And while a new poll indicates Halloween participation is rebounding but still short of pre-pandemic levels, an industry trade group says people who are celebrating are driving record-level spooky spending this year. Though the pandemic remains a concern, top health officials are largely giving outside activities like trick-or-treating the thumbs up. Experts advise people to keep sanitizer and masks handy and continue to steer clear of crowded, poorly ventilated spaces, however. ; The U.S. Census Bureau says there are 73.1 million potential trick-or-treaters in America. Those are kids and teens under age 18. If every home offered Halloween candy to trick-or-treaters, there are 57.4 million potential stops. ; All sorts of safety reminders as many families return to in-person Halloween trick-or-treating this weekend. Motorists: drive extra-cautiously on Halloween evening. Excited youngsters might forget some of their safety rules and dart out in front of cars. Residents: Make sure your doorstep and yard are well-lighted. Remove any obstacles that might be tripped hazards and lead to someone getting hurt. Use small flashlights or light sticks in place of candles in Jack- O'-Lanterns. Keep matches, lighters, and open flames away from children's reach. Do not place candles on porches, in walkways, or near combustible materials. A fire could start, or children's clothing could ignite and burn. Keep all decorations away from light bulbs and open flames. Pets and trick-or-treaters are safer, and the pets are less stressed, if the two are kept separated. If you live with a dog, keep it inside the house and away from the entryway during trick-or-treating time. Don't want trick-or-treaters, or ran out of candy? Turn off your lights and remove Halloween decorations from your porch to send the proper signals. Parents and Children: Cross only at corners—never between parked cars—and always remove your masks before crossing streets. Watch for cars that may be turning into or backing out of driveways. Walk facing the oncoming traffic if there is no sidewalk. Keep safety in mind when designing or selecting costumes. They should be flame-resistant, reflective, and safe. Shoes should be functional, to avoid falls (sneakers, yes; high heels, no); capes should break away, to prevent choking. Swords or knives should be made of flexible materials to avoid

accidental or intentional injuries. The safest option is to take kids trick-or-treating only in low-traffic neighborhoods where you know the residents or visit organized events. Have a trusted adult accompany children on their trick-or-treating rounds. For older kids, parents should know the route they plan to take and set a time limit for returning home (make sure they carry a watch or cellphone). Parents: Let your children know that vandalism and bullying is not acceptable. The Halloween holiday does not give kids permission to vandalize neighbors' properties with eggs, toilet paper or spray paint; to bully, harass or intimidate smaller children; or to engage in other actions that could hurt someone, damage property or start a fire. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Halloween is a popular weekend for adult parties. But that also increases the risk of driving under the influence of intoxicants such as alcohol and drugs. Lane County Government is asking drivers to be especially safe and cautious this weekend, particularly on roadways that have seen more than their share of traffic accidents and fatalities. Among them: London Road south of Cottage Grove. Officials say more people have been killed or seriously injured on London Road than most other roads in Oregon. London Road was recently designated as Lane County's first safety corridor. That means doubled traffic fines and the addition of centerline rumble strips and enhanced pavement markings. Additional guardrails and curve warning signs will be installed in summer 2023. The designation includes the first seven miles of London Road, from Latham Road to Cottage Grove Reservoir Road. Lane County Sheriff's officials say many of the deadly crashes on London Road involved drugs, alcohol, or both. They say if you plan to drive this weekend, don't drink or do drugs. Designate a sober driver in advance. And remember: Someone who is affected by alcohol or drugs should not be making the decisions about driving; planning ahead is key. Passengers: Never ride with an impaired driver. If you think a driver may be impaired, do not get in the car. If you have a friend who is about to drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs, take the keys away and arrange to get them home safely. Don't worry about offending someone — they'll thank you later. If you see an impaired driver on the road, call 9-1-1. In Lane County, between 2015 and 2019, there were 316 total drug involved crashes. In Oregon, in 2019, cannabis was the leading drug identified in drivers killed in crashes. It is illegal to drive impaired -- no exceptions. Cannabis can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance, and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane. And there are financial impacts: On average, a DUI can set you back \$10,000 in attorney's fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, and more. Drive under the influence of any impairing substance and you could face jail time. Drug-impaired driving also could cause you to lose your driver's license and your vehicle. / TRANSPORTATION, GOVERNMENT, PANDEMIC: If you're an Oregon resident and you need to renew an expired vehicle registration, driver's license, or ID card, the Department of Motor Vehicles "grace period" that went into place during the early days of the pandemic is ending on December 31. During the past year-and-a-half, local DMV offices were closed to in-person visits and the online backlog was huge. State officials allowed an extension for those with plates expiring during that time and encouraged law enforcement officers to exercise discretion for recently expired licenses and registrations. But as reopening continues and the DMV clears more of its backlog, officials say it's time for drivers to get caught up, too. With the Oregon law enforcement moratorium for expired vehicle registration, driver

licenses and ID cards ending on Dec. 31, you're encouraged to renew sooner rather than later to avoid the expected year-end rush. Starting next month, the Department of Motor Vehicles will mail renewal reminders to about 300,000 Oregon residents who have expired vehicle registrations. This is in addition to the regular reminder the DMV sends a few weeks before your vehicle's tags expire. But DMV will NOT send a second reminder for expired licenses, permits and ID cards, so please check your card to make sure it is still valid. Also, if you receive a reminder in the mail that doesn't seem to apply to you, ask yourself: Did you sell your car? If you didn't notify DMV, the agency might still show you as the owner. Protect yourself from parking tickets and towing charges: go on-line and notify the Oregon DMV of the sale. And while you're handling renewals, consider upgrading to Real ID. Starting in May 2023, you will need a federally acceptable form of identification to fly—most common are a passport or the Real ID version of a DMV credential. Don't wait until 2023, when the rush will be on. Make sure you bring the documents you need to qualify for Real ID by creating a personalized checklist at [Oregon.gov/RealID](https://www.Oregon.gov/RealID) DMV locations are open online and in person with or without appointment. You also may visit www.OregonDMV.com for a complete list of services available online as well as to schedule an in-person appointment for some services. And you also may download forms and complete many transactions by mail including vehicle title transfers. Find detailed instructions at www.OregonDMV.com / HEALTH, COMMUNITY, CHARITY: Another step toward opening a new community health clinic to serve southern Lane and northern Douglas counties. The PacificSource Foundation for Health Improvement, PacificSource, and Pacific Health Associates have collectively approved a grant of \$275,000 to help support the opening of a new Federally Qualified Health Center set to open this time next year. The health center will be located in the Lane Community College (LCC) building in Cottage Grove. The grant will help pay for renovations and the purchase of medical equipment. The planned clinic's primary focus is providing local students with access to primary care and dental services. It will also function as a health and dental care training site for South Lane School District and LCC students. South Lane County is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area for primary and dental care, and the area to be served includes two of Oregon's highest need primary care service areas as identified by the Office of Rural Health. The federally qualified health center will employ more than 22 people when it is fully staffed and open in the Fall of 2022. The clinic has been part of a community planning effort for a decade. Community partners working collaboratively to plan and implement this project include Community Health Centers of Lane County (CHCLC); Cottage Grove Be Your Best Committee; LCC; PeaceHealth; South Lane Mental Health; and the South Lane School District. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health continues to hold clinics offering COVID-19 boost doses of the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines for those who qualify. You may make an appointment online or drop by. The clinics offer: Moderna and Pfizer boost doses for everyone six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older and those age 18 to 64 who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus; Johnson & Johnson boost doses for anyone 18 and older who are at least two months past their initial vaccination. You may choose any vaccine you wish for your boost dose. Lane County Public Health vaccination clinic times and locations: Today (Fri., Oct. 29): Lane Events

Center: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Lane Events Center drive-thru clinic: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (parking lot); Willamette High School: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, October 30: Lane Events Center: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Siuslaw Middle School: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The vaccines also are widely available through local healthcare providers, pharmacies, and community clinics. ; Lane County Public Health yesterday was notified of 80 new COVID-19 infections and one new death. That raises our pandemic death toll to 304. There were 1,116 new coronavirus infections reported to the Oregon Health Authority and 24 new deaths. OHA officials say the past week saw a decrease in COVID cases and deaths, but a slight increase in statewide hospitalizations. / SPORTS, PANDEMIC: The Oregon Women's Basketball team opened its exhibition season with a 93-26 win last night over Saint Martin's at Eugene's Matthew Knight Arena. The No. 10 Ducks were playing in front of fans at home for the first time since March 1, 2020, a span of 606 days. Oregon has six returning members from last year's "Sweet 16" team. Last night was notable as fans celebrated the return visit of the "Big Four"—four players who led the Ducks during their 2019-2020 season. It was a standing ovation for Sabrina Ionescu, Ruthy Hebard, Satou Sabally, and Mignon Moore. Ionescu, Hebard, and Sabally are playing in the WNBA. Moore is marketing her branded clothing line. / SPORTS: The No. 7 Oregon Ducks return home this Saturday to host Colorado in Autzen Stadium. The game is scheduled for a 12:35 p.m. kickoff on FOX. Fans are encouraged to "Wear Yellow" to the game. This is Homecoming Week at the University of Oregon. The Oregon State Beavers hit the road this weekend for a matchup at California. Game time is 4:00 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. It's an important contest because if the Beavs win, they become bowl eligible. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY, PANDEMIC: The U.S. government is reporting that the number of traffic deaths in the first half of 2021 hit 20,160, the highest first-half total since 2006. The estimated number was 18.4 percent higher than the first half of last year. That percentage increase was the biggest six-month increase since the department began recording fatal crash data since 1975. Officials call the spike an unacceptable and completely preventable crisis. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is developing an updated strategy to save lives on the roads. / ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, FINANCES: Wages and salaries jumped in the three months ending in September by the most on records that date back 20 years as companies are forced to offer higher pay to fill a near-record number of available jobs. The Labor Department said that pay increased 1.5 percent in the third quarter. That's up sharply from 0.9 percent in the previous quarter. The value of benefits rose 0.9 percent in the July-September quarter, more than double the preceding three months. The figures demonstrate that workers are gaining greater leverage in the job market and are able to command higher pay, more benefits, and other perks like flexible work hours. ; American consumers slowed their spending to a gain of just 0.6 percent in September, a cautionary sign for an economy that remains in the grip of a pandemic and a prolonged bout of high inflation. At the same time, a key inflation barometer that is closely followed by the Federal Reserve surged 4.4 percent last month from a year earlier — the fastest such increase in three decades. Sharply rising prices, in part a result of supply shortages, have imposed a growing burden on American households. For months, annual inflation has remained far above the modest annual rates of 2 percent or less that prevailed before the pandemic recession. ; The number of Americans applying for

unemployment benefits fell to a pandemic low last week, another sign that the job market and economy continue to recover from last year's coronavirus recession. Jobless claims dropped by 10,000 to 281,000, lowest since mid-March 2020, the Labor Department said Thursday. Since topping 900,000 in early January, weekly applications have steadily dropped, moving ever closer to pre-pandemic levels just above 200,000. In all, 2.2 million people were collecting unemployment checks the week of Oct. 16, down from 7.7 million a year earlier. /

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DATE OF
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TIME OF
BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KGNU-FM

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED CLIMATE, WEATHER, BUSINESS, RECREATION: Ski resorts are expecting a more normal season on the slopes this winter with many virus restrictions lifted. But skiers and snowboarders are advised to keep a mask in their pocket in case they're required to wear one inside lodges and restaurants. Any virus-related protocols at resorts will vary depending on where they are and the local health rules in place. What is not wavering is the anticipation for a season like years past, pre-pandemic. The National Ski Areas Association does not expect to see limited capacity on chairlifts, restrictions on who people can ride with, and far fewer mask requirements outdoors. Here in the Northwest, a La Niña weather pattern is forecast, which typically makes for cooler temperatures and above-average precipitation — meaning the potential for a big snow season. One National Weather Service hydrologist says a moderate La Niña is predicted for the coming winter, but it will likely fade away fairly quickly with the onset of spring. Still, some California resorts received plenty of snow a couple of weeks ago and opened early for the season for the first time in years. Oregon ski resort operators hope they might see a similar snowfall in the coming weeks. / SPORTS: The Oregon Ducks are Number 7 in the national polls after defeating Colorado over the weekend at Autzen Stadium, 52-29. Next up for the Ducks: A road trip Saturday to Seattle to take on the Washington Huskies. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on ABC (KEZI-TV). The Oregon State Beavers hope to rebound from their weekend loss to Cal, 39-25, when they travel on Saturday to Boulder to meet Colorado. The game is at 4 p.m. and is being carried by the Pac-12 Networks. The Beavs need one more win to become bowl-eligible. / CRIME: Police say a woman escaped an attempted carjacking in Springfield on Saturday night. The suspect was arrested later in the evening after calls about similar instances were made to Eugene Police and the Lane County Sheriff's Office. Springfield Police credit the woman in the first case for acting quickly and preventing the suspect from entering her car. She told investigators that shortly before 8 p.m. Saturday, a man jumped in front of her vehicle on West Centennial Boulevard near Rainbow Drive and pointed what she thought was a firearm at her. He ordered her to exit the car so he could steal it. But even though it was dark outside, the woman began to realize that the suspect was imitating a gun and she drove away. She provided a description, and police began searching the area. That's when

additional calls began coming in to our local 911 center about similar events in Eugene and in Lane County's jurisdiction just off Centennial Boulevard. In each instance, the suspect description was similar to that in the Springfield case. Police say they located the man, identified as 28-year-old Jonothan Andrew McDaniel, near Anderson Lane and took him into custody lodging him in Springfield's jail. Investigators say McDaniel was high on methamphetamine when he was arrested. ; Eugene Police say they're working to locate an armed suspect involved in multiple incidents Friday night near East 18th Avenue and Emerald Streets. They say the first report came in around 10:30 p.m. Friday. The male victim said he was approached by an unknown man outside a residence on East 18th Avenue. The victim said the man held a handgun and directed him out of his vehicle. But the suspect was unable to enter the vehicle and fled on foot. A bit later, Eugene Police received a report that a man matching the suspect's description stole a cellphone from another male victim near East 18th Avenue and Emerald Street. Eugene Police and University of Oregon Police officers searched the area but were unsuccessful in locating the suspect. He is described as a darker-skinned White male in his mid-30s with an average build, standing about five-foot-ten to six feet in height. The suspect was seen wearing a blue-plaid jacket, dark blue or black pants, white shoes, and black beanie. He was last seen traveling eastbound on foot on 19th Avenue. Have any leads or know of any similar incidents? Eugene Police would like to hear from you. Call 541-682-5111 and reference case number 21-17029. / AGRICULTURE, GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENT, LEGAL: Oregon's newest state forester is from Coos Bay and has comprehensive experience in the field, from forest production and harvest to tribal and recreation issues. Cal Mukumoto was named Friday following a unanimous vote by the Board of Forestry. Officials say Mukumoto's diverse leadership experiences include both the public and private sector. He has worked in economic development, natural resource management, biomass energy development and more. He has worked extensively with the Native American business community, serving on the boards of six Tribal enterprises. And he was onetime chair of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, vice-chair of the Oregon Board of Forestry, and as a member of the U.S. Board for the Forest Stewardship Council. Mukumoto's appointment marks the conclusion of a months-long, nationwide process to find someone with the right mix of knowledge, skills, and attributes and who was ready to take on the challenges of being the leader of a government natural resources agency. ; An agreement has been reached between timber and environmental groups to overhaul management of 10 million acres of private forestlands in Oregon. The deal, announced Saturday by Gov. Kate Brown's office, concludes more than a year of negotiations to develop a plan to boost protections for vulnerable fish and wildlife while shielding the timber industry's ability to log. Friday was the deadline for both sides to either reach consensus, abandon the process, or move the deadline. In 2020, the sides each planned a series of competing ballot measures that could have turned into a costly political fight. Environmental groups sought strict limits on spraying of aerial pesticides and improved protection for forest waters. Meanwhile, the timber industry sought compensation for private landowners when state regulations limited their ability to log. Brown instead pushed for the two sides to negotiate. Representatives from the timber industry and environmental groups were charged with setting terms to pursue a statewide habitat conservation plan to safeguard

fish, wildlife and water quality. A habitat conservation plan, or HCP, is a tool that allows practices like logging or irrigation to continue while minimizing damage to wildlife habitat. Saturday's deal sets in motion what could be a lengthy, possibly years-long process to craft, approve and adopt an HCP into law and begin implementation. The next step will be to introduce a bill in the Oregon Legislature to make significant changes to the Forest Practices Act to protect riverbanks and streamsides, improve forest roads and allow for adaptive management of private forests. Then the state will pursue an HCP, which will require a rulemaking process overseen by the Oregon Board of Forestry. After that, state leaders can pitch the plan to federal regulators. / BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT, SAFETY: Some good news for Oregon employers who contribute to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund. Oregon is lowering the payroll tax rate for 2022. Officials say the reduction, from an average rate of 2.26 percent to an average 1.97 percent provides employers with a break while still providing adequate funding for Oregon's unemployment benefits. The money collected from state payroll taxes goes into a trust fund that is used to pay unemployment insurance benefits. Officials say Oregon's trust fund is one of the healthiest in the nation and is on track to remain solvent through the next recession. It's estimated the payroll tax reduction will save Oregon employers \$2.2 billion over the next 10 years. The department will mail individual 2022 tax rate notices to employers in two weeks, on Monday, November 15. /

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BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KGNU-FM

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED HEALTH, YOUTH, PANDEMIC: A special advisory panel to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention meets today and is expected to give its approval for kid-sized doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children between the ages of 5-11. The Food and Drug Administration gave its approval last week. Once CDC advisers make their recommendations and the agency's director signs off, health care providers, pharmacies, clinics, school districts, community-based organizations and others could begin offering the doses to families. The Biden administration is already assembling and shipping millions of the child-sized doses across the country for clinics that could begin as early as the middle of this week. Federal health officials say the U.S. has enough vaccine for all 28 million children in the 5-11 age bracket. ; Officials estimate Lane County is home to approximately 25,000 children between the ages of 5 to 11. While national surveys suggest that about one-third of parents will seek vaccinations for newly eligible children as soon as possible, the Lane County pediatric partnership has developed capacity to meet a larger demand of 40 percent—approximately 10,000 kids—within the first several weeks of eligibility. Lane County Public Health yesterday announced its schedule for Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics for Kids 5 to 11. They'll begin next week and continue at least through the end of November. For now, those clinics will be appointment-only. There will be no walk-in availability for now. Parents will be able to go online no later than Friday morning of this week on the county's COVID-19 pages to begin scheduling those appointments for their youngsters ages 5-11. ; Lane County's Public Health Officer, Dr. Patrick Luedtke (say: LUHD'-kee), says pediatric offices remain the best place to seek regular vaccinations. But he recognizes that not every parent will be able to access vaccinations that way. That's why the county is working with other providers, including pharmacies, to expand where vaccinations for children are available. These include indoor clinics at the Lane Events Center Auditorium that will ultimately have the capacity for over 400 children per day. There also are school-based clinics in partnership with Lane Education Services District and Lane County's 16 school districts that will operate in the afternoons and evenings after class. And Luedtke says there will be pediatric clinics in partnership with community-based organization partners to ensure vaccine equity. Other clinics are expected to begin later this month in Springfield, East Lane County, and West

Lane County. The Bethel Schools are expected to hold several clinics for their students throughout the month of November. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health continues to hold clinics for older children and teens and adults offering COVID-19 first and second doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and initial doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The clinics also offer booster doses of all three vaccines for those who qualify. You may make an appointment online or drop by. Those eligible for Moderna and Pfizer boost doses are: anyone who is six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older, and those age 18 to 64 who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus. Those eligible for Johnson & Johnson boost doses are: anyone 18 and older who is at least two months past their initial vaccination. You may choose any vaccine you wish for your boost dose. ; Officials with the Oregon Health Authority yesterday said they had received reports of more than 2,500 (2,569) new COVID-19 infections from the three-day Friday through Sunday period. But the agency only received five reports of additional deaths. Unfortunately, one of those was from Lane County, a 62-year-old woman who tested positive on October 14 and died from complications of the coronavirus on October 28. That puts our local death toll at 307 since the start of the pandemic. Lane County Public Health received reports of 184 new COVID-19 infections on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Forty local patients remain hospitalized this morning, nine of whom were in intensive-care unit beds. Five of those ICU patients were on ventilators. The global death toll from COVID-19 yesterday has topped 5 million. The U.S. alone has recorded more than 747,000 lives lost, more than any other nation. / YOUTH, SAFETY, GOVERNMENT: The number of Oregon children in foster care has fallen nearly 20 percent since January 2020, the biggest prolonged decline on record. The Oregonian and OregonLive reports the state had the fewest children in state care at the end of September — just 5,552 — since at least 2006, the earliest year for which the state human services agency has data. That is down from 9,745 at the start of 2006 and from a more recent 2018 peak of nearly 7,900. Child welfare leaders have worked since before the pandemic to place fewer children with foster families and in institutions by finding better ways to strengthen and support the families raising them. / MILITARY, VETERANS, EMPLOYMENT: It's a new effort by the state to offer training and employment resources to military veterans, their spouses, and other family members. Yesterday, the Oregon Employment Department and WorkSource Oregon announced their "541VETS" digital library. The online offering includes short videos, podcasts, and other digital resources. The goal is to provide veterans and their family members with the maximum level of employment and training support. 541VETS is named for the 541 area code. It is available statewide, but coordinators say it is especially designed for those outside of the Portland area, where some services otherwise are not easy to access. The online offering supplements employment services for veterans already offered through the state's local WorkSource centers. Planners hope it expands outreach to veterans with disabilities and improves follow-up efforts with all veterans. / EMPLOYMENT: Interested in a job in the technology sector but don't have the skills? The Oregon Employment Department and WorkSource Oregon have launched a pilot program to increase opportunities for you to learn the skills you need to land some of those higher-paying jobs. Oregon is one of five states participating in the "Grow With Google" effort. It launched yesterday.

The program is open both to employed and unemployed Oregon residents. To participate, you go online to the Oregon Employment Department's website and complete an iMatchSkills® profile. Then you visit your local WorkSource center—in person or virtually—to access the scholarships that will cover your training costs. The program offers four technology certifications. You may use the training program at your own pace. It can take three to six months to complete. Officials say many industries need workers with these tech skills. The certificates can help applicants stand out to prospective employers. Adalberto Rubio, a business analyst in Workforce Operations, says the starting wage for some of these jobs is an average of \$63,600 per year for entry-level roles across the fields covered by the technology certificates. Oregon is joining Washington state, Nevada, Arizona, and Connecticut in the training partnership. / **TRANSPORTATION:** It stands for Air-Hotel-Adventure or “aha!” And it's the name of a new direct airline connection that yesterday began linking Eugene to Reno and Lake Tahoe. ExpressJet Airlines' nonstop flights depart three times each week. Company officials say the connection appeals to travelers seeking to enjoy the casinos, skiing, and other attractions in the Reno-Tahoe region. Flights operate on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—departing Eugene Airport at 12:35 p.m. and arriving in Reno-Tahoe at 2 p.m. Return flights operate on the same days, departing Reno-Tahoe at 10:25 a.m. and arriving in Eugene at 11:50 a.m. Reservations may be made at www.flyaha.com and the company anticipates offering vacation packages at the website in the near future. / **EDUCATION:** I've decided one of the greatest job titles of all time is “Professor of Comic Studies.” Over at the University of Oregon, Ben Saunders has that title. He's helped curate museum exhibits about the history of comic-book art. And now, he's working with Marvel Comics on a new collaboration series with publisher Penguin Classics. The first three books published in the series will be “Black Panther,” “Captain America” and “The Amazing Spider-Man.” Saunders will serve as the series' editor. They'll focus on the real-world origins and historical creation of the characters and the careers of their creators. Among the topics Saunders wants to explore with them: how their early vision for the heroes has shifted through time into the characters of today. “Black Panther,” “Captain America” and “The Amazing Spider Man” have been leading titles for Marvel for decades. They've also spawned popular movies that have captivated millions more fans. Saunders founded the world's first undergraduate minor in comic studies at the UO in 2012. / **CRIME, WILDLIFE:** Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife troopers are seeking tips in a poaching case out of Douglas County. On Saturday, October 30, someone killed a deer off Interstate 5 south of Winston. Investigators say the deer was killed around 5 p.m. Saturday, right next to the freeway near the crest of Roberts Mountain on the east side I-5. A traffic camera shows the animal being retrieved by a man driving a newer-model burgundy or maroon GMC Sierra or similar model 4-door truck with black rims and a black step bar. The truck left the area, heading north on Interstate 5, at about 5:15 P.M. Know anything about the case? Call the OSP TIP (Turn-In-Poachers) Reward line at 1-800-452-7888 or email TIP@osp.oregon.gov. Reference case #SP21307330. The Oregon Hunters Association TIP reward offers preference points or cash rewards for information leading to an arrest or issuance of a citation for the unlawful take or possession or waste of many big game. / **SPORTS:** The Oregon Ducks are Number 7 in the national polls after defeating Colorado over the weekend at Autzen Stadium, 52-

29. Next up for the Ducks: A road trip Saturday to Seattle to take on the Washington Huskies. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on ABC (KEZI-TV). The Oregon State Beavers hope to rebound from their weekend loss to Cal, 39-25, when they travel on Saturday to Boulder to meet Colorado. The game is at 4 p.m. and is being carried by the Pac-12 Networks. The Beavs need one more win to become bowl-eligible. There are 82 bowl slots available in the FBS — for what should be a more normal postseason after several bowls last season were canceled. So far, 36 teams have secured bowl eligibility by getting to the six-win mark. /

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ISSUE OR
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DISCUSSED

SPORTS: The College Football Playoff selection committee unveiled its initial 2021 rankings on Tuesday and Oregon was a surprise No. 4 choice for the first week. The Ducks, who are No. 7 in the coaches' and sportswriters' polls and 7-1 so far this season, edged out undefeated Oklahoma, Cincinnati, and Wake Forest, and bumped highly touted Ohio State into fifth place. Oregon also finished ahead of Michigan and Notre Dame in the Top 10. The top three teams, in order, were Georgia (8-0), Alabama (7-1) and Michigan State (8-0). As Oregon's fourth-place ranking was revealed, the four analysts reporting the results on ESPN sat silent for a beat, then expressed a consensus that Oregon's 35-28 defeat of the Buckeyes, in Columbus, on Sept. 11 probably swung the committee's vote on the No. 4 team in the Ducks' favor. One analyst called it "a very solid ranking, an appropriate ranking." Prior to the announcements, Kirk Herbstreit said Oregon had to be ranked ahead of Ohio State because of its "head-to-head" loss to the Ducks, even though the Buckeyes have clearly improved since then. The analysts agreed Oregon controls its destiny and that winning its remaining games should guarantee the Ducks a slot in the playoffs. The College Football Playoff committee will announce new rankings on each of the next four Tuesdays. After the final report on Nov. 30, the panel will meet to decide which four teams will participate in this season's three-game playoff: semifinal games Dec. 31 at the Cotton Bowl in Arlington, Texas, and at the Orange Bowl in Miami Gardens, Fla., followed by the championship game on Jan. 10 in Indianapolis, Ind. If those games were being held today, Oregon would meet top-ranked Georgia on New Year's Eve in the Orange Bowl. Utah would meet Ohio State on New Year's Day in the Rose Bowl. The Oregon Ducks head to Seattle Saturday to take on the Washington Huskies. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on ABC (KEZI-TV). The Oregon State Beavers are in Boulder on Saturday to meet Colorado. The game is at 4 p.m. and is being carried by the Pac-12 Networks. The Beavs need one more win to become bowl eligible. / HEALTH, YOUTH, PANDEMIC: Children ages 5-11 are now eligible to receive Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine. The announcement came only hours after a CDC advisory panel unanimously endorsed the plan and the CDC director signed off on the plan. Pfizer has already shipped millions of doses to states, doctors' offices, and pharmacies. The special vaccines contain just one-third of the dose given to teens and adults. As is the case with doses for grown-

ups, experts say the two doses will be administered three weeks apart. That means children who are vaccinated before Thanksgiving will reach full immunity by Christmas. Across the country, pediatricians and other doctors' groups praised the CDC's decision. Even though the virus tends to be more severe in adults, COVID-19 is causing preventable suffering among some children, including serious illnesses and death. Authorities say there is enough vaccine available to protect all 28 million of the nation's youngsters. ; Lane County Public Health begins holding special Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics for Kids ages 5 to 11 next week. They'll continue at least through the end of November. For now, those clinics will be appointment-only. There will be no walk-in availability for now. Parents will be able to go online no later than Friday morning of this week on the county's COVID-19 pages to begin scheduling those appointments for their youngsters ages 5-11. ; Lane County's Public Health Officer, Dr. Patrick Luedtke (say: LUHD'-kee), says pediatric offices remain the best place to seek regular vaccinations. But he recognizes that not every parent will be able to access vaccinations that way. That's why the county is working with other providers, including pharmacies, to expand where vaccinations for children are available. These include indoor clinics at the Lane Events Center Auditorium that will ultimately have the capacity for over 400 children per day. There also are school-based clinics in partnership with Lane Education Services District and Lane County's 16 school districts that will operate in the afternoons and evenings after class. And Luedtke says there will be pediatric clinics in partnership with community-based organization partners to ensure vaccine equity. Other clinics are expected to begin later this month in Springfield, East Lane County, South Lane County, and West Lane County. The Bethel Schools are expected to hold several clinics for their students throughout the month of November. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health continues to hold clinics for older children and teens and adults offering COVID-19 first and second doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and initial doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The clinics also offer booster doses of all three vaccines for those who qualify. You may make an appointment online or drop by. Those eligible for Moderna and Pfizer boost doses are: anyone who is six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older, and those age 18 to 64 who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus. Those eligible for Johnson & Johnson boost doses are: anyone 18 and older who is at least two months past their initial vaccination. You may choose any vaccine you wish for your boost dose. / HEALTH, SAFETY: Quick health reminder from the Food and Drug Administration: Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are for your hands, not your eyes. The FDA says it's been hearing of occasional eye injuries when people splash or touch their eyes right after using hand sanitizer. Sometimes, it's distracted adults. Other times, it's children who don't realize they can irritate or injure their eyes. Bottom line, health experts say such eye injuries have become much more frequent, likely due to the marked increase in the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer during the pandemic. / ELECTIONS: Only one issue on Lane County's special elections ballot yesterday. Voters in the western Lane Ambulance District approved a renewal of their five-year operating levy. The district provides emergency medical services to more than 20,000 residents in western Lane County. / CRIME: A big drug bust during a traffic stop Sunday morning on Interstate Five near Cottage Grove. Oregon State Police said a

trooper saw signs of probable criminal activity after pulling over a Chevy Camaro and its California driver. Investigators obtained a search warrant and brought in a drug-detection K9. They say they seized approximately 7 pounds of cocaine, close to 10 (9.8) pounds of heroin, and more than 1,300 (1.315) grams of pills believed to contain Fentanyl.; After a 12-month investigation, prosecutors in the Portland area say law enforcement agents have taken down two major transnational drug trafficking cells. After raids during the late summer, they say the cells' leaders were arrested along with more than one dozen associates. Police and federal agents seized approximately 200,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills suspected to contain fentanyl, two pounds of fentanyl powder, 40 pounds of methamphetamine, 45 pounds of heroin, 13 pounds of cocaine, nine firearms, and more than \$1.4 million cash in drug proceeds. Prosecutors say counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl pose a severe risk of fatal overdose unmatched by any other type of widely available street drug. They say the drug rings had ties to Mexico. Both cells allegedly acquired large quantities of illegal drugs from sources in California and elsewhere and used vehicles to transport the bulk narcotics to Oregon. Once in Oregon, the drugs were taken to stash houses where they were processed and prepared for sale. / CRIME, GOVERNMENT, LEGAL: Lane County's District Attorney is questioning Governor Kate Brown's decision to shorten the sentences of some of Oregon's youngest offenders. A letter released yesterday by D-A Patty Perlow says the decision to have the state parole board review those cases fails to take the rights of crime victims and their families into consideration. Under the commutation plan released by the governor, more than half of the people serving time in Oregon prisons for crimes they committed as juveniles would be eligible to seek parole or in some cases be released outright. The governor's plan represents the latest significant effort to reexamine criminal justice policy in Oregon. In recent years, the state has undertaken multiple major reforms, including rethinking how it prosecutes juveniles. About three-quarters of those who meet Brown's criteria were sentenced under Measure 11, the state's mandatory minimum sentencing law, which applies to the most serious crimes, including sexual abuse, rape and murder. But the move would apply to some notorious young killers, including several in Lane County. In her letter, Perlow said changes to Measure 11 made by lawmakers in recent years have made it much more difficult to prosecute juveniles accused of serious crimes in adult court. The governor's criteria do not apply to people convicted of crimes as juveniles whose projected release dates are in 2050 or later. That means Thurston High School shooter Kip Kinkel is not on the list for clemency review. Kinkel was sentenced to nearly 112 years for fatally shooting his parents and then killing two students at the high school in Springfield in 1998 and wounding 24 others. / SAFETY: Oregon State Police say a Eugene man died in a two-vehicle crash yesterday afternoon on Highway 126 near Noti when the other driver—who was behind the wheel of a pick-up truck—made an unsafe pass and struck the victim's sedan head-on. It happened around 4:30 in the afternoon. Police say 62-year-old Mark Knight of Eugene died at the scene. The man with the pick-up, 42-year-old Gabriel Hostetler of Beaverton, was uninjured. The crash closed the highway's eastbound lanes for four hours during the law enforcement investigation. / HEALTH, TRANSPORTATION: The Northwest's Life Flight Network, which serves Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana, has added some new aircraft to its air medical fleet. Life Flight is the

nation's largest not-for-profit air ambulance provider. Officials say they're adding 12 Bell 407GX helicopters, which will be delivered in May of next year. They'll supplement the existing fleet of helicopters and airplanes throughout Life Flight's service area and enhance coverage to rural communities. This model of Bell helicopter has a range of more than 400 miles and an airspeed of 161 miles per hour. They'll be used to quickly transport patients to medical facilities offering a high level of care. The aircraft are more powerful and have folding side doors that make it easier to load patients and gear. Additionally, all 12 aircraft will come certified for Instrument Flight Rules, which allow for a greater margin of safety and additional operational capabilities. / WEATHER, ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY: Those big rains late last month on the Oregon Coast created a smelly problem over the weekend on one Lincoln City Beach. The Oregonian and OregonLive reports the runoff filled nearby Devil's Lake and swept thousands of yellow perch a few hundred feet down the ultra-short D River and into the sea. The fish died in the salt water and washed up on the nearby beach. It looked pretty creepy and by Saturday afternoon was smelling pretty bad. Most were small, just a few inches long, but some were larger. Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife experts say younger fish tend to be weaker swimmers, which makes them more vulnerable during big rain events. They say the seagulls are cleaning up the mess and that yellow perch are "prolific spawners," so the lake's fish population should easily rebound. / LEGAL, YOUTH, ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT: Oregon-based youth climate activists say settlement talks with the U.S. Department of Justice have failed six years after they first filed a federal lawsuit in Eugene. The landmark case attempted to hold the nation's leadership accountable for its role in global warming. The 21 plaintiffs alleged in the original lawsuit against the U.S. that they have a constitutional right to a climate that sustains life and that the government's actions have encouraged a fossil fuel economy despite scientific warnings about global warming. After failed negotiations, the plaintiffs want a judge to allow an amended case to go to trial. The action comes as world leaders, including President Joe Biden, meet in Scotland to grapple with climate change. The development, announced by the plaintiffs' attorney on Monday, comes as world leaders, including President Joe Biden, meet in Scotland to grapple with climate change. The plaintiffs now want a judge to allow an amended version of the case, known as Juliana v. the United States, to go to trial. "These 21 young people have been stonewalled, delayed, and obstructed by their own government for six years now," the plaintiffs' attorney, Julia Olson, said in a statement. "These young people have been waiting six years to have their evidence heard and the issues determined by a court of law. When will our government act like the global leaders they claim to be and let these youth be heard?" The youth plaintiffs alleged in the original 2015 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. In a major victory, U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken ruled the following year that the plaintiffs had a case and that it should proceed to trial, but the lawsuit has been challenged repeatedly in federal court by the Obama and Trump administrations, which sought to get it dismissed. A three-member panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2020 dismissed the case after finding that Aiken lacked the power to order or design a climate recovery plan in the high-profile climate change lawsuit. They noted that such a remedy should be made by the nation's politicians or

voters. The plaintiffs then filed an amended complaint in March and asked the judge to change their lawsuit to seek a different ruling: that the nation's fossil fuel-based energy system is unconstitutional. In May, Aiken ordered a settlement conference with U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin, who came out of retirement to oversee the process. The youth plaintiffs are now between the ages of 13 and 25. / POLITICS, GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS: A judge has found that new congressional districts passed by Oregon Democrats meet all legal criteria, with little evidence they amount to blatant partisan gerrymandering. Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the tentative opinion, released Monday by retired state Judge Henry Breithaupt, is not the final word in an ongoing lawsuit, in which Republicans are seeking to have the new six-district congressional map redrawn. Breithaupt is acting as a "special master" in the case, tasked with making findings of fact for a five-judge panel that will decide the outcome. Following the latest U.S. Census Oregon received an additional seat in the U.S. House — increasing the number from five to six. There are currently four Democratic U.S. House members from Oregon and one Republican. /

PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTING FORM

DATE OF
BROADCAST 11/04/21

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

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED HEALTH, YOUTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health is expecting more than 14,000 (14,200) doses of Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine as it prepares to begin clinics next week for children between the ages of 5 to 11. Those clinics will be appointment-only initially. You'll be able to sign up your child no later than tomorrow morning on Lane County Public Health's website. Go to Get Vaccinated - Lane County at <https://lanecounty.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3585881&pageId=17379367> once those appointments are available or call (541) 682-1380. Vaccines will also be available through many pediatricians' offices, pharmacies, and other healthcare providers and clinics. The special vaccines contain just one-third of the amount given to teens and adults. The two doses will be administered three weeks apart. That means children who are vaccinated before Thanksgiving will reach full immunity by Christmas. Other clinics are expected to begin later this month in Springfield, East Lane County, South Lane County, and West Lane County. The Bethel Schools are expected to hold several clinics for their students throughout the month of November. ; Health officials in Oregon say they are expecting 180,000 initial doses of the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine, which is enough to cover nearly 53 percent of the state's roughly 342,000 children ages 5 to 11. But officials with the Oregon Health Authority yesterday cautioned parents that there might be such strong initial demand that there could be a few days' wait in some locations before the vaccine is widely available. About two-thirds of the pediatric doses coming to Oregon are being shipped directly to health care settings like pediatrician's offices and clinics. The other third is going to pharmacies around the state. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Lane County Public Health continues to hold clinics for older children and teens and adults offering COVID-19 first and second doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and initial doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The clinics at the Lane Events Center also offer booster doses of all three vaccines for those who qualify. Because of high demand, beginning Monday Lane County Public Health's vaccine booster clinics will be appointment-only. You'll need to go online to schedule. The county provided more than 4,900 booster doses last week. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC, GOVERNMENT: Tens of millions of Americans who work at companies with 100 or more employees will need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Jan. 4 or be tested for the virus

weekly. The new rules from the federal government were issued this morning. OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, says companies that fail to comply could face penalties of nearly \$14,000 per violation. The new requirements apply to about 84 million workers at medium and large businesses. The rules also apply to workers at health care facilities that treat Medicare and Medicaid patients. The Biden administration says 70 percent of all adult Americans are now fully vaccinated against COVID. But approximately 65 million Americans remain unvaccinated. / EMPLOYMENT: The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell to a fresh pandemic low last week. It's another sign the nation's job market is healing after last year's coronavirus recession. Jobless claims dropped by 14,000 to 269,000 last week. That, after topping 900,000 in early January. The weekly applications have fallen more or less steadily ever since and are gradually moving toward pre-pandemic levels. Overall, 2.1 million Americans were collecting unemployment checks last week. That's down from 7.1 million a year ago when the economy was still reeling from the early waves of COVID-19 infections and deaths. / EMPLOYMENT, WOMEN: As the U.S. economy rebounds from the ongoing pandemic, many women are choosing to sit out the labor force. The pandemic has laid bare the disproportionate burdens many women shoulder in caring for children or aging parents, as well as highlighted the roles they have traditionally played in the labor force. In September, 2.5 million fewer women were employed compared to the same month in 2019, and nearly 3.1 million more women were not in the labor force this past September compared to the number in the same month two years ago. Even with children back in school, a dramatic influx of women returning to work that some analysts expected has yet to materialize. / ECONOMY, FINANCES: Americans have responded to the pandemic, the stay-home era, and the reopening of the economy by buying stuff and even more stuff. That's the big reason the U.S. trade deficit hit an all-time high of close to \$81 (b) billion in September. American exports fell sharply while imports, even with supply chain problems at American ports, kept climbing. The trade deficit is the gap between what the United States exports to the rest of the world and the imports it purchases from foreign nations. ; Video game and computer companies saw a big lift in sales last year as people stayed home during the pandemic. But sales slowed a bit the middle part of this year as more people returned to workplaces and schools. Japanese video game maker Nintendo, which distributes the Super Mario and Pokémon games, says its profit dropped 19 percent in the first half of its fiscal year. Still, Nintendo reported a \$1.5 billion profit for the April-September period. A shortage of computer chips caused by the pandemic disruption of the production and supply chain is hurting production of the Nintendo Switch machines. But the company is hoping for another big boost in holiday sales. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Officials with the Oregon Health Authority say there was an increase across the state in daily infection reports last week but decreases in hospitalizations and deaths. OHA reported more than 7,700 (7,877) new cases of COVID-19 during the week of October 25—a 2.2 percent increase from the previous week. It was the first increase in infection reports after eight consecutive weeks of declining counts. The COVID-19 case counts were higher in Oregon counties where vaccination rates were below 50 percent. But there were 313 new COVID-19 hospitalizations, down from 415 last week, marking the lowest number of hospitalizations since the week of July 26. There were 82 reported COVID-19

related deaths, down from 110 reported the previous week. One area of concern remains the number of COVID-19 outbreaks being recorded in senior living communities and congregate living settings. There were 87 active outbreaks last week across the state, some fairly recent and others that have seen a trickle of cases for a month or more. Eight were in Lane County. An outbreak in these settings is when there are three or more confirmed cases and one or more COVID-19 related deaths. ; Lane County's pandemic death toll climbed yesterday when officials were notified of two more COVID-19 related deaths. There also were 47 new infections reports to Lane County Public Health. The Oregon Health Authority received reports of more than 1,100 (1,128) new cases and 64 additional deaths. Yesterday, the U.S. COVID-19 death toll hit 750,000. /

HOUSING, WILDFIRES: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved more than \$422 million for Oregon in supplemental disaster assistance. It's part of the long-term housing recovery effort after the devastating 2020 Labor Day wildfires. The Community Development Block Grants will supplement \$150 million in housing assistance set aside by Oregon lawmakers. The federal funding should begin arriving later this year and is part of \$5 billion that Congress appropriated for disaster relief last month. The funds will target those most impacted by the blazes, especially low-income residents needing housing recovery assistance. The money will help assess risks in affected communities to help make them more resilient to the risks in the wake of the fires and to prepare for future risks. /

SPORTS: The Oregon Women's Basketball team is ranked ninth in the nation in the USA Today pre-season coaches' poll. The Ducks have six returning starters. Oregon State is Number 18 in the preseason rankings. South Carolina has the top spot in the pre-season poll, followed by defending national champion Stanford, then UConn. In Pac-12 play, Oregon is picked to finish second behind Stanford. Oregon State is the pre-season pick for a fourth-place finish in the conference behind UCLA. ; The Oregon Ducks—ranked No. 4 in the College Football Playoff standings and No. 7 in the national polls—head to Seattle Saturday to take on the Washington Huskies. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on ABC (KEZI-TV). The Oregon State Beavers are in Boulder on Saturday to meet Colorado. The game is at 4 p.m. and is being carried by the Pac-12 Networks. The Beavs need one more win to become bowl eligible. /

WILDLIFE, ENVIRONMENT: Congratulations to Buck Spencer of Junction City, who won the Waterfowl Division of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2022 Habitat Conservation, Upland Game Bird and Waterfowl stamp art competition. He created an astonishingly realistic piece featuring a pair of Northern Shovelers. Learn more about the artists, artwork, how to vote on the People's Choice Award at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2021/11_Nov/110221.asp

The sale of Upland Game Bird and Waterfowl Stamps support game bird research, surveys, habitat improvement and conservation projects. /

TRANSPORTATION: Weekend traffic note: A portion of East Main Street in Lowell will be closed for several hours beginning at 7 a.m. on Saturday while the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District burns a structure as part of a training exercise. Detours will be in place. /

CRIME: How scary is this? In Portland, a guy stole a pick-up truck while the truck's owner was standing on a ladder working on a billboard. It was one of a couple of ladders mounted over the vehicle's roof and bed. When the rig's owner spotted the guy rummaging in his truck's cab, he started to climb down. But before he could get

off the ladders, the thief started the truck and drove off—with the truck's owner clinging for dear life. Portland Police began getting calls as the vehicle raced through downtown with the owner hollering for help. Officers gave chase as the rig headed south of town and onto nearby highways and freeways. Police said the thief at even swerving side-to-side, trying to shake off the pickup's owner. When the thief took one highway exit, he slowed enough for the owner to jump into the bed of the truck, then dive onto a nearby patch of grass. He was okay. The 36-year-old thief was arrested a short time later and in addition to vehicle theft and dangerous driving, he's facing kidnapping charges. / HEALTH, YOUTH: Oregon's second most populous county has passed the state's first ban on flavored tobacco products. Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the Board of County Commissioners in Washington County voted 3 to 2 Tuesday to prohibit retail sales of any flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and vape pens. Ordinance 878 was created based on findings that indicate tobacco use by young people continues to be a significant health risk. The board's action prohibits the sale of any tobacco or synthetic nicotine product to anyone under 21; prohibit sales of any flavored tobacco or synthetic nicotine product in any retail establishment; and prohibit coupons, discounts and price promotions for any tobacco products. / POLITICS, GOVERNMENT: Another rural, conservative county in Oregon has expressed interest in becoming part of Idaho. The Oregonian and OregonLive reports that voters in Harney County on Tuesday approved a ballot measure which requires local officials to hold meetings about moving the county into Idaho. The measure passed with more than 63 percent of the vote. Harney became the eighth of Oregon's 36 counties to vote for considering adjusting Oregon's border to put much of rural eastern and southern Oregon in Idaho. These ballot initiatives are non-binding. If Idaho and Oregon were to negotiate a border adjustment, the U.S. Congress would have to sign off on it. The other counties that have voted for a similar initiative are Baker, Grant, Jefferson, Lake, Malheur, Sherman, and Union. /

PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTING FORM

DATE OF
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TIME OF
BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KGNU-FM

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED

SPORTS: A big weekend in high school sports: The 2021 OSAA / OnPoint Community Credit Union Cross Country State Championships take place Saturday on the 30th Avenue campus of Lane Community College in Eugene. Hundreds of students and their families from across the state are in town for the one- and two-mile races. The first event is at 10 a.m. Saturday with the awards presentations around 4 p.m. The forecast calls for rain showers on Saturday but occasional dry periods. The afternoon high: 51 degrees. ; The prep football playoffs also begin Round One. Close to one dozen local teams are in a across the six statewide athletics divisions. ; Girls' prep soccer playoffs continue this weekend. So, too, do the boys' prep soccer playoffs. / CRIME, SAFETY: Some scary moments early yesterday morning at the University of Oregon after investigators say a 37-year-old man allegedly set off a fire alarm in the Knight Law Center. He later took two students hostage in a dorm room at nearby Hamilton Hall, using one of the student's cellphones to make multiple 911 calls. The students are safe. The suspect, Shawn Scott Densmore, was taken into custody without incident. Now, Densmore faces charges of menacing, burglary, criminal trespass, kidnapping, and carrying a concealed firearm. They say he has no known current affiliation with the University of Oregon. During the incident, law enforcement diverted traffic from nearby streets and the university sent an alert through its student and staff network asking everyone to avoid the area. It all began yesterday morning around 3 a.m. Investigators say surveillance video showed Densmore pulling a law school fire alarm while holding a gun and behaving erratically inside the building. Police and fire crews responded. They found no indications of fire or smoke as they searched the inside and outside building. That effort that included a Lane County sheriff's drone and a Springfield Police canine unit. Officers diverted traffic during the search and the university sent an alert through its student and staff network asking everyone to avoid the area. Then University of Oregon Police began receiving multiple 911 calls from a single cell phone reporting incidents from other areas across campus. Investigators worked to locate the 911 caller by pinging, texting, and calling the phone. Through a text exchange, UO Police crisis negotiation team members were able to connect with what was later determined to be a student in Hamilton Hall. They said two students were being held in the student's room and that the

suspect, identified as Densmore, had used the student's phone to place the 911 calls. Lane County Sheriff's deputies and UO Police entered Hamilton Hall, immediately located Densmore, and took him into custody. They say Densmore has no known current affiliation with the university. / SAFETY, TRANSPORTATION: It is another tragic reminder of the importance of obeying Oregon's "Move Over" law: Changing lanes to provide more space to emergency vehicles and tow trucks responding to accidents and other calls. Wednesday night shortly before 11 p.m., Oregon State Police say a commercial truck driver struck and killed the operator of a tow truck on Interstate Five. It happened on the north end of Roseburg, as the tow truck driver—63-year-old Henry Alan Lichtwald of Roseburg—was working to recover a vehicle on the southbound shoulder. Investigators say the Canadian driver of the commercial truck failed to move over for the tow truck. Lichtwald of Roseburg, worked for Walt's Tow Company. He died at the scene. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC, YOUTH: During September and October, county officials say they received reports of 1,285 COVID-19 cases in our Kindergarten through 12th-grade school-age population. While COVID is often less severe in children and teens, it can still cause health issues, disrupt school and their social lives, and there's the risk they can spread it to more vulnerable people. ; Lane County has received its first shipment of Pfizer's Pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 years. Officials say the 14,200 doses are going to local vaccination providers—including pediatric clinics, family care practices, school-based health programs, and pharmacies—over the next 10 days. Additional shipments will arrive in the next few days. The special vaccines contain just one-third of the amount given to teens and adults. The two doses will be administered three weeks apart. That means children who are vaccinated before Thanksgiving will reach full immunity by Christmas. Many pharmacies and providers are already taking appointments for pediatric vaccinations. Lane County Public Health begins its own online scheduling this morning. The county's pediatric vaccination clinics begin on Tuesday, Nov. 9. And the clinics initially will be appointment-only to better manage high demand. The county's larger-scale booster dose clinics for adults will pause next week until after the pediatric clinics satisfy the first wave of demand. Lane County Public Health will, however, continue to provide mobile booster clinics for residents in long-term care facilities. Other clinics are expected to begin later this month in Springfield, East Lane County, South Lane County, and West Lane County. The Bethel Schools are expected to hold several clinics for their students throughout the month of November. ; Lane County Public Health today holds another clinic for older children and teens and adults offering COVID-19 first and second doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and initial doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The clinics at the Lane Events Center also offer booster doses of all three vaccines for those who qualify. Those eligible for Moderna and Pfizer boost doses are: anyone who is six months past their second dose who are age 65 and older, and those age 18 to 64 who live or work in situations where they are at increased risk of being infected by the coronavirus. Those eligible for Johnson & Johnson boost doses are: anyone 18 and older who is at least two months past their initial vaccination. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Pfizer says its experimental pill for COVID-19 cut rates of hospitalization and death by nearly 90 percent among patients with mild-to-moderate infections. The company announced this morning it will soon ask the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and international regulators

to authorize its pill, which is taken twice a day for five days. A similar pill from competitor Merck is currently under FDA review and was cleared Thursday by U.K. regulators. Drugmakers around the world have been racing to develop an easy-to-use pill to blunt the effects of COVID-19. All therapies now authorized in the U.S. require an IV or injection. / HEALTH, GOVERNMENT, PANDEMIC: Tens of millions of Americans who work at companies with 100 or more employees will need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Jan. 4 or be tested for the virus weekly. The new rules from the federal government were issued Thursday. OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, says companies that fail to comply could face penalties of nearly \$14,000 per violation. The new requirements apply to about 84 million workers at medium and large businesses. The rules also apply to workers at health care facilities that treat Medicare and Medicaid patients. The Biden administration says 70 percent of all adult Americans are now fully vaccinated against COVID. But approximately 65 million Americans remain unvaccinated. Though confirmed viral cases and deaths have fallen sharply since the start of the year, they remain dangerously high, especially in some areas and industries. Average case levels have leveled off at about 70,000 new infections a day and confirmed daily U.S. viral deaths at more than 1,200. Yet several states with Republican governors have vowed to challenge the Occupational Health and Safety Administration regulations in court, calling them an unconstitutional power grab by the federal government. / HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY: The Oregon Health Authority is offering free domestic well water testing to about 2,000 households affected by wildfires during the past two years that rely on private wells for drinking water. Oregon lawmakers set aside the funds for free well testing in the wake of the devastating 2020 wildfires. But many communities and households were still clearing their properties of ash and debris when the original program's funding expired in June 2021. Well users whose properties were affected by wildfires can find steps needed to access the funds, which became available Nov. 1, at www.healthoregon.org/wells Well owners will find guidance on how to assess damage, take action to protect their well, and test their well water to confirm it is safe to drink. State officials encourage property owners to make sure they know what work they are authorized to do and when they need to hire a licensed professional. Actions may include: Repair and replace damaged well components; Re-pressurize and refill the well; Flush water lines; Treat the well for microbial contaminants. The Oregon Health Authority will provide testing vouchers to well users through May 15, 2023. To ensure that all 2020 wildfire-affected domestic well users can receive free testing, OHA is offering one voucher per affected well. Well users can select from a list of approved environmental laboratories in Oregon that will honor the vouchers for testing services. The tests will look for presence of bacteria, nitrates, arsenic, lead and chemicals that are hazardous by-products of fire. / EMPLOYMENT: Oregon's total employment is projected to grow by more than 317,000 jobs this decade. That's according to new numbers from the Oregon Employment Department. The projections reflect the growth of many Oregon industries and sectors, as well as a predicted robust recovery from the pandemic-caused recession. In addition, many job openings are expected because of the large number of workers expected to retire or simply leave their occupations, leave the labor force for other reasons, or make a major occupational change. In 2020, Oregon had close to two million

jobs. The projections call for a 16 percent increase in the overall workforce. That's below the 21 percent growth rate from last decade, largely a result of the pandemic recession. Leisure and Hospitality is projected to increase the fastest and add the largest number of jobs. The projected gain of more than 73,000 jobs represents a 46 percent growth, mainly driven by the recovery from the pandemic. It comes as restaurants, hotels, and arts, cultural, and recreational establishments expect to see increased demand as in-person and recreational activities resume. A broad variety of career opportunities will be available across all sectors, as well as all job types. One-third to one-half of all job openings will require education or at least some training beyond high school. ; Oregon's largest private employer is tech company Intel. The chipmaker is based in Hillsboro and has 21,000 people working at its campuses in Washington County. But The Oregonian and OregonLive report many of those workers will continue to spend the bulk of their hours at home, after Intel leaders this week announced plans to become what they call a "hybrid-first" company. It will allow most employees to split their time between home and the office. Intel officials say the pandemic compressed a decade's worth of change into months. That prompted company officials to reimagine how employees work and collaborate. Reporter Mike Rogoway writes that the hybrid approach does not apply to manufacturing workers who must be on site at Intel's factories or in its research labs. But an employee survey in April found 90 of Intel's employees prefer to split their work hours between home and the office. Company leaders say employees were successful even while working virtually. / RECREATION, POLITICS: Our state already has four national monuments: the John Day Fossil Beds, Newberry National Volcanic Monument, Oregon Caves, and Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Now, Oregon's U.S. senators are proposing creation of a fifth national monument in Eastern Oregon. Sutton Mountain is located near the Painted Hills. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley want to see 66,000 acres set aside. The proposed national monument would include Sutton Mountain along with several popular recreation sites like Pats Cabin, Sand Mountain and Priest Hole. / CRIME, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY: Thousands of immigrants working on illegal marijuana farms in southern Oregon that authorities say are run by foreign cartels are living in squalid conditions and are sometimes being cheated by their gangland bosses. The situation is so extreme in the rural region amid an increase in violent crime and water thefts by the illegal operations affecting legitimate farmers that two counties declared a state of emergency last month and a third is set to do so also. The marijuana harvest season is ending in the region, but officials say some illegal farm operators are refusing to pay workers or have threatened to harm them or their relatives. / SPORTS: Oregon looks to remain in control of the Pac-12 North Football standings when it faces one of its most heated rivals. The Ducks have won three straight since its lone loss at Stanford and received a boost this week when they were ranked No. 4 in the first College Football Playoff rankings. Washington can salvage what's been an underachieving season if it can knock off the Ducks. Washington has won two straight but continues to have offensive issues. The Ducks have won six of the past seven games played in Seattle. ; The Oregon Ducks—ranked No. 4 in the College Football Playoff standings and No. 7 in the national polls—head to Seattle Saturday to take on the Washington Huskies. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on ABC (KEZI-TV). ; The Oregon State Beavers are in Boulder on Saturday to meet Colorado. The game is at 4 p.m. and is being

carried by the Pac-12 Networks. The Beavs need one more win to become bowl eligible. /

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POLITICS, GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: President Joe Biden on Saturday hailed Congress' passage of his \$1 trillion infrastructure package as a "monumental step forward for the nation." This, after fractious fellow Democrats resolved a months-long standoff in their ranks to finally seal the deal. The bill puts about \$240 billion toward building or rebuilding roads, bridges, public transit, airports and railways. More than \$150 billion is slated for projects that address climate change, like building electric vehicle charging stations, upgrading energy grids and production to work better with renewables, and making public transit more environmentally sustainable. There's funding for cybersecurity, clean water and waste treatment systems, broadband internet connections and more. ; Officials with the Oregon Department of Transportation say they expect to see more than \$1 billion dollars in additional transportation funding as part of the newly passed federal infrastructure package. They say the money will go toward projects around the state that will benefit drivers, transit riders, cyclists and pedestrians, help maintain roads and bridges, and address climate change. While ODOT leaders are still analyzing what's in the new infrastructure law, they say many of the projects set to receive funding are ready for construction, and others are in the final stages of planning. But transportation planners say they anticipate \$1.2 billion to be allocated to the state over the next five years for highway and bridge construction and maintenance, safety improvements, mass transit investments, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, electric vehicle charging stations, and efforts to reduce carbon emissions from transportation sources. One of the signature projects receiving funds under the infrastructure law: The aging Interstate 5 crossing of the Columbia River between Portland and Vancouver. Many local transit agencies also will see funding to improve routes and update buses and other vehicles with low-emission models. And Amtrak is receiving money to upgrade its aging fleet. / EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT: A top University of Oregon researcher is taking a job with the Biden Administration. UO chemist Geraldine Richmond has been confirmed as the new Undersecretary of Science and Energy for the federal Department of Energy. Richmond holds the Presidential Chair in Science at the U-of-O and is a recipient of the National Medal of Science. Her research focuses on understanding the molecular characteristics of water surfaces, studies that have relevance to environmental

issues such as oil remediation, atmospheric chemistry, and alternative energy sources. She also has designed state-of-the-art laser systems and optics equipment. Richmond also has been a pioneer in advocating for the advancement of women in science. The undersecretary for science oversees the Energy Department's Office of Science, advises the secretary of energy on energy and technology issues, monitors the department's research and development programs, and advises the secretary on management of the DOE's national laboratories, among other duties. / SAFETY: The Lane County Sheriff's Office is coordinating the search for a missing man whose family last heard from him on Wednesday morning. Officials say 47-year-old Shane Eldor Sprenger was last known to be near the Blue River Reservoir area, possibly while picking mushrooms. Family said when they last heard from him, Sprenger told a relative that he had lost his keys to his truck and needed a ride home. Sprenger's truck was located by family members on Friday, but he was nowhere to be found. Cell phone location information placed Sprenger in the area of Blue River Reservoir, but the phone was turned off on Thursday. Sprenger was last seen wearing a camo jacket and dark colored work pants. The Sheriff's Office has trained crews scouring the area and is requesting everyone else stay clear of the area to avoid hampering official search efforts. But they say if you have information on Sprenger's whereabouts, please contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at (541) 682-4150. Reference case number 21-6268. / LEGAL, WILDFIRES, SAFETY: A federal judge on Friday ordered an immediate stop to a plan to log along more than 400 miles of roads on the Willamette National Forest. U.S. District Judge Michael McShane's order noted that the U.S. Forest Service overstretched its authority under the National Environmental Policy Act. The agency planned to begin cutting on more than 20,000 acres this week, removing roadside trees deemed at risk of falling after being burned in the Labor Day 2020 wildfires. That includes many forest roads in the burn zone of the Holiday Farm Fire. Three environmental groups sought the injunction, saying the Forest Service placed the project under the category of road maintenance when it amounts to salvage logging. They say classifying it as "road maintenance" sidesteps requirements for the agency to conduct an environmental study. The federal judge agreed, putting the tree removal on hold until the lawsuit is heard—likely sometime next year. The Forest Service argues that the Beachie Creek, Lionshead, and Holiday Farm fires created dangerous conditions on forest roads that require extensive clean-up in the form of cutting trees. But in his ruling, Judge McShane noted that unlike traditional forest road maintenance projects, the commercial logging called for under the plan, quote, "does not remotely resemble grading or repaving roads, cleaning culverts, or removing brush." / HEALTH, LEGAL, GOVERNMENT: A federal appeals court has temporarily halted the Biden administration's vaccine requirement for businesses with 100 or more workers. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Saturday granted an emergency stay of the requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration that those workers be vaccinated by Jan. 4, or face mask requirements and weekly tests. Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry says the court action halts President Joe Biden's administration from moving forward with what he calls "unlawful overreach." The Labor Department's top legal adviser, Seema Nanda, says the administration is fully prepared to defend the safety rules. ; About 4 million federal workers, from FBI agents to Bureau of Prisons guards to U.S. Food and Drug Administration

workers, are to be vaccinated by Nov. 22 under the president's executive order aimed at stopping the spread of the coronavirus. Some employees, like those at the White House, are nearly all vaccinated. But the rates are lower at other federal agencies, particularly those related to law enforcement and intelligence. And some resistant workers are digging in, filing lawsuits, and protesting what they say is unfair overreach by the White House. The upcoming deadline is the first test of President Joe Biden's push to compel people to get vaccinated. ; The new requirements apply to about 84 million workers at medium and large businesses. The rules also apply to workers at health care facilities that treat Medicare and Medicaid patients. Though confirmed viral cases and deaths have fallen sharply since the start of the year, they remain dangerously high, especially in some areas and industries. Average case levels have leveled off at about 70,000 new infections a day and confirmed daily U.S. viral deaths at more than 1,200. Yet several states with Republican governors have vowed to challenge the Occupational Health and Safety Administration regulations in court, calling them an unconstitutional power grab by the federal government. / HEALTH, YOUTH: Lane County Public Health begins its Pediatric COVID-19 vaccine clinics for children ages 5 to 11 years on Tuesday. Many pharmacies and providers also are taking appointments for pediatric vaccinations. The special vaccines contain just one-third of the amount of the Pfizer vaccine that is given to teens and adults. The two doses will be administered three weeks apart. That means children who are vaccinated before Thanksgiving will reach full immunity by Christmas. Lane County Public Health's pediatric vaccination clinics are appointment-only initially to better manage high demand. Appointments may be made online at the Lane County Public Health website. The county's larger-scale booster dose clinics for adults are pausing this week and will resume later this month. Lane County Public Health will, however, continue to provide mobile booster clinics for residents in long-term care facilities. ; Here is next week's schedule for Lane County Public Health's Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children ages 5-11: Tues., Nov. 9: 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Wed., Nov. 10: 1:30-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Thurs., Nov. 11, 12:00-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Fri., Nov. 12: 12-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Sat., Nov. 13: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lane Events Center. Other clinics are expected to begin later this month in Springfield, East Lane County, South Lane County, and West Lane County. The Bethel Schools are expected to hold several clinics for their students throughout the month of November. /

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COMMUNITY: Leaf pick-up got underway in this week in parts of the metro area. The City of Eugene has crews working in the downtown core. Lane County is collecting leaves in the Santa Clara area west of River Road. Springfield begins its first leaf pick-ups toward the end of the month. When preparing your leaves for pick-up, make sure they don't block storm drains, bicycle paths, or sidewalks. / HEALTH, YOUTH: Lane County Public Health begins its Pediatric COVID-19 vaccine clinics this afternoon for children ages 5 to 11. And because the clinics focus on children, there's a lot of fun stuff scheduled at the Lane Events Center. County health officials will have movies playing on a big screen while they wait for a time after their vaccination. There will be toys, posters, and giveaways. Many pharmacies and providers also are taking appointments for pediatric vaccinations. The special vaccines contain just one-third of the amount of the Pfizer vaccine that is given to teens and adults. The two doses will be administered three weeks apart. That means children who are vaccinated before Thanksgiving will reach full immunity by Christmas. Lane County Public Health's pediatric vaccination clinics are appointment-only initially to better manage high demand. Appointments may be made online at the Lane County Public Health website. The county's larger-scale booster dose clinics for adults are pausing this week and will resume later this month. Lane County Public Health will, however, continue to provide mobile booster clinics for residents in long-term care facilities. Other clinics are expected to begin later this month in Springfield, East Lane County, South Lane County, and West Lane County. The Bethel Schools are expected to hold several clinics for their students throughout the month of November. ; Here is this week's schedule for Lane County Public Health's Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children ages 5-11: Today (Tues., Nov. 9): 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Wed., Nov. 10: 1:30-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Thurs., Nov. 11, 12:00-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Fri., Nov. 12: 12-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Sat., Nov. 13: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lane Events Center. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: Weekly COVID-19 cases in Oregon have fallen to the lowest levels since early August. While the Oregon Health Authority recorded more than 6,600 (6,643) cases in the past week, the numbers were down 16 percent from one week earlier. Lane County Public Health reported 35 new cases yesterday. But officials say 93 percent of those who are hospitalized are unvaccinated. The state

had recorded eight consecutive weeks of case declines before seeing a slight rise at the end of October. But the downtrend now appears to have returned. /

SAFETY: A crash involving a semi-truck and a bicycle shut down the intersection of 5th and Seneca for two hours late yesterday morning. Eugene Police say the bicyclist was taken to the hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Officials said the truck driver remained at the scene to cooperate with the investigation. There was no sign of impairment or excessive speed. /

VETERANS, RECREATION: Federal recreation sites are waiving their day-use fees on Thursday, in honor of Veterans Day. That includes all sites managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that normally charge entrance or parking fees. Also included under the fee waiver: many trailheads and day-use areas in national forests across the state. Oregon's Crater Lake National Park, the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area near Newport, and Lewis and Clark National Historical Park near Astoria also are offering free parking on Thursday. Veterans Day is one of nine fee-free days recognized by federal public lands agencies. Veterans and gold star families also are eligible for free public lands passes that are good year-round, available at www.nps.gov The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department does not waive its \$5 parking fees for Veterans Day. But the agency will do so the day after Thanksgiving, which is known as Green Friday. /

RECREATION, SAFETY, WILDLIFE: The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has formed a committee to begin updating rules regarding hunting within some state parks. Hunting is permitted in several state parks where public safety risk is low. But state parks leaders want to clarify hunting boundaries and create clearly signed "safety zones" where hunting is not allowed, to better protect all visitors. There also are plans to for creation of an Oregon State Parks hunting map that would be placed on the agency's website clearly showing hunting boundaries. All hunting activity in that handful of state parks are subject to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife rules and regulations. The parks advisory committee includes representatives of the hunting community, conservationists, and officials from Oregon State Parks and the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division. /

ECONOMY, FINANCES: The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline jumped by 5 cents over the past two weeks, to \$3.49 per gallon. The price at the pump is \$1.30 higher than a year ago. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday the rise comes as the cost of crude oil and ethanol surges. In Oregon, our average price for a gallon of regular fuel this morning costs \$3.77. Here in Lane County, the average price is close to \$3.80. That's actually unchanged from one week ago, two cents from one month ago. But we're up a dollar-38 from this time last year. Nationwide, the highest average price for regular-grade gas is in the San Francisco Bay Area, at \$4.77 per gallon. The lowest average is in Houston, at \$2.98 per gallon. According to the survey, the average price of diesel jumped 8 cents to \$3.67 a gallon. That price is also \$1.30 higher than a year ago. /

MENTAL HEALTH, COMMUNITY, EDUCATION: Technology, including smartphones and email, has given people more ways to connect. But has it also given us more opportunities to lie? A University of Oregon researcher says yeah, but it's not as bad as you might imagine. David Markovitz, an assistant professor with the U-of-O's School of Journalism and Communication, revisited some groundbreaking work from 15 years ago by another research team. It found that people using electronic devices often felt

“shielded” from others, which led to more lies on their devices than they would have told in person. Usually they were “white lies”: You might fib to a friend to get out of going to dinner; exaggerate your height on a dating profile; or invent an excuse to your boss to explain why you missed a deadline on a project. People often believe that just because we use technology to interact, honesty is harder to come by. But Markowitz says that does not appear to be the case. Both studies found that most people tell the truth and there are relatively few prolific liars. But if people are going to fib, it’s often when they’re on a phone call or video chat, and when the person they’re chatting with lives or works farther away. People told fewer lies on email. /

AGRICULTURE, WILDFIRES, ECONOMY: It’s become a persistent problem for vineyard owners and winemakers across the Northwest: Wildfire smoke can taint the grapes, ruining their crops and making them unusable for wine. But how much smoke is too much? And are there ways to better prepare and protect their crops? Researchers at Oregon State University and other West Coast institutions recently received a \$7.65 million grant to study the impact of smoke exposure on grapes. OSU’s Elizabeth Tomasino says wildfire smoke issues are expected to increase along with warming triggered by climate change. The grape and wine industries contribute \$220 billion to the U.S. economy, and wine grapes are the highest value fruit crop in the country, according to industry advocacy group WineAmerica, so the stakes are high. An economic analysis of the 2020 wildfires estimated losses up to \$3.7 billion, a number that will be felt into 2023 because many wineries have decided to not produce wine from 2020 grapes due to the severity of impacts from wildfires. With the grant, the team seeks to: Develop new technologies and establish low-cost sensors and sensor networks for real-time risk assessment in the vineyard. Assess the impact of smoke exposure on the health of grapes and grapevines. Develop grape coatings to reduce or eliminate uptake of smoke components into grapes. Optimize a rapid small-batch fermentation method to predict what a wine impacted by smoke will taste like when fermented on a commercial scale. /

SPORTS: The Oregon Men’s Basketball team begins its non-conference season this afternoon in Eugene. The Ducks host Texas Southern at 4 p.m. at Matthew Knight Arena. The game is being carried by the Pac-12 Networks. ; The Oregon Women’s Basketball team starts non-conference play tonight when the Ducks host Idaho State in Matt Knight Arena. Tip-off is shortly after 7:30 p.m. on the Oregon Live Stream. ; The Oregon State Men’s Basketball team hosts Portland State in its non-conference opener this evening at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis. Tip-off is shortly after 7:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. ; The Oregon State Women’s Basketball team returns to action on Friday night when the squad hosts Loyola Marymount in its non-conference opener. Game time at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis is 8:00 p.m. The contest is being carried on the Oregon State Live Stream. ; The Oregon Ducks learn later today whether they’ve moved up a notch in the College Football Playoff standings. The Ducks were last week ranked at No. 4. But Michigan State, which was just ahead of them, lost over the weekend. But other schools might leap into that spot based on the strength of their weekend wins. Oregon is No. 5 in the Associated Press sportswriters’ poll and No. 6 in the USA Today coaches’ poll. Next up: The Ducks host Washington State on Saturday at Eugene’s Autzen Stadium. It’s a night game, with kick-off at 7:30 p.m. so it may be broadcast by ESPN. Heading to the game? Duck Athletic officials say to “wear black.” The Oregon State Beavers host Stanford on Saturday in

Corvallis. Kick-off at Reser Stadium is 2:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. The Beavs still need one more win to become bowl eligible. ; The NCAA has set the stage for a dramatic restructuring of college sports. Proposed changes include reshaping of Division I that will tackle revenue distribution, how rules are made and enforced and access to the most-high profile and lucrative NCAA events such as the men's basketball tournament. There's also the question of just how big the tent should be at the top of college sports. The rewritten constitution focuses more on the NCAA's broad goals of athlete welfare and athletics as part of an academic experience instead of governing procedures and operations. Both matters have come under increasing criticism. /

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WEATHER: An atmospheric river will bring periods of moderate to heavy rain to Western Oregon late today through Friday. Rain amounts should be lowest in the southern Willamette Valley and Lane County Cascades since the heaviest rain is expected to slide north of Eugene. But total rain amounts may exceed 6 to 12 inches in the northern Oregon Cascades, and north Coast Range. 1 to 3 inches of rain is possible for the interior lowlands, and 2 to 5 inches along the coast. The rain could cause flooding of small creeks in the Coast Range. There is also potential for debris flows over and near wildfire burn zones in the Cascades. This includes the Lionshead, Beachie Creek, and Riverside burn areas. Debris flow potential is lowest over the Holiday Farm burn area, as the heaviest rain looks to occur to the north of this burn area. High pressure should bring a break from the rain on Saturday and potentially on Sunday as well. Turning cooler early next week with rain likely. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: It's been a driving headache for generations, with slumping soil, crumbling pavement, aging guardrails, and tight curves. But that's a thing of the past now. Lane County Public Works' crews and contractors have completed an impressive realignment of a stretch of Territorial Highway known as Stony Point. It was a massive project. The work improved road safety on Territorial Highway between Gillespie Corners and the community of Lorane by stabilizing three landslides at Stony Point, softening the sharp curves of the road, adding shoulders to accommodate people biking, and paving the road. Work began in June 2020 and continued over two construction seasons. Lane County Engineer Peggy Keppler says this was the largest road building project that Lane County has taken on in decades and it was truly a community effort. During the project, 70,000 cubic yards of earth were moved, including 20,000 cubic yards of unusable soil from the landslide areas. A total of 44 40-foot-long steel piles were driven 40 feet into the ground to help stabilize slope. Most of the unusable soil was relocated, by agreement, to neighboring properties, and quality soil was sourced from nearby areas to reduce the number of heavy truck trips related to the project by at least 20,000. The project also used 4,400 tons of asphalt; 17,000 tons of aggregate base (for the road); 34,000 square feet of wire and rock facing material; and 110,000 square yards of technical fabric. / ECONOMY, FINANCES: Food, fuel, clothing, appliances. More people are working, but their paycheck is not going as far.

Consumer prices jumped 6.2 percent in October compared with a year earlier as surging costs for food, gas and housing left Americans grappling with the highest inflation rate since 1990. From September to October, prices jumped close to one percent. Inflation is eroding the strong gains in wages and salaries that have flowed to America's workers in recent months, creating political headaches for families, retailers, and political leaders. Factory shutdowns, clogged ports, a shortage of truckers and a surge in demand for imported products have combined to drive up shipping costs for food, furniture, automobiles and other products, which are being passed on in part to consumers. Major shipping companies from FedEx to UPS have announced rate increases. Food prices experienced a sizeable increase, as prices climbed an average 1.7 percent last month for everything from meat, poultry, and fish, to produce, eggs, and milk. Food prices are up close to 12 percent over the past 12 months. Fuel oil prices soared 12 percent last month alone and have climbed by close to 60 percent during the past year. Prices at the pump for a gallon of regular gasoline in Lane County, for example, are up \$1.38 from this time last year. The price of housing and heating homes and apartments also climbed. Energy prices overall rose 4.8 percent in October and are up 30 percent over the past 12-months. Used vehicle prices again were a big contributor, rising 2.5 percent on the month and 26.4 percent for the year. New vehicle prices were up 1.4 percent and 9.8 percent respectively. / EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMY: The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell to a new pandemic low 267,000 last week, another sign that the job market is recovering from last year's sharp coronavirus downturn. Jobless claims fell by 4,000 last week, according to the Labor Department. An estimated 2.2 million Americans were collecting traditional unemployment benefits the week that ended Oct. 30. / LOW-INCOME: U.S. food banks are dealing with increased demand from families sidelined by the pandemic now face a new challenge – surging food prices and supply chain issues. The higher costs and limited availability mean some families may get smaller servings or substitutions for staples like peanut butter, which costs nearly double what it did a year ago. As holidays approach, some food banks worry they won't have enough turkeys stuffing and cranberry sauce for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Residents picking up free groceries at some of the nation's food banks say they're grateful for the extra help as prices of dairy, meat, and fuel climbs. Food banks that expanded to meet unprecedented demand brought on by the pandemic won't be able to absorb forever food costs that are two to three times what they used to be, she said, Supply chain disruptions, lower inventory and labor shortages have all contributed to increased costs for charities on which tens of millions of people in the U.S. rely on for nutrition. Donated food is more expensive to move because transportation costs are up, and bottlenecks at factories and ports make it difficult to get goods of all kinds. It's unclear to what extent other concurrent government aid, including an expanded free school lunch programs and an increase in benefits for people in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, will offset rising food prices. An analysis by the Urban Institute think tank in Washington, D.C. found that while most households are expected to receive sufficient maximum benefits for groceries, a gap still exists in 21 percent of U.S. rural and urban counties. The upcoming holidays are a planning challenge amid fears some longtime donors might hesitate to buy a frozen turkey that has increased in price from \$10 to \$15 per bird. / HEALTH, YOUTH: About 900,000

kids aged 5-11 will have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in their first week of eligibility, White House officials said this morning. Final clearance for the child-sized vaccine doses was granted by federal regulators on Nov. 2, with the first doses to kids beginning in some locations the following day. Now nearly 20,000 pharmacies, clinics and physicians' offices are administering the vaccines. Children who begin the two-dose regimen by the end of next week will have full protection from the vaccines by Christmas. ; Here is this week's schedule for Lane County Public Health's Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children ages 5-11: Today (Wed., Nov. 10): 1:30-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Thurs., Nov. 11, 12:00-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Fri., Nov. 12: 12-6:30 p.m. at Lane Events Center; Sat., Nov. 13: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lane Events Center. The special vaccines contain just one-third of the amount of the Pfizer vaccine that is given to teens and adults. The two doses will be administered three weeks apart. That means children who are vaccinated before Thanksgiving will reach full immunity by Christmas. Lane County Public Health's pediatric vaccination clinics are appointment-only initially to better manage high demand. Appointments may be made online at the Lane County Public Health website. Many pharmacies and providers also are taking appointments for pediatric vaccinations. The county's larger-scale booster dose clinics for adults are pausing this week and will resume later this month. Lane County Public Health will, however, continue to provide mobile booster clinics for residents in long-term care facilities. / HEALTH: Pfizer is asking U.S. regulators to allow boosters of its COVID-19 vaccine for anyone 18 or older. Pfizer's request will be considered by the Food and Drug Administration, which could make a final decision later this month. If the FDA authorizes the booster shot for younger adults, experts with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will make their own recommendation. Pfizer's booster shot already is authorized for some adults: those age 65 and older, people living in long-term care facilities, and adults between the ages of 18 to 64 who are at high risk of COVID because they have underlying medical conditions or jobs where they are in close contact with others. Pfizer is submitting early results of a booster study in 10,000 people to make its case that it's time to further expand the booster campaign. Health experts say initial COVID vaccinations still work well to prevent hospitalization and death. But they say preventing infection also is important, because of the affect it has on individuals, families, schools, and workplaces. Since the Pfizer booster was first authorized in late September, more than 14 million people have rolled up their sleeves for doses, according to the CDC. Booster shots of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines were authorized in October. Anyone over 18 who was initially vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is eligible for a booster. Eligibility rules for a booster after having been vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine mirror the Pfizer criteria. ; Seven more Lane County residents have died from complications of COVID-19. That pushes our local pandemic death toll to 318. Lane County Public Health also received reports yesterday of 59 additional infections. The Oregon Health Authority was notified on Tuesday of more than 1,100 (1,120) new infections and 35 additional deaths. / DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING: Another big student-focused apartment building will soon begin taking shape near the University of Oregon campus. The Register-Guard reports the 12-story development will occupy the sites that currently are home to the 7-11 convenience store at 13th and Alder Streets and the adjacent Glenwood Café. The restaurant plans to continue its operations at

the campus location into the spring. The Glenwood's Willamette Street location is unaffected. Reporter Louis Krauss writes that the planned multi-story apartment complex will be called "The Ellis." Plans submitted to the city by the developer indicate it will have ground-floor retail space with a small parking garage and furnished apartments on its upper floors. Construction is expected to begin in the Fall of 2022. / EDUCATION: Oregon State University says it has a record number of students enrolled this fall, meaning it continues to be the state's largest university, with more than 34,000 students (34,108). That's a more than two percent increase from last year. The record enrollment includes students at OSU's main campus in Corvallis, as well as other locations throughout Oregon, and its online program. ; At the University of Oregon, researchers say even with the pandemic-caused economic slump they're working to transform their discoveries into commercial success. For the 2021 fiscal year, which ended in June, campus officials say the U-of-O filed for 14 new patents and researchers launched two new companies based on their work. Those new companies bring the total number of existing startups with formal ties to the university to 28. Licensing revenue from patents and copyrights also added \$9.1 million to the bottom line. Officials say more than 80 percent of that licensing revenue is returned to U-of-O innovators and their academic departments. / WILDLIFE, POLITICS, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE: U.S. wildlife officials say political appointees in the Trump administration relied on faulty science to justify stripping habitat protections for the imperiled northern spotted owl. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Tuesday struck down a decision made five days before Trump left office, which would have opened millions of acres of forest in Oregon, Washington, and California to potential logging. Government biologists warned the changes would have put the small and reclusive northern spotted owl on path to extinction. But the former Fish and Wildlife Service director overrode those concerns and proposed removing protections on more land than even the timber industry had sought. Officials twice delayed the changes after President Joe Biden took office and they never went into effect. That puts them among numerous Trump-era policies reversed or struck down by the Interior Department in recent months on issues ranging from oil and gas drilling on some public lands to protections for birds from wind farms. Democratic lawmakers from Oregon, Washington and California in February called for an investigation into the removal of spotted owl protections, citing potential scientific meddling by Trump appointees. Wildlife advocates, government agencies and the timber industry have sparred for decades over the northern spotted owl, which is now in precipitous decline and getting closer to disappearing from Washington and parts of Oregon. Federal habitat protections imposed in 2012 were meant to avert the bird's extinction. They've also been blamed for a logging slowdown that's devastated some rural communities. Of 9.6 million protected acres, federal officials proposed in August 2020 to remove protections for about 2 percent. The timber industry said the plan didn't go far enough and called for removal of more than 28 percent. In January, the federal agency head abruptly changed the recommendation and went even further, saying more than one-third of the protected land, or almost 3.5 million acres, should be excluded from protection. The land has huge swaths of timber and includes 2 million acres spread in a checkerboard pattern across western Oregon. / SPORTS: The Oregon Ducks moved up one notch yesterday, to Number 3, in the College Football Playoff

standings. It comes after their 26-16 win over Washington. The Ducks are behind Georgia and Alabama, and just ahead of Ohio State. Oregon is No. 5 in the Associated Press sportswriters' poll and No. 6 in the USA Today coaches' poll. Next up: The Ducks host Washington State on Saturday at Eugene's Autzen Stadium. It's a night game, with kick-off at 7:30 p.m. so it may be broadcast by ESPN. Heading to the game? Duck Athletic officials say to "wear black." The Oregon State Beavers host Stanford on Saturday in Corvallis. Kick-off at Reser Stadium is 2:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. The Beavs still need one more win to become bowl eligible. /

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DISCUSSED VETERANS, MILITARY, COMMUNITY, EVENTS: Today is Veterans Day. Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary marking the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 making it an annual observance, and it became a national holiday in 1938. Then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day to honor all those who served the country in war or peace. On this day, the nation honors military veterans past and present with parades and other observances across the country and a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates there are 18.2 million military veterans—men and women—in the United States. Close to one-quarter are over the age of 75. But after decades of overseas wars, there are large numbers of younger veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. ; There are many veterans day events and observances taking place across Oregon today. Among the largest: The Douglas County Veterans Day Parade begins at 11 a.m. in downtown Roseburg. The route starts at NE Fowler and NE Diamond Lake Blvd. and finishes in front of the Douglas County Courthouse. In Albany, the annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Memorial takes place from 11 a.m. to noon at Albany's Timber Linn Park. The program schedule includes a Howitzer salute and an Oregon Air National Guard F-15 flyover at 11:40 a.m. The 70th annual Albany Veterans Day Parade is being held as a "reverse parade" this year. It takes place this afternoon between 12:30-3:00 p.m. Veterans and other floats and exhibits will be stationed around downtown Albany for people to drive past and show their support. For decades, the parade has been recognized as the largest Veterans Day parade west of the Mississippi. ; The Oregon Air National Guard is conducting Veterans Day flyovers for ceremonies at several locations throughout the state. Members of the 142nd Wing out of Portland's Air National Guard Base will pilot their F-15 Eagle fighter jets. In the space of an hour, beginning at 11 a.m., they are set to perform low passes over the communities of Estacada and The Dalles. They jets are expected at 11:40 a.m. over Albany and the annual Veterans Day ceremony at Timber Linn Park, before making a closing pass over Tillamook and heading back to base. All passes will be approximately 1,000 feet above ground level and at about 400 miles per hour airspeed. Flights could be canceled or flight times changed due to

inclement weather or operational considerations. / **BUSINESS, VETERANS:** On this Veterans Day, 14 Oregon companies are being recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor for their investment in recruiting, employing, and providing long-term career opportunities to our nation's veterans. Coburg's Marathon Coach is one of the small- and medium-sized firms receiving the HIRE Vets Medallion Award for its work with veterans and the Oregon Employment Department. Also being honored, two Douglas County businesses: Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority and A&M Transport. Company leaders say when they recruit veterans, they know they're hiring someone who is reliable, trainable, works well in a team, and has a sense of ownership of the work they produce. State employment analysts say one in ten adults in our civilian population is a veteran. There are also many veteran-owned businesses across the state. In 2018, our state's roughly 5,800 veteran-owned businesses had a combined annual payroll of more than \$2.3 billion. Many veteran-owned businesses are in the fields of health care and social assistance, construction, and business services. Last year, the Oregon Employment Department and our WorkSource Oregon centers won a national award for efforts to serve veterans. Agency leaders remind veterans that when they register with the Oregon Employment Department and WorkSource, they can qualify for priority services and referrals, job search assistance, special workshops, labor market information, and career counseling. / **CRIME:** It is a devastating loss for a longtime Eugene small business. And it comes just ahead of the holiday season when inventory is difficult to replace. Eugene Police are asking for any leads you might have after 21 bicycles, many of them high-end models, were stolen from Hutch's Bicycles. The shop is located at 960 Charnelton Street. Investigators say the theft occurred sometime Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning. The stolen bikes were valued at close to \$100,000 and include several very expensive and specialized bikes. Police say the magnitude of this theft is unusual and it's taking a big toll on the business. If anyone you have any tips in the case, Eugene Police would like to hear from you. ; Investigators say he's been the subject of multiple calls to 911 by business owners and others. Early Tuesday morning, 58-year-old Richard Dean Taylor was arrested again after allegedly threatening people with a hunting knife and yelling at police. Eugene Police say they were called to the 900 block of Willamette Street after the man identified as Taylor began menacing people and acting aggressively toward one woman. One officer drew his firearm and addressed Taylor, while getting the woman out of harm's way and beginning attempts to get Taylor to de-escalate. As other officers arrived, Taylor left on foot—still brandishing the knife in an aggressive manner and yelling. Investigators say multiple people in the area had to shelter in a local business. As police followed Taylor, they said he was yelling at officers, while waving and slashing toward them with the knife while they continued efforts to calm him and deescalate the situation. After Taylor basically circled the block, police say he resisted the effects of three Taser deployments, three less lethal sponge rounds, and pepper spray. But finally, they say Taylor put his knife in his pocket and sat on the sidewalk. Even then, as officers went to handcuff him, they say Taylor's hands moved toward his pockets and he resisted arrest but was taken into custody. He is charged with Unlawful Use Weapon, Menacing, and Disorderly Conduct. / **SAFETY:** Eugene Springfield Fire crews rescued one person from a house fire reported Wednesday night in the 700 block of Springfield's "G" Street. When crews arrived, one resident was outside and told

them there was smoke in one room and that another person still was in the building. Crews rescued that person, who was treated at a hospital. After the blaze was extinguished, a cat was also rescued from the residence. The cause of the blaze is under investigation. / HEALTH, YOUTH: About 900,000 kids aged 5-11 will have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in their first week of eligibility, White House officials said on Wednesday. Final clearance for the child-sized vaccine doses was granted by federal regulators on Nov. 2, with the first doses to kids beginning in some locations the following day. Now nearly 20,000 pharmacies, clinics and physicians' offices are administering the vaccines. Children who begin the two-dose regimen by the end of next week will have full protection from the vaccines by Christmas. ; Lane County Public Health continues its appointment-only Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children ages 5-11: Today (Thurs., Nov. 11), 12:00-6:30 p.m. at the Lane Events Center. Fri., Nov. 12: 12-6:30 p.m. at the Lane Events Center. Sat., Nov. 13: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Lane Events Center. The special vaccines contain just one-third of the amount of the Pfizer vaccine that is given to teens and adults. The two doses will be administered three weeks apart. That means children who are vaccinated before Thanksgiving will reach full immunity by Christmas. Lane County Public Health's pediatric vaccination clinics are appointment-only to better manage high demand. Appointments may be made online at the Lane County Public Health website. Many pharmacies and providers also are taking appointments for pediatric vaccinations. The county's larger-scale booster dose clinics for adults are pausing this week and will resume later this month. Lane County Public Health will, however, continue to provide mobile booster clinics for residents in long-term care facilities. /

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SPORTS: The Ducks can move a step closer to clinching the Pac-12 North title and a spot in the conference championship game with a win over Washington State on Saturday. But Washington State has motivation of its own, just one win away from bowl eligibility. The Ducks are ranked No. 3 in the College Football Playoff standings. It's a night game tomorrow at Autzen Stadium, with kick-off at 7:30 p.m. The contest is being broadcast by ESPN. Heading to the game? Duck Athletic officials say to "wear black." The Oregon State Beavers host Stanford on Saturday in Corvallis. Kick-off at Reser Stadium is 2:30 p.m. on the Pac-12 Networks. The Beavs still need one more win to become bowl eligible. ; In Pac-12 Basketball action: The Oregon Men's Basketball team hosts Southern Methodist in Matthew Knight Arena tonight at 8 p.m. (Pac-12 Network). The Oregon State Men's Basketball is on the road for two straight games, beginning with contest with Iowa State this evening at 5 p.m. (ESPN3). The Oregon State Women's Basketball team returns to action tonight when the squad hosts Loyola Marymount in its non-conference opener. Game time at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis is 8:00 p.m. (Oregon State Live Stream). The Oregon Women's Basketball team hosts Dixie State on Sunday at 5 p.m. (Oregon Live Stream). The Oregon Women's Basketball team signed four high school standouts yesterday. Sports analysts say it is projected to be the nation's best recruiting class. The Oregon State Women's basketball team signed four prep stars yesterday, projected to be the nation's third-best recruiting class. ; Another big weekend in high school sports: In the prep football playoffs: Class 6A – Round Two: #7 Sheldon hosts #10 Lakeridge (Friday, 7 p.m.) and #11 Roseburg visits #6 Summit (Friday, 7 p.m.). Class 5A - Quarterfinals: #5 Thurston is at #4 Canby (Friday, 7 p.m.). Class 4A – Quarterfinals: #7 Marist Catholic meets #2 Cascade (Friday, 7 p.m., at Scio HS) and #12 North Eugene is at #5 Mazama (Friday, 7 p.m.). Class 3A - Quarterfinals: #1 Siuslaw hosts #8 Cascade Christian (Friday, 7 p.m.). / CRIME: Eugene Police say they are investigating a small fire spotted Wednesday night on the porch of a West Eugene church to determine whether it was deliberately set and whether it was a possible bias crime. The blaze was extinguished before it could cause significant damage to St. Mark Church on Sam Reynolds Street. The church has a predominantly Black membership. So while Eugene Police Arson detectives investigate how the fire started and whether it was Arson, additional

detectives from the Special Investigations Unit are working to determine whether any possible bias crimes are associated with the incident. Have any leads in the case? Eugene Police would like to hear from you. Call 541-682-5111. ; A 40-year-old Eugene man was arrested late Wednesday morning after allegedly shooting at a stranger during a dispute over a parking space. Patrick Robert Terrill is facing charges of Attempted Assault, Menacing, and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. It comes after Central Lane 911 received a call about shots being fired near the 1100 block of Willamette Street. The report indicated a man had discharged a firearm toward another person, then walked into a nearby apartment building. Police say they spotted the suspect, later identified as Terrill, looking down from a second-floor apartment balcony. They asked him to come downstairs to speak with them, he did, and he was arrested. After receiving a search warrant, police say they recovered numerous firearms. / CRIME, SAFETY, LAW

ENFORCEMENT, AGRICULTURE, BUSINESS: Officials in Southern Oregon's Jackson County say they plan to ask the state for more than \$7.2 million to help crack down on billions of dollars' worth in illegal cannabis grows across the Rogue Valley. The Mail Tribune in Medford reports the money would pay for 37 new employees including Sheriff's Office detectives, code enforcement officers and more staff for the Jackson County District Attorney's Office. Jackson County Commissioner Rick Dyer says those personnel would enhance an effort over the next year to make growing illegal marijuana uncomfortable and risky for people who are breaking the law. ; Oregon State Police in Southern Oregon yesterday shared details of a late-October drug bust that cracked down on a large marijuana-growing operation outside Central Point, north of Medford. They say the operation included 62 large, outdoor grow-houses which contained close to 1,200 illegal cannabis plants (1,193) and thousands of pounds of marijuana that was already harvested and in the process of being dried. In all, investigators from multiple agencies from Jackson and Josephine counties say they seized more than 18,000 (18,360) pounds of marijuana, more than \$80,000 in cash, and four firearms. ; How much marijuana do you have to have stuffed in your vehicle for it to reek so badly that a police officer driving nearby can smell it? Albany Police say they last week seized about \$2.2 million in marijuana found stuffed in plastic bags in a U-Haul truck traveling south on Interstate 5 in Linn County. Investigators said a detective with the Linn Interagency Narcotics Enforcement Team was driving the same direction when he caught a whiff of cannabis from the 26-foot box truck. The detective coordinated with law enforcement agencies to have the truck pulled over. Investigators say the smell of marijuana was overwhelming, but the two men inside the cab told officers they were hauling furniture. Instead, a search recovered 173 large black plastic garbage bags filled with a combined 2,800 pounds of cannabis. Estimated street value: \$2.2 million. The two suspects, one from Hermiston, Oregon, and the other from California, were charged with Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, Unlawful Delivery of Marijuana, and Criminal Conspiracy. / VETERANS: There were parades and flyovers and commemorations. America yesterday marked Veterans Day with events honoring those who served. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates there are 18.2 million military veterans—men and women—in the United States. Close to one-quarter are over the age of 75. But after decades of overseas wars, there are large numbers of younger veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. Here in Western Oregon, signature events included large parades in Albany and

Roseburg. / VETERANS, MENTAL HEALTH: President Joe Biden used his first Veterans Day in office to announce a new push to better understand, identify and treat medical conditions suffered by military personnel deployed to toxic environments. Biden has wondered for years about whether there was a potential link between his son Beau's exposure to toxins in the air during his service in Iraq and Beau's death years later from brain cancer. He wants scientists to focus on whether there's a link between lung problems among veterans who breathed smoke from massive burn pits outside some overseas bases where the military burned toxic waste. So far, no scientific evidence suggests that. But other military personnel say they've developed health issues after working at those spots. / HEALTH, YOUTH, FAMILIES: Lane County Public Health continues its appointment-only Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children ages 5-11: Today (Fri., Nov. 12): 12-6:30 p.m. at the Lane Events Center and Sat., Nov. 13: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Lane Events Center. The special vaccines contain just one-third of the amount of the Pfizer vaccine that is given to teens and adults. The two doses will be administered three weeks apart. That means children who are vaccinated before Thanksgiving will reach full immunity by Christmas. Lane County Public Health's pediatric vaccination clinics are appointment-only to better manage high demand. Appointments may be made online at the Lane County Public Health website. Many pharmacies and providers also are taking appointments for pediatric vaccinations. The county's larger-scale booster dose clinics for adults are pausing this week and will resume later this month. Lane County Public Health will, however, continue to provide mobile booster clinics for residents in long-term care facilities. / BUSINESS, ECONOMY: Americans quit their jobs at a record pace for the second straight month in September, while businesses and other employers continued to post a near-record number of available jobs. The Labor Department said that 4.4 million people quit their jobs that month, or about 3 percent of the nation's workforce. There were 10.4 million job openings, down from 10.6 million in August, which was revised higher. /

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TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Oregon Department of Transportation crews worked through the weekend to remove rocks and debris from a slide that closed a portion of Oregon Highway 138 between Elkton and Sutherlin. The closure is ten miles south of Elkton. Traffic is being detoured along local roads on the opposite side of the Umpqua River. The contractor hopes to have the highway reopened early this week. The Friday morning rockslide brought down an estimated 7,000 cubic yards of rock and debris, including many large boulders. Given that a typical dump truck can carry 10-15 cubic yards of material, that could mean somewhere between 500-600 loads of debris. The cleanup operations also involves blasting, to reduce the size of some of the boulders. /

TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMY: Gasoline prices are up a penny per gallon in Lane County this morning. The AAA fuel price survey reports the average price for a gallon of regular is \$3.81. This time last year, it was \$2.45. That's an increase of \$1.35 over the past 12 months and it's putting a real crimp in a lot of budgets. Higher fuel prices reduce the money individuals and families have available for food and other essentials. It also increases shipping prices, putting strains on businesses. And fuel prices could climb a bit more heading into the holidays, as demand for fuel increases. /

HOMELESSNESS, SOCIAL SERVICES, WEATHER, SAFETY: They're training volunteers and keeping an eye on the weather forecast. Coordinators of the Egan Warming Center operate shelters for those who are unhoused during the winter months on nights when the temperature is expected to dip to 30 degrees or colder. Last fall and winter, it was a challenge operating the facilities, which often set up at local community centers, churches, and elsewhere. There were fewer volunteers as many older adults and those with vulnerable health stayed home during the pandemic. Those locations that operated could accommodate fewer people because of COVID distancing and related restrictions. More online volunteer trainings are planned this month, including on Thursday evening, November 18, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Egan Warming Center is a program of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County. The program receives funding from Lane County and support from a broad coalition of community members, service providers, nonprofits, faith and social communities, and local government. Egan Warming Center is named in honor of Major Thomas Egan, who froze to death during a cold spell in 2008. /

SPORTS: In college

football action: Oregon defeated Washington State, 38-24, on Saturday night in Pac-12 football at Autzen Stadium. Next up for the Ducks: the Utah Utes. Game time in Salt Lake City is 4:30 p.m. on ABC / KEZI-TV. Oregon moved up a notch to No. 4 The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday. The Ducks also climbed to No. 5 in the USA Today Coaches' Poll. Oregon is No. 3 in the College Football Playoff rankings behind Georgia and Alabama. The CFP standings will be updated Tuesday afternoon. Oregon State became bowl-eligible for the first time since 2013 after defeating Stanford in Corvallis, 35-14. The Beavers host Arizona State on Saturday in a night game. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN. / HEALTH, LABOR: An alliance of unions representing 50,000 Kaiser Permanente workers in Oregon, California, and six other states has called off a planned strike after reaching a tentative labor deal with the health care network. Both sides announced the agreement on Saturday, staving off a potentially crippling walkout today. There are some 32,000 Kaiser employees, including roughly 3,400 in Oregon and Southwest Washington, who were prepared to walk off the job to protest understaffing and a lower wage tier for new hires. Kaiser has a limited profile in Lane County, but union officials say they represent nine workers locally. Additional members of the alliance had authorized a one-day "sympathy strike" on Nov. 18. Agreement on the four-year contract includes annual wage increases and new staffing language. Bargaining continues with the local units representing Kaiser pharmacists in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest, as well as a group of engineers. The alliance said it has more than 35,000 member employees in California; 6,300 in Oregon and Washington; 2,100 in Colorado; 2,300 in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and northern Virginia; 3,000 in Georgia; and 1,900 in Hawaii. / WEATHER, SAFETY: The U.S. Coast Guard and local authorities used two helicopters and a rescue swimmer to remove 20 people and three dogs from rising waters at an RV park on the Oregon Coast on Friday as heavy rains in the Pacific Northwest caused rivers and creeks to overflow their banks. The Coast Guard said on Twitter that about 30 people chose to stay put at the RV Park about 90 miles southwest of Portland. Flood warnings were in place Friday in western Washington and Oregon as heavy rains caused landslides, road closures and flooding in the Pacific Northwest. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Nearly four years after a deadly derailment, Amtrak Cascades and Coast Starlight trains are preparing to resume service on the Point Defiance bypass between Tacoma and Olympia. That happens on Thursday for northbound trains departing Eugene and southbound trains coming from Seattle. Eight trains will use the bypass daily. Amtrak has been using its traditional route, along the edge of Puget Sound, in the interim. The bypass was created to save time between Olympic and Tacoma while eliminating many crossings along the edge of the Sound. But federal investigators say an engineer unfamiliar with the bypass and driving the new route for the first time in darkness took a turn too fast, triggering the derailment that plunged some of the cars off a railroad crossing and onto Interstate 5. The derailment killed three people and injured dozens. Since then, Amtrak says it's implemented safety measures including "positive train control," which can slow trains automatically. / SAFETY, LAW ENFORCEMENT: Oregon State Police leaders on Saturday asked for prayers and support on behalf of one of their troopers, who was critically injured on U.S. Highway 30 in northwestern Oregon's Columbia County on Thursday. Officials say Trooper John Jeffries suffered critical injuries when a patrol vehicle was rammed and he was struck by a driver fleeing a

police pursuit. Jeffries is being treated in a Portland hospital. Officials say he worked for the FBI for 20 years before retiring from that agency and joining with Oregon State Police earlier this year. He's been stationed in the community of St. Helens. / CRIME: Eugene Police on Friday announced they have recovered some of the high-end bicycles stolen earlier last week during an overnight burglary from Hutch's Bike Shop. They were located stored in tents inside an encampment at Washington-Jefferson Street Park. 34-year-old Heather Priest of Eugene was arrested for selling one stolen bicycle and being in possession of a second stolen bike. 43-year-old Joseph Davis of Eugene received a criminal citation for also being in possession of a stolen bicycle. One additional bicycle was located and recovered during a foot patrol and police say a search warrant was served on two tents in the park where one additional stolen bicycle was located. While detectives have recovered four bicycles stolen in the burglary, many more are still being sought. If anyone has tips in this case, please call Eugene Police. ; While recovering the stolen bicycles, Eugene Police also made additional arrests not related to the theft. 37-year-old Zachariah Smith was arrested for Delivery of Heroin and an Unauthorized Use Vehicle warrant. 44-year-old Jason Slaughter was arrested for a Trespass warrant. 21-year-old Olallie Stahl-Wellborn was arrested for a Parole Violation warrant. 28-year-old Adam Cyrus Larsen was arrested for an Unauthorized Use Vehicle warrant. ; Lane County Sheriff's Deputies say they have arrested a 22-year-old man and charged him in connection with Thursday's late-night carjacking on Mosby Creek Road. Investigators say Travis Scott Rich, a Cottage Grove area resident, faces charges including First-Degree Robbery and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle. Officials say the victim had stopped to check on a crashed vehicle when the driver of the crashed vehicle pointed a gun and stole the Good Samaritan's pick-up truck. / HOUSING, LOW-INCOME, PANDEMIC, GOVERNMENT: State officials say they've allocated nearly all of Oregon's \$289 million in federal emergency rental assistance. Because of that, on December 1 they are going to pause accepting new applications for the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program. But while that pause is in place, state and legislative leaders say they're working to find new and expanded ways to assist renters who are struggling financially during the pandemic. The rental assistance program has been marked by challenges and delays across the nation. But Oregon officials say they rank in the top ten of states that have already paid out of assigned funds to those in need. But they add it's clear the demand for emergency rental assistance is far greater than the amount of federal funding available for the program at this time. Of the \$289 million allocated to Oregon, officials say more than \$130 million in emergency rental assistance has already been distributed to more than 19,600 Oregon renters to help head off eviction. In the meantime, if you are falling behind on your rent and want to apply for assistance, the window remains open through the end of the day on Dec. 1 at www.oregonrentalassistance.org After Dec. 1, officials encourage people to apply for other emergency rental assistance programs across the state to receive the 60-day safe harbor period through their county. / HEALTH, GOVERNMENT, ELDERS: Federal officials announced on Friday that Medicare's "Part B" premium is climbing by \$21.60 next year—the largest increase in years. Officials said about half of the increase is tied to the price of a new drug designed to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease drug that Medicare officials expect the program to cover. The 2022 hike in the "Part B"

premium means Medicare will erase a chunk of the recently announced cost-of-living allowance for Social Security, a boost that works out to \$92 a month for the average retiree and is intended to help cover rising prices for things like gasoline and food. Alzheimer's is a progressive neurological disease with no known cure, affecting about 6 million Americans, the vast majority old enough to qualify for Medicare. Medicare officials say the new Alzheimer's medication, Aduhelm, carries a price tag of \$56,000-a-year to treat a single patient. The medication, from pharmaceutical company Biogen, would add to the cost of outpatient coverage because it's administered intravenously in a doctor's office and paid for under Part B. Analysts say the issue is turning into a case study of how one pricey medication for a condition afflicting millions of people can swing the needle on government spending and impact household budgets. People who don't have Alzheimer's would not be shielded from the cost of Aduhelm, since it is expensive enough to everyone's overall premiums. Aduhelm is the first Alzheimer's medication in nearly 20 years. It doesn't cure the life-sapping condition, but the Food and Drug Administration determined that its ability to reduce clumps of plaque in the brain is likely to slow dementia. However, many experts say that benefit has not been clearly demonstrated. The Part B premium of \$21.60 is the biggest increase ever in dollar terms, although not percentage-wise. As recently as August, the Medicare Trustees' report had projected a smaller increase of \$10 from the current \$148.50. /

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NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
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ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED

TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Good news from the Oregon Department of Transportation: Oregon Highway 138 West about ten miles south of Elkton. The road stretches between Elkton and Sutherlin. The highway was closed Friday morning after a rockslide dumped 7,000 cubic yards of debris and large boulders onto the pavement. Flaggers are still providing traffic control. Motorists should expect delays up to 20 minutes. The highway may be limited to a single lane for a few days as contractors continue to remove loose rocks on the slope next to the roadway. / COMMUNITY, SAFETY, EDUCATION, HEALTH, UTILITIES: School and all school-related activities are canceled today in the Mapleton School District because of a water shortage and equipment problem in the Mapleton Water District. Because of the water shortage, The Siuslaw News reports Mapleton residents yesterday were asked to conserve water and prepare for an outage until the plant can be repaired. KVAL-TV reports Lane County Emergency Management and Fred Meyer stores are donating pallets of water to residents of the community. / GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORTATION: President Biden yesterday signed his hard-fought \$1 trillion infrastructure deal into law before a bipartisan, celebratory crowd on the White House lawn. Oregon state and local governments, transit agencies, and others are expected to receive a combined \$5 billion over the next five years. Biden says the nationwide infusion of cash for roads, bridges, ports, and more is going to make life "change for the better" for Americans. / BUSINESS, ECONOMY, BIPOC: Today is National Entrepreneur's Day, which celebrates those who start their own businesses. Small businesses form the backbone of local economies. And despite the pandemic and pandemic-related recession, many entrepreneurs have used the time to open new shops and firms, add staff, and grab market share. The Oregon Community Foundation today announced the first round of funding for a new "Thriving Entrepreneurs" program here in Oregon. A share of the \$580,000 is coming to Lane County. The grants to 28 Oregon-based nonprofits will provide coaching, mentoring, technical support and training to entrepreneurs. The grants include a focus on entrepreneurs who are women or live in rural areas or are people of color. Among the local recipients, Centro Latino Americano, to expand its business classes for Latino business owners that focuses on financial literacy, business development and management, and assists clients with final business plans. / BUSINESS,

ECONOMY, COMMUNITY: Small business experts say this is a critical year to shop small for the holidays, as local businesses continue dealing with the fallout of pandemic restrictions, inflation, and global supply chain disruptions. Small Business Saturday is Nov. 27, nestled between Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Ahead of the shopping day, small-business, supply-chain, and retail experts emphasize that both consumers and local economies can benefit from participating in the event. By shopping small, consumers not only keep businesses healthy: They keep the money in their community and support local jobs. Those workers spend the bulk of their paychecks locally, adding even more economic impact. Plus, you're able to find holiday gifts that often have a unique, local touch. / BUSINESS, ECONOMY: Americans sharply boosted their spending last month, pushing up retail sales and giving the economy a lift. Much of the gain reflected the fact that shoppers are also paying higher prices. The Commerce Department reported retail sales rose a seasonally adjusted 1.7 percent from September to October. That's twice the increase in growth from the previous month. Solid hiring, strong pay raises, and healthy savings for many households are contributing to spending by U.S. consumers. Americans last month appeared to shrug off the higher prices to spend more on appliances, cars, and on their homes. / COMMUNITY, HEALTH, CHARITY: They've been fundraising since 2014. But now, the Eugene Family YMCA is just \$5 million away from its \$42 million dollar goal to fund and build its new facility. The YMCA just received a \$500,000 challenge donation from an anonymous donor, whose children benefitted from the Eugene Y's programs. That means they'll match dollar-for-dollar every contribution up to the half-million-dollar amount. As planning progresses for work on the new facility at 24th and Hilyard Streets in South Eugene, YMCA officials say the City of Eugene this month finalized and approved the building permit for the project. Groundbreaking is set for July of next year. The Y offers youth and adult fitness classes, activities, and wellness programs. Among the features in the new Y will be an indoor, circular track above the gym; a dedicated cycle studio; a new splash pad in the Aquatics Center; maker spaces; and a teaching kitchen that focuses on nutrition. / CRIME: Federal prosecutors call him a prolific tax cheat. Now, a Lebanon man with ties to Lane County will spend 41 months in federal prison and three years on supervised release after failing to pay more than \$1.7 million in personal income taxes since 2001. Robert Andrew Lund also must pay more than \$1.7 million in restitution to the IRS and \$70,000 to the Oregon Health Authority. Investigators say Lund repeatedly failed to file tax returns, using some of his ill-gotten gains to establish offshore trusts to hide his earnings. He also used his untaxed profits to buy 90 acres of land outside Eugene. There, prosecutors say he built a 7,000 square-foot house that was later appraised at \$950,000. Lund, a small aircraft pilot, also built a private landing strip on the property. Prosecutors say Lund also purchased the former city hall and post office building in Albany, a trailer park with multiple rental units, and two rental houses. During this time, they say he ran several businesses, including a health food store, a bookstore, and a scuba diving equipment and lessons company. Investigators say Lund went to extraordinary lengths, using shell companies and trusts to hide his assets and income from the IRS while also stealing from government assistance programs and taking advantage of personal contacts. They say he also applied for and received food stamps and Medicaid benefits, claiming to be a part-time handyman earning just \$810 a month. /

CRIME: Eugene Police say they are investigating a series of food cart and coffee stand burglaries that have occurred during the past month. Investigators say a suspect or suspects have been breaking into the businesses, primarily to steal the cash registers. Police detectives also are asking owners of such businesses to report break-ins right away. Detectives have heard there might be additional burglaries that never have reported to the police. Additionally, police are asking to hear from anyone who might see or have seen suspicious conditions around a coffee cart or food trailer that might indicate a similar crime is occurring or is about to occur. If you do, call 911 to report it immediately. During the past few weeks, members of the Eugene Police Community Engagement Team have been contacting food cart owners to inform them of the series of break-ins and provide security tips. ; Some tense hours yesterday evening in South Eugene, after Central Lane 911 received multiple calls regarding shots fired in the E. Amazon Drive / Snell Street area shortly after 5 p.m. Residents in one home sheltered in place after a bullet fired from a nearby residence went through one of their windows. The shattered glass injured one occupant. Those neighbors were extricated by Eugene Police. And an emergency message was sent to others living within a three-block area as some homes were evacuated and people in others told to shelter in place. Eugene Police deployed their SWAT and Crisis Negotiation Team and their Drone Team, along with Eugene Springfield Fire for any medical needs. Officials say crisis negotiators worked for hours to persuade the barricaded suspect, 29-year-old Nicholas Hanford Gerber, to come out of the house. Investigators also learned that Gerber had access to multiple firearms. Shortly before midnight, a Eugene Police SWAT team removed Gerber from the house. He faces a range of charges including Assault, Attempted Assault, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, and Reckless Endangering. ; A 59-year-old Marcola-area woman was hospitalized with life-threatening wounds and her husband has been arrested a charged in connection with the case. Lane County Sheriff's investigators say it comes after deputies and paramedics responded to the 39000 block of Woods Road near Marcola on Friday after receiving the report that someone had been shot. Deputies say the victim's husband, 57-year-old Seven Illman, had called 911, claiming his wife had shot herself. But evidence on scene suggested that the husband was responsible and that the couple had been arguing just prior to the shooting. / **SAFETY:** It was not the outcome they hoped for, but the Lane County Sheriff's Office thanks you for keeping an eye out. Officials say the body of a missing 54-year-old Pleasant Hill man has been located on a property a short distance from his residence. Officials say they're investigating whether a medical condition and exposure to cold temperatures contributed to Abdul Lamont's death. He was reported missing by a roommate last week. / **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, AGRICULTURE, POLITICS,** **GOVERNMENT:** The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation yesterday announced \$2.7 million in funding for projects aimed at helping Coho salmon in the Klamath River basin. The species is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and has seen its numbers dwindle amid rising river temperatures and reduced water flows. The Klamath River spans the border between Oregon and California. Tribes, non-profits, local government agencies, schools and universities can apply. The grant will be administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and will prioritize projects that improve salmon habitat and fish passage in the lower part of the river and its tributaries. The grant announcement comes after a

summer that saw a continued water crisis along the Oregon-California border as federal regulators shut off irrigation water to farmers from a critical reservoir and said they would not send extra water to dying salmon downstream or to a half-dozen wildlife refuges that harbor millions of migrating birds each year. The Klamath River is key to the survival of Coho salmon. In better water years the pulses of water help keep the river cool and turbulent — conditions that help the fragile species. The fish are central to the diet and culture of the Yurok Tribe, California's largest federally recognized tribe. The tribe said in the spring that low flows from drought and from previous mismanagement of the river caused another big die-off of juvenile salmon from a disease that flourishes when water levels are low. Yurok fish biologists who tested the baby salmon in the lower Klamath River found that 70 percent of the fish were already dead in the traps used to collect them and 97 percent were infected by the parasite. That could impact Klamath fish runs for many years to come. According to federal monitoring reports, the entire region is in extreme or exceptional drought, and Oregon's Klamath County experienced its driest rain year in 127 years. The situation in the Klamath Basin was set in motion more than a century ago, when the U.S. government began draining a network of shallow lakes and marshlands, redirecting the natural flow of water, and constructing hundreds of miles of canals and drainage channels to create farmland. Homesteads were offered by lottery to World War II veterans. The project turned the region into an agricultural powerhouse but permanently altered an intricate water system that spans hundreds of miles and from southern Oregon to Northern California. /

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TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMY, FINANCES: Everyone's complaining about higher gasoline prices. Now, President Biden says he's asking the Federal Trade Commission to investigate whether oil and gas companies are illegally driving up prices. The move is unlikely to affect prices at the pump any time soon. But it could lead to the FTC opening an investigation into how companies set gasoline prices and, if it finds any compelling evidence, the agency could eventually take enforcement actions. The president noted that prices at the pump have risen even as the costs of refined fuel have fallen and industry profits have gone up. The New York Times reports the two largest players in the industry, ExxonMobil and Chevron, have doubled their net income since 2019, while announcing billions of dollars in plans to issue dividends and buy back stock. Here in Lane County, the average price for a gallon of regular fuel is \$3.81 per gallon. That's up \$1.30 from this time last year. / TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH, SAFETY: The number of airline passengers traveling for Thanksgiving this year is expected to rebound to pre-coronavirus pandemic levels. The head of the Transportation Security Administration says his teams are ready to handle the surge at security checkpoints. But TSA Administrator David Pekoske added that travelers should expect long lines at airports and plan to spend a little more time getting through security. In 2019, a record 26 million passengers and crew passed through U.S. airport screening in the 11-day period around Thanksgiving. But that plummeted in 2020 as the pandemic kept people at home. At the same time, Pekoske told NBC's "Today" he remains very concerned about "unruly passenger" incidents on airplanes, saying the level of bad behavior is much higher than he's ever seen it. The Federal Aviation Administration says it has referred 37 cases involving unruly airline passengers to the FBI for possible criminal prosecution since the number of disruptions on flights began to spike in January. ; Planning to fly out of Eugene's airport or welcoming friends and family this holiday season? Remember to go to www.FlyEUG.com for updates on flight departure and arrival times, updates on what you may take through TSA security checkpoints, and more. / HEALTH, CRIME: U.S. health officials say an estimated 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in a single year. It's the highest death toll in the nation's history. Experts say it's tied to the pandemic—as more people stayed home and fewer had access to mental health care—but also to the dangerous rise of potent

new street drugs. Overdose deaths have been rising for more than two decades. But they accelerated dramatically in the past two years — jumping nearly 30 percent in the last year alone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that between May of 2020 and April of this year, the estimated 100,000 Americans fatally overdosed on stimulants like methamphetamine, cocaine, and opioids, especially prescription pain medication Fentanyl and its knock-off illegal versions. Experts say fentanyl is 100 times more powerful than morphine. It is increasingly being added to other illicit drugs, which are then sold to unknowing users, who die without realizing what they've taken. / HEALTH, PANDEMIC: The Food and Drug Administration is expected to authorize booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine for people ages 18 and older as early as tomorrow. An advisory panel with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention meets Friday to consider the FDA's recommendation. Currently, booster doses of all three authorized vaccines are available to many people, including those who are at greater risk from COVID-19 and those at increased risk of exposure in their jobs or other settings. Health experts strongly recommend booster doses for people ages 65 and older, people ages 50 and older with underlying medical conditions, and people ages 18 and older who live in long-term care facilities. Some cities and states already allow all adults to get boosters of Pfizer's vaccine, but it is not yet official U.S. policy. Moderna is preparing its own paperwork asking U.S. health officials to okay expanded booster eligibility. ; The White House says about 10 percent of eligible kids aged 5 to 11 have received a dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine since its approval for their age group two weeks ago. At least 2.6 million kids have received a shot, White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients said, with 1.7 million doses administered in the last week alone. That's roughly double the pace of the first week after the vaccine was approved for them. It's also more than three times faster than the rate adults were vaccinated at the start of the nation's vaccination campaign 11 months ago. Kids who get their first vaccine dose by the end of this week will be fully vaccinated by Christmas, assuming they get their second shot three weeks after the first one. ; COVID-19 boosters use the same recipe as the original vaccines, and still work well against the delta and other variants. The vaccines work by training your body to recognize and fight the spike protein that coats the coronavirus. And despite mutations on that protein that make the delta variant easier to transmit, a vaccinated immune system still recognizes the virus. Moderna and Pfizer are studying boosters tweaked for the delta and other variants to be ready if one's ever needed. Health authorities would have to decide if and when a vaccine formula swap would be worthwhile. ; Health experts say home test kits for COVID-19 can add a layer of safety and reassurance to holiday gatherings by providing on-the-spot results. Test kits are available at drugstores without a prescription. A box with two tests typically costs about \$25. Swabs, testing solution and instructions are included. These tests are not as accurate as the tests done in hospitals and at testing sites, but they provide results within minutes. That quick turnaround can be helpful during the holidays. Experts say home testing should be used in combination with vaccination, which is the best way to protect against the coronavirus. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Good news from the Oregon Department of Transportation: Oregon Highway 138-West about ten miles south of Elkton is open to single-lane traffic about ten miles south of Sutherlin. The highway was closed Friday morning after a rockslide dumped

7,000 cubic yards of debris and large boulders onto the pavement. Flaggers are providing traffic control. Motorists should expect delays up to 20 minutes. The highway may be limited to a single lane for the next few days as contractors continue to remove loose rocks on the slope next to the highway. / COMMUNITY, HEALTH, EDUCATION, UTILITIES: School and all school-related activities are canceled again today in the Mapleton District because of a water shortage and equipment problem in the Mapleton Water District. Emergency water supplies are being trucked to Mapleton until the plant can be repaired. Lane County Emergency Management and the organization "Lane County Community Organizations Active in Disaster" (COAD) have partnered to provide that drinking water. It is available for Mapleton Water District customers at 88151 Riverview Avenue in Mapleton from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day while supplies last. Customers who cannot pick up water during those hours should call 541-268-4348 for after-hours access. The water issues came after recent rains increased turbidity of the local water source, leaving the community's filtration system unable to function. The Mapleton Water District is in the process of seeking repairs and long-term upgrades. ; The City of Portland is relying on its emergency water supply system after a toppled tree caused extensive damage to a treatment plant east of the city, officials said. The Oregonian and OregonLive report the Portland Water Bureau began using its backup source, a well field along the south shore of the Columbia River, on Monday. It came after a windstorm sent a tall evergreen crashing into the treatment facility for the [Bull Run watershed](#), battering the roof and interior of the building and breaking corrosion treatment equipment. Officials were working to determine a timeline and price tag for repairs. In August, the Portland Water Bureau also dipped into its groundwater reserves for several weeks to help supplement Bull Run water during the hot, dry summer. / DISASTERS, COMMUNITY: At noon on Saturday, if you're a resident of the McKenzie Valley, you might receive a text alert—part of a test of the emergency alert system in the McKenzie Fire & Rescue service area. It's part of a continuing effort to expand emergency services and notifications upriver in the wake of the Holiday Farm Fire. McKenzie Fire & Rescue, Lane County Emergency Management and Central Lane 9-1-1 are working together to conduct the test. Residents in the McKenzie River Valley might receive a test alert on their mobile phones, landlines or via email. The messages will include the subject line "TEST ALERT" to reduce any potential confusion. If you receive one of the test alerts, do not call 9-1-1. McKenzie Valley residents also may stop by the Leaburg Fire Station on Saturday, November 20, between noon and 1:30 p.m. to learn more about preparing for emergencies and emergency alerts. Emergency responders use several tools to alert residents. Some tools do not require residents to sign up, including Wireless Emergency Alerts or Reverse 911. However, everyone in Lane County is encouraged to sign up to receive AlertSense emergency alerts. In rural areas, officials say it's important to sign up to receive alerts at least two different ways because you don't always have the same easy access to cell service or internet – and, even if you have good coverage, natural disasters can destroy infrastructure. Saturday's noon test in the McKenzie Valley will not include the Emergency Alert System's television and radio messages because those are aired countywide and might cause confusion for those living outside of the test area. / CRIME: A Springfield man has been charged with a federal hate crime after investigators with the FBI and Eugene

Police say he used the internet to target and brutally assault a gay man because of the victim's sexual orientation. Federal prosecutors allege 22-year-old Daniel Andrew McGee attempted to kill the victim. According to court documents, McGee met his victim using the social media app Grindr and in early July the two agreed to meet. But officials say that upon entering the victim's apartment, McGee assaulted the man with a wooden club over a period of several minutes. Despite the victim's pleas for McGee to stop, officials say McGee continued striking the man repeatedly in the head with the club. The victim sustained life-threatening injuries and was hospitalized. Further investigation revealed that, in the weeks leading up to the attack, McGee used the internet to search for and view graphically violent anti-gay material, including videos of anti-gay attacks. Prosecutors say McGee also used the internet to plan the assault, purchasing the weapon and other materials online. In addition, they say McGee searched online for suggestions about how to get away with murder and how murderers avoid getting caught. McGee was arrested by the FBI on Monday and made his initial appearance in federal court before a U.S. Magistrate. He remains in custody pending further court proceedings. ; Eugene Police say they arrested a Coos Bay man yesterday afternoon after he allegedly stole a woman's Subaru near 10th and Grant Streets, then caused a four-vehicle crash at West Sixth Avenue and Chambers Street. That crash flipped one of the other vehicles, sending its driver to the hospital for treatment of what were described as non-life-threatening injuries. The incident came shortly after 2:30 p.m., after other drivers called to report the Subaru was being driven erratically and not stopping at stop signs. Police say the suspect, 26-year-old Tristan Chance Reding of Coos Bay, ran from the crash scene but—after entering and exiting a nearby business—was chased by bystanders who provided updates that led police to him. Reding was arrested at 5th Avenue and Filmore Streets. He is charged with Unauthorized Use Vehicle and Felony Hit and Run. But other charges may be added as the investigation continues. / SAFETY: The U.S. Coast Guard rescued five people from a life raft late Monday after a fishing boat sank approximately 20 miles offshore from the mouth of the Umpqua River. Officials say the captain aboard the 67-foot fishing vessel Desire, homeported in Neah Bay, Washington, used a VHF-FM marine-band radio to hail Coast Guard Sector North Bend watchstanders at about 9 p.m. Monday night and report their vessel was taking on water. The captain also reported that the five people aboard were preparing to abandon ship into a life raft. Rescue helicopter crews from the Coast Guard air facility in Newport and the Coast Guard air station in North Bend, and 47-foot Motor Lifeboat rescue boatcrews from Coast Guard Stations Siuslaw River and Umpqua River deployed and arrived on-scene at about 9:30 p.m. The helicopter crews located the survivors in the life raft and deployed rescue swimmers to facilitate hoisting the five. There are no serious injuries reported. Coast Guard officials say the boat and its crew has survival suits for everyone, properly deployed their survival raft, and shot two flares to assist rescuers in locating them. Officials say that underscores the critical importance of preparation before heading out to sea. / ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS: Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.4 percent in October, down from 4.7 percent in September. This unusually low jobless rate for Oregon is similar to what we saw during the economic expansion in the three years leading up to the pandemic-caused recession. Oregon's record-lowest unemployment rate was 3.3 percent in November and

December 2019. In last month's jobs report, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 4,700. The private sector grew rapidly, with a net gain of 10,300 jobs. But the government sector lost 5,600 jobs as employment levels remained low overall in public schools. Among the major industries, Leisure and Hospitality added close to 3,000 jobs in October. Despite these gains, Leisure and Hospitality still accounts for the bulk of Oregon's jobs not recovered since early 2020, with 30,000 jobs left to recover to reach the prior peak month of February 2020. The industry has regained 73 percent of jobs lost early in the pandemic. The Professional and Business Services sector also added more than 3,000 jobs last month. Professional and Technical services employment has grown rapidly throughout 2021, and the industry is now well above its pre-recession peak. This industry added 4,200 jobs during the past three months and 13,100 jobs since the low point in April 2020. Three other industries added more than 1,000 jobs: Construction (+1,500 jobs), Manufacturing (+1,400), and Wholesale Trade (+1,100). / BUSINESS, RECREATION: After 20 years, a longtime concert venue in Central Oregon is getting a new name. The longtime Les Schwab Amphitheatre in Bend is now the Hayden Homes Amphitheatre. Live Nation, which this year brought 25 concerts to the venue, joined with the leaders of the home-building company to make the announcement yesterday. Hayden Homes Amphitheatre was constructed in 2001 along the Deschutes River in Bend's Old Mill District, which features shopping, dining, businesses, and residences. Hayden Homes was established in Central Oregon more than 30 years ago. Over the summer, the amphitheater featured shows by artists such as Luke Bryan, Dierks Bentley, Old Dominion, Brantley Gilbert, Dave Matthews Band, Brandi Carlisle, John Legend, Death Cab for Cutie, Modest Mouse, and others. /

PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTING FORM

DATE OF
BROADCAST 11/18/21

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

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED

HEALTH, SAFETY, COMMUNITY, UTILITIES, DISASTERS: A “boil water” notice and “conservation” notice remain in place for all customers of the Mapleton Water District. It comes as residents await repairs to an equipment problem that surfaced after recent rains and turbid water quality left the community’s filtration system unable to function. The Mapleton Water District is in the process of seeking repairs and long-term upgrades. Lane County emergency managers say emergency drinking water is being distributed at the Mapleton Food Share office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The office is located at 10718 Highway 126. Call 541-999-9778 for after-hours access. Officials say bottled water supplies are limited, so please take only what you need. If possible, bring your own water containers to be used at a temporary filling station that’s in a specially designed trailer loaned by the Eugene Water and Electric Board. School and all school-related activities are canceled again today in the Mapleton District because of the water shortage. / ECONOMY, GOVERNMENT: State revenue analysts say a massive infusion of federal stimulus money has kept our economy stronger than expected. Oregon has approximately 70,000 fewer jobs than before the COVID-19 recession hit, but income taxes are exceeding pre-pandemic levels. They say increased wages for many workers and strong consumer demand are fueling some of the tax revenues. But they warn that rising prices and inflation could erode some of those gains next year. Oregon is still on track to send out a massive “kicker” tax refund due to surging income tax receipts. If the projections hold, the refund — which takes the form of tax credits on individual 2021 tax returns filed next year — would be Oregon’s largest-ever. The state’s unique “kicker” tax law sends money back to taxpayers whenever personal income tax revenues come in at least two percent above initial projections during a two-year budget cycle. Under the anticipated kicker, a typical Oregon taxpayer making slightly more than \$35,000 annually could receive a \$420 credit on this year’s state taxes. It will be the fourth kicker since 2016. A new projection was delivered to a joint meeting of lawmakers Wednesday morning. The revenue numbers are still holding with Oregon government forecasted to receive an additional \$725 million above what was originally expected. / CRIME: Eugene Police yesterday afternoon arrested a 41-year-old man and charged him in connection with an incident where investigators say he boarded a Lane Transit District bus and, while in the presence of juveniles,

touched himself inappropriately while staring at one girl. Police say the incident occurred on November 5 and that the suspect, Hobson Mason, is a registered sex offender who had not recently registered. He faces charges in connection with the case and with Failure to recently Register as a Sex Offender. ; Eugene Police yesterday arrested a woman who witnesses said brandished knife at a local business and forced her way into a passing vehicle. It happened near West 7th and Polk Streets during the noon hour, when police were called to the business after a report that the woman had brandished a knife and stabbed a table before leaving. As officers responded, they received information that the armed woman had attempted to enter a passing vehicle and the passenger tried to pull the door shut. The suspect forced her way in and ultimately was sitting on the passenger. Police stopped the vehicle a block away and took the suspect., identified as 27-year-old Christine Lynn Alter, into custody. She's charged with numerous felony charges including Kidnap in the Second Degree, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, and Unauthorized Use Vehicle. / MENTAL HEALTH, GOVERNMENT: Additional funding from state lawmakers is leading to the opening of two new treatment units at the Oregon State Hospital's Junction City campus. The hospital, on the south end of Junction City off Highway 99. It opened six years ago but was never fully budgeted until this year, when the Oregon legislature allocated \$31 million for the opening of two additional units. Officials say the added beds will help ease some of the pressure on the state hospital system. The first 24-bed unit opened on Monday. It is intended to provide secure treatment for people committed after being found Guilty Except for Insanity. Some of those patients are being transferred from the Oregon State Hospital's Salem campus. A second, 24-bed unit is set for an early 2022 opening once it's fully staffed. The budget includes an additional 110 positions: 102 workers to staff the units along with eight additional employees to provide administrative and operational support. The expanded workforce includes new hires, some agency nurses, current workers transferring into the new positions, and temporary staff. / CRIME, AGRICULTURE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT: A licensed cannabis grower, a vineyard, owner and a sheriff were among witnesses who testified this week before a committee of the Oregon Legislature. It's part of an effort to combat the proliferation of illegal marijuana grow sites in southern Oregon. One lawmaker told the committee that millions of dollars will need to be spent to support law enforcement and site inspectors each year, for several years until the situation is under control. Officials say many illegal marijuana farms are operating under the guise of being legal hemp farms. One licensed cannabis grower says she has beefed up security around her property and no longer dares to go out after dark because she's afraid of armed cartel members who run illegal marijuana farms in her region — even directly across the street. A Southern Oregon vineyard owner says the illegal sites have lured away so many field workers that grape growers and wineries are suffering labor shortages, particularly at harvest time. Jackson County's Sheriff, Nathan Sickler, says the crime rate associated with the thousands of illegal marijuana farms in the region has gone through the roof. He says there have been stabbings, robberies, thefts, burglaries, homicides, sex crimes, motor vehicle accidents, and DUIs. He says his deputies deal with the problems daily. Those taking part in the committee hearing also told lawmakers that illegal cannabis farms have stolen water from rivers, creeks and aquifers during a severe drought and abused immigrant workers. /

TRANSPORTATION, DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT: It's a busy thoroughfare that links Eugene and Springfield through the community of Glenwood. And while it's seen some improvements over the years, it's still overdue for a full-scale project. This week, Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio announced a \$19 million federal transportation grant for what's known as the Franklin Boulevard Corridor revival project. Planners say the redesign will improve Franklin Boulevard not just for drivers but will increase public transit and improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. Those improvements, say backers, also will lead to more economic growth, new and expanded businesses, and jobs. DeFazio chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Along with Oregon U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, he's helped direct a lot of money to Oregon in recent years. DeFazio says the \$19 million grant for Franklin Boulevard improvements will help replace outdated sections of the state highway and make it easier for individuals to invest in and develop the Glenwood area and improvement the gateways to Eugene and Springfield. / FISHERIES, ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY: Green crabs: They're what's for dinner? Researchers say an invasive species of crab has found its way into Coos Bay and the vulnerable South Slough Estuary. And experts say one of the best ways to reduce the populations of European green crabs and protect our native Dungeness crabs and coastal habitat is to trap and eat them. A lot of them. Marine scientists say green crabs dig up and eat eelgrass meadows, destroying seagrass many critters rely on for food and shelter. They also displace juvenile Dungeness crabs from the places where they normally shelter and feed, making the Dungeness vulnerable to predators. Additionally, green crabs feed on clams, oysters, and mussels, reducing populations of those popular Oregon bivalves. Green crabs may vary in color from green to yellow or orange. They have five spines on each side of their shells and three bumps between their eyes. Always check for these identifying marks before removing possible green crabs. Green crabs can be brought to the nearest Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office or taken home and eaten. Officials say close to three in every four crabs retrieved from traps in Coos Bay over the summer were green crabs. They're concerned their larvae might be making their way to other bays and estuaries. researchers at the South Slough National Marine Estuarine Reserve are encouraging coastal residents and visitors to catch and eat the green crabs. They've even put out a culinary guide that contains information about preparing and cooking green crabs. Among the recipes: green crab soup stock, risotto, and more. /

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HEALTH, GOVERNMENT: U.S. regulators this morning opened up COVID-19 booster shots to all adults, expanding the government's campaign to shore up protection and get ahead of rising coronavirus cases that may worsen with the holidays. Pfizer and Moderna announced the decision by the Food and Drug Administration. Scientific advisors with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are expected to discuss the issue later today. If they give their expected approval, it clears the way for the nationwide rollout of boosters to all adults ages 18 or older. The FDA approval comes after at least 10 states already had started offering boosters to all adults. The latest action simplifies the list of who's eligible, allowing anyone 18 or older to choose either company's booster six months after their last dose — regardless of which vaccine they first received. Anyone who got the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine can already get a booster. Experts say all three COVID-19 vaccines used in the U.S. still offer strong protection against severe illness including hospitalization and death, but as is the case with some other vaccines, protection against infection can wane over time. Previously, the government had cleared boosters of Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine, as well as the similar Moderna vaccine, only for vulnerable groups including older Americans and people with chronic health problems. The move to expand comes as new COVID-19 cases have climbed steadily over the last two weeks, especially in states where colder weather is driving people indoors. More than 195 million Americans are considered fully vaccinated and more than 30 million already have received a booster. This week, in anticipation of the expanded eligibility for booster doses, many local healthcare providers began planning for clinics and started scheduling appointments with their patients as early as next week. For the past two weeks, many vaccination sites have focused on providing pediatric doses to youngsters ages 5 through 11. / LOW-INCOME, CHARITABLE: Lane County's largest food drive is back tomorrow morning after having to take last year-and-a-half off because of the pandemic. FOOD for Lane County and your local letter carriers are holding the Letter Carriers' Food Drive. The donation and collection effort provides much of the non-perishable food that our local food bank distributes to its pantries and community partners during the winter months. Organizers hope you'll take part. All you have to do is fill a weather-proof or reusable bag with nonperishable, high protein foods. Then you

place the bag by your mailbox tomorrow morning. Your letter carrier or a FOOD for Lane County volunteer will collect the food during the day. The items will be sorted and distributed. This year, food bank officials say there is a big need for canned meats, peanut butter, beans, low-sodium soups, low-sugar fruits, cooking oils, and spices. We might be more than a year-and-a-half into the pandemic, but hunger and food insecurity are still a huge issue for many individuals and families. When the pandemic arrived, FOOD for Lane County and our local Letter Carriers had to cancel three of their collections in May and November of 2020 and again in May of this year. Organizers say they are grateful to be back this year. / SAFETY: A bunch of people caught a whiff, but no one could locate the source. Yesterday morning around 9:30 a.m., crews responded to multiple calls from multiple locations and businesses in downtown Eugene. Callers reported a strong smell of what was described as natural gas. Eugene-Springfield Fire and Northwest Natural Gas workers conducted a search of a seven-block radius in the downtown area. They said when they arrived they could smell it, but that the odor had noticeably dissipated. Air-gas monitoring was completed in five buildings downtown with no natural gas detected. Similarly, nothing tied to any of the downtown construction zones. Eugene Springfield Fire and Northwest Natural Gas units continued to monitor the area for a time. There also were some calls from the Laurel Hill and Glenwood areas about the odor. / HEALTH, SAFETY: As the community of Mapleton continues to grapple with its water crisis, officials with the Eugene Water and Electric Board yesterday outlined how their investments in emergency equipment for possible local disasters allowed them to lend support to residents on the other side of the Coast Range. The Mapleton Water District issued a “boil water” notice and “conservation” notice after heavy rains stirred up so much silt it shut down the community’s filtration system. That meant distributing emergency supplies of water while work is underway to get the system repaired and upgraded. EWEB officials on Wednesday sent one of the utility’s emergency water trailers to Mapleton to help distribute drinking water to residents. The trailer is designed to dispense potable water through a series of taps and hoses for those who bring their own refillable containers. In addition to the water trailer, the Eugene Water and Electric Board provided a 1,000-gallon water tank, donated three-gallon storage containers to many Mapleton residents, and provided a three-person crew to assist with distribution. It is the second time EWEB has aided an Oregon community during a water crisis. In 2018, the utility provided similar assistance in the Salem/Keizer area, after a toxic algae bloom in Detroit Lake impacted the city’s drinking water. In all, EWEB officials say they have invested in three water distribution trailers and a mobile water treatment trailer. The utility currently is rebuilding local water storage tanks to meet the latest seismic codes, constructing new ones, planning for a new water treatment plant on the Willamette River, and building new transmission mains. EWEB also is developing emergency water stations in a number of Eugene neighborhoods. / CRIME: Eugene Police say they’ve made another arrest in connection with last week’s overnight burglary from Hutch’s Bike Shop downtown. On Wednesday afternoon, officers arrested 24-year-old Torian Tamal Hitchcock of Eugene and charged him with Second-Degree Burglary. In all, 21 bicycles—many of them high-end models—were taken from the shop. The loss was estimated at close to \$100,000. Eugene Police earlier recovered four of the bikes from two tents at Washington-Jefferson Park and while on foot patrol. Those bikes were valued at

\$20,000. Two people also were arrested earlier in the case. But many more bicycles still are being sought. If you have tips in the case, contact Eugene Police. ; Eugene Police say they were called early yesterday morning to the area of 24th and Monroe streets for a death investigation. Not a lot of details being released, but officials with EPD's Violent Crimes Unit say there is NO ongoing threat to the neighborhood or to the community. / BUSINESS: Amid nationwide labor shortages, many companies are increasing wages to attract new workers or retain their current ones. Managers say it's especially important to hang on to good workers, because they know the company and its culture, and they have a wealth of experience and training. That includes many local employers. Yesterday, for example, Eugene-based Mountain Rose Herbs announced it is increasing wages by 10 percent for all of its non-director-level employees and has raised the starting wage for all new hires. Most of Mountain Rose Herb's company positions are within the production, customer service, and order fulfillment areas. The company, which started in 1987, sells high-quality organically-grown herbs, spices, teas, essential oils, and botanical goods locally and across the country. Officials say the across-the-board increase benefits more than 200 employees at an annual cost increase of \$800,000 for the privately-owned company. Company leaders say they already offered paid time off and paid holidays, comprehensive health insurance, 401ks with matching funds, paid volunteer time, alternative commuting incentives, free monthly lunches, and more. / SPORTS: Another big night of high school football playoff action: No. 5 seed Thurston visit top-ranked Wilsonville at 7 p.m. in Class 5A Boys' semifinal action. Seventh-seeded Marist plays Estacada (ehss'-tuh-KAY'-duh) in a Class 4A semifinal tomorrow at 5 p.m. That game will be at McMinnville High School. Top-ranked Siuslaw meets No. 5 La Pine in a Class 3A semifinal game. It takes place on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Cottage Grove High School. . In college football action: The Oregon Ducks remain at Number 3 for a second week in the College Football Playoff rankings, behind Georgia and Alabama. The Ducks meet the Utah Utes on Saturday in Salt Lake City. Game time is 4:30 p.m. on ABC / KEZI-TV. Oregon State, now bowl-eligible, hosts Arizona State on Saturday in a night game. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN. ; The NCAA women's basketball tournament is expanding to 68 teams beginning with the current season, giving it an equal number of participants as the men's tournament as part of a concerted effort at gender parity. The expansion of the women's tournament was among the recommendations put forth in August after a comprehensive external gender equity review. It was commissioned after backlash driven by social media over disparities in the men's and women's tournaments, including weight rooms and other facilities. / RECREATION, DEVELOPMENT: Oregonians love their state parks. This week, the Parks and Recreation Commission outlined a list of big improvements projects at some popular sites and that will take place over the next few years. The improvements will be funded by the sale of \$50 million in general obligation bonds approved this year by state lawmakers. On the coast, the first round of projects includes: upgrades to the campground and campsites at popular Beverly Beach State Park, north of Newport; rehabilitation of the historic guardhouse at Fort Stevens State Park south of Astoria. The park's four popular campground loops also will see upgrades. In the Willamette Valley the projects include: expanded camping at Champoege State Heritage Area north of Salem; expansion of camping and of the North Falls Complex at Silver Falls State Park in the mountains east of Salem. In

the Columbia Gorge: construction of a restroom and expanded parking at the Portland women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint, one of the most popular photo stops on the west end of the Columbia Gorge. In Central and Eastern Oregon: construction of a new visitor center and restroom and big parking upgrades to reduce congestion at Smith Rock State Park. There also will be trail improvements; Expansion of the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site in John Day and construction of new visitors' facilities. More improvements begin around the state parks system in March of 2023. / EDUCATION, FAMILIES, COMMUNITY: More than two decades ago, country legend Dolly Parton launched an effort to inspire the love of reading among preschool children in her part of rural Tennessee. She called it the "Imagination Library" and over the years it's spread across the country and internationally. How does it work? You register your young child, from birth through age four. Once you register, your child gets a free book delivered to their home every month. Each child in your household may register. They each receive their own book, each month. This week, a big announcement for local youngsters: Northwest Community Credit Union has committed to donate \$250,000 over five years. It will expand Dolly Parton's Imagination Library service to cover ALL of Lane County, starting January 1. The new partnership brings together the Eugene Public Library, Eugene Public Library Foundation, Northwest Community Credit Union, and United Way of Lane County to cover all Lane County addresses that are not already included in an Imagination Library service area. When kids learn to read and love reading, they're better prepared for success in school and later in life. To search to see if an address is already covered, visit imaginationlibrary.com If your Lane County address is not yet covered, it will be starting Jan. 1. / ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT, WILDLIFE: The Biden administration has taken action to restore federal protections for hundreds of thousands of small streams, wetlands, and other waterways. The government is undoing a Trump-era rule that was considered one of that administration's hallmark environmental rollbacks. At issue is a regulation that defines the types of waterways qualifying for federal protection under the Clean Water Act. Thursday's announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency and Army reinstates a rule in place before 2015 while the Biden administration arrives at its own. Environmental groups and public health advocates say a strong federal rule is crucial to protect countless small streams, wetlands and other waterways that are vulnerable to pollution from development, industry and farms. ; The Biden administration is considering new measures to protect a ground-dwelling bird species once found across much of the U.S. West. The bird called the greater sage grouse suffered drastic declines in recent decades due to oil and gas drilling, grazing and other human pressures. Today's announcement of a range-wide evaluation of the bird's habitat comes after the Trump administration tried to scale back conservation efforts adopted by federal agencies in 2015. A court blocked the Trump era changes. Industry groups have resisted curbs on drilling around sage grouse breeding areas. Some environmentalists insisted that the 2015 plans didn't go far enough. /

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DISCUSSED CHARITABLE, COMMUNITY, LOW-INCOME: Thank you to everyone who took part in Saturday's Letter Carriers' Food Drive. Organizers say Lane County's largest food drive collected at least 72,000 pounds for individuals and families struggling to put food on the table. The event, coordinated by FOOD for Lane County and your local letter carriers, returned after having to take last year-and-a-half off because of the pandemic. The donation and collection effort provides much of the non-perishable food that our local food bank distributes to its pantries and community partners during the winter months. Did you miss the food drive? You may still donate to FOOD for Lane County. Drop off your donations of nonperishable foods at the food bank's headquarters at 770 Bailey Hill Road in Eugene. This year, food bank officials say there is a big need for canned meats, peanut butter, beans, low-sodium soups, low-sugar fruits, cooking oils, and spices. / HEALTH: The CDC made it official Friday afternoon and opened up Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 booster shots to all adults ages 18 and older, ahead of the holidays. Anyone 18 or older may choose either company's booster six months after their last dose — regardless of which vaccine they first received. Anyone who received the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine may also get a Pfizer or Moderna booster. The move to expand comes as new COVID-19 cases have climbed steadily over the last two weeks, especially in states where colder weather is driving people indoors. More than 195 million Americans are considered fully vaccinated and more than 30 million already have received a booster. Many local healthcare providers and pharmacies are scheduling appointments for adult boosters. For now, Lane County Public Health clinics are focusing on providing pediatric doses to youngsters ages 5 through 11. / CRIME: Investigators are calling it an "epic amount" of illegal marijuana. In Southern Oregon, investigators over the weekend announced they recently seized half-a-million pounds—or 250 tons—of cannabis from five industrial warehouses in White City, north of Medford. Oregon State Police say members of the Southwest Region Drug Enforcement team served a search warrant at the site on Thursday. They estimated the marijuana they seized has a street value of at least \$500 million. Additionally, investigators say they found more than 100 people on the warehouse site — including several migrant workers living in poor conditions without running water. Law enforcement experts say large-scale illegal cannabis

grow sites often exploit migrant workers, forcing them to work long hours in subpar and sometimes dangerous settings. Officials say most of the workers were identified, interviewed, and released. One firearm was recovered during the search. Investigators say this is a very involved investigation and will continue for several weeks. ; Lane County Sheriff's deputies say they arrested two suspects on Saturday after they allegedly robbed a man at gunpoint at the Hayden Bridge Boat Landing. The crime was reported shortly before 11 a.m. The victim said the suspects, a man and a woman, confronted him and that one of the suspects pointed the gun at the victim's head and struck him with it during the robbery. A deputy spotted the suspects' vehicles during the noon hour near the Dollar General store on River Road and both armed robbery suspects were arrested. They are identified as 23-year-old Cruz Sanchez and 19-year-old Priscilla Luna. /

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HEALTH: Oregon has tallied its 5,000th death related to COVID-19. It came as state health officials said they'd received reports of 103 new deaths between Friday and Sunday, along with details on more than 1,750 (1,753) new coronavirus cases. Locally, Lane County over the weekend logged its 325th death of the pandemic. Thirty local patients are hospitalized, with five of them in intensive care beds. Of those, four are on ventilators. Statewide, hospitalizations and deaths have slowed in recent months with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. But experts remain concerned as Oregonians head into their second year of holiday celebrations during the pandemic. They continue to urge people to use caution when traveling and, if possible, avoid gatherings with unvaccinated people unless they take precautions such as wearing masks and distancing. On Friday, CDC authorized Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 booster shots to all adults ages 18 and older, regardless of which vaccine dose they first received. More than 195 million Americans are considered fully vaccinated and more than 30 million already have received a booster. Many local healthcare providers and pharmacies are scheduling appointments for adult boosters. For now, Lane County Public Health clinics are focusing on providing pediatric doses to youngsters ages 5 through 11. / CRIME: Eugene Police say three officers and a Lane County Sheriff's deputy were injured yesterday morning while taking a man into custody. He's been suspected of stealing a vehicle. Investigators say 21-year-old Ethan James Joule was spotted in the Nissan Maxima near Dillard Road and Hidden Meadows shortly after 8 a.m. Police say officers pinned the vehicle on both sides, but Joule tried to elude them, then took off on foot into the nearby woods. Officials say the terrain as icy and uneven, and Joule resisted efforts to arrest him. One officer was taken to the hospital for treatment of a non-life-threatening injury. The others had minor injuries. Police say the suspect also was transported to a local hospital because of a medical condition. / DISASTERS, GOVERNMENT: She's helped steer Lane County residents through 2019's Snowmageddon and extreme flooding later the same year. Then there was the start of the pandemic in March of 2020, followed by that summer's devastating Holiday Farm Fire. Now, Lane County's Emergency Manager, Patence Winningham, has been named Oregon's Emergency Manager of the Year. Leaders with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management say

Winningham is an innovator, a communicator, a problem-solver and a collaborator. They say she also works tirelessly to encourage individuals, businesses, community groups, and local governments to prepare for disasters, reduce hazards, and take other steps to protect lives and property. The nomination for Winningham outlines many of the accomplishments that led to her award, including that 2019 historic winter storm that left thousands stranded in eastern Lane County, including hundreds stuck on an Amtrak train stranded in Oakridge. Winningham continued to be tested with another federal disaster declaration due to flooding in April 2019. As COVID-19 arrived locally, Winningham worked with Lane County, FEMA, and the Army Corps of Engineers to establish a 42-bed COVID recovery center designed to take care of vulnerable residents struggling with homelessness. Most notably, she led Lane County's response to the Holiday Farm Fire. Officials say the blaze placed both her family and her home in danger, but did not stop her from placing her community's needs above her own. Winningham has been Lane County's emergency manager for just three years, and it's been a wild ride. She says she is humbled and honored by the recognition, but adds she could not have done it without the support of her colleagues.

/ COMMUNITY, FAMILY, ECONOMY: There is no shortage of whole turkeys in the U.S. this Thanksgiving. But those turkeys — along with other holiday staples like cranberry sauce and pie filling — could cost more. The American Farm Bureau estimates a Thanksgiving feast for 10 will cost \$53.31 this year, up 14 percent from a year ago. Butterball CEO Jay Jandrain says labor, transportation and feed costs all soared this year and remain elevated. Some groceries are still offering deals on turkeys, but experts say those deals will be less common this year as stores also feel the impact of inflation.

; Planning to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends? The ingredients will cost an average 14 percent more this year, according to a survey by the American Farm Bureau Federation. Farm Bureau's 36th annual survey puts the average cost of this year's classic Thanksgiving feast for 10 at \$53.31. That works out to less than \$6.00 per person. But it's still up from last year's meal average of \$46.90. The shopping list for Farm Bureau's informal survey includes turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a veggie tray, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and coffee and milk, all in quantities sufficient to serve a family of 10 with plenty for leftovers. The centerpiece on most Thanksgiving tables – the turkey – costs more than last year, up an average \$1.50 per pound, up 24 percent from last year. But Farm bureau officials say prices for frozen turkeys dropped a bit during the past week. Other Thanksgiving foods also increased in price this year.

/ TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMY: The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline held steady over the past two weeks, according to industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey. While the nationwide average of \$3.49 per gallon, prices remain close to \$3.80 per gallon here in Lane County. That's actually a penny less than it was one month ago. But our price at the pump remains \$1.37 more per gallon than it was this time last year. It's even more expensive if you're heading to some parts of the country. In the San Francisco Bay Area, fuel prices are an average \$4.82 per gallon. The lowest average is in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at \$2.95 per gallon. According to the survey, the average price of diesel jumped 2 cents to \$3.69 a gallon.

; President Biden has ordered 50 million barrels of oil released from the strategic reserve to help bring down energy costs, in coordination with other major energy consuming nations, including

China, India, and the United Kingdom. The move is aimed at global energy markets, but also aimed at voters who are coping with higher inflation and rising prices ahead of Thanksgiving and winter holiday travel. Gas prices are at about \$3.40 a gallon, more than 50 percent higher than a year ago, according to the American Automobile Association. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is an emergency stockpile to preserve access to oil in case of natural disasters, national security issues and other events. / BUSINESS, HEALTH: For some, it was almost as popular a Thanksgiving tradition as football and turkey: going to Target to get a leg up on holiday shopping. No more. Target says it will no longer be open on Thanksgiving. There are other retailers who also have announced that they will not be open Thursday — but Target is the first to make it a permanent policy. Last year, to limit crowds in stores during the pandemic, retailers turned the weekend shopping blitz into an extended event with holiday sales beginning as early as October. But the change improved retailer bottom lines: U.S. holiday sales in November and December rose 8.2 percent from the previous year, and the National Retail Federation predicts that this year could shatter that record, growing between 8.5 percent and 10.5 percent. ; Santa is back this year, but he's asking people to be cautious as he continues to tiptoe through the pandemic. There are fewer available Santas this year, which means some are busier than ever. Where it's allowed, some malls and big-box stores are offering Santa's guests a choice of full contact or social distance. Many of the snow globes and barriers set up last year are coming down. About 8.9 million U.S. households are expected to visit Santa in person this year, with virtual visits still a big option. That's up from 6.1 million last year but fewer than the 10 million who paid the Jolly Old Elf a visit in 2019. / RECREATION, SAFETY: Access to one of Oregon's most popular coastal parks is closed for now after recent heavy rains. Oregon State Parks officials say Ecola State Park (ee-KOH'-luh) on the North Coast at Cannon Beach is closed until further after the downpours caused a sinkhole and reactivated a longtime landslide—creating a deep fissure on the park's access road. Crews are determining the best way to repair the damage and stabilize the slope. But they say it could take several weeks or longer to get things reopened. Ecola State Park is popular with sightseers and photographers because it offers an iconic view to the south of Cannon Beach and Haystack Rock. Visitors may still access the park from the north via the Tillamook Head Trail. Otherwise, officials encourage those enjoying the North Coast to explore other nearby state parks including Oswald West, Arcadia Beach, and Hug Point. / SPORTS: In college football action: The Oregon Ducks are out of contention for the College Football Playoff after Saturday's loss at Utah. The Ducks were ranked Number 3 but are expected to take a big drop when the updated standings are out this afternoon. Oregon fell to Number 11 in the polls. Oregon State had a big win over Arizona State on Saturday, 24-10. The Beavers are bowl-eligible and remain in contention for the Pac-12 North Division title. It's showdown weekend in Oregon as the Ducks and Beavers meet Saturday at 12:30 p.m. in Eugene's Autzen Stadium. The game is being broadcast on ESPN. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Don't pack gravy in your carry-on bag. Before you agree to bring a family favorite food item to contribute to the Thanksgiving holiday table, it's important to think about how you're planning to transport it if you are flying to spend the holiday with family or friends. Most foods can be carried through a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoint, but there are some

items that will need to be transported in checked baggage. Here's some food for thought. If it's a solid item, then it can go through a checkpoint. However, if you can spill it, spread it, spray it, pump it, or pour it, and it's larger than 3.4 ounces, then it should go in a checked bag. Food items often need some additional security screening, so TSA recommends placing those items in a clear plastic bag or other container when packing them at home and then removing those items from your carry-on bag and placing them in a bin for screening at the checkpoint. Travelers who are unsure if an item should be packed in a carry-on or checked bag can check the TSA homepage at www.tsa.gov, which has a helpful "What can I bring?" feature. Type in the item and find out if you can carry it through a checkpoint or if it should be checked. Another option is for passengers to tweet to @AskTSA to ask how best to travel with a specific food item. Thanksgiving foods that can be carried through a TSA checkpoint: Baked goods. Homemade or store-bought pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, and other sweet treats; Meats. Turkey, chicken, ham, steak. Frozen, cooked, or uncooked; Stuffing. Cooked, uncooked, in a box or in a bag; Casseroles. Traditional green beans and onion straws or something more exotic; Mac 'n Cheese. Cooked in a pan or traveling with the ingredients to cook it at your destination; Fresh vegetables. Potatoes, yams, broccoli, green beans, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, beets, radishes, carrots, squash, greens; Fresh fruit. Apples, pears, pineapple, lemons, limes, cranberries, blueberries, strawberries, bananas, kiwi; Candy; Spices. Thanksgiving foods that should be carefully packed with your checked baggage: Cranberry sauce; Homemade or canned are spreadable, so check them; Gravy, homemade or in a jar/can; Wine, champagne, sparkling apple cider; Canned fruit or vegetables. It's got liquid in the can, so check them; Preserves, jams and jellies. They are spreadable, so best to check them; Maple syrup. / TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY: Winter driving ahead: A reminder that with the arrival of winter weather in the Cascades means drivers should take extra precautions: Slow down and don't use cruise control in wet, icy or snowy weather. Choose main routes; do not rely on GPS. Be rested and alert. Always wear your seat belt. Drive with your lights on and reduce your speed. Use extra caution when driving on bridges or concrete highways. Ice forms first on these surfaces. Carry chains and know how to install them or use traction tires. Know before you go! Oregon Road Conditions and Cameras: www.tripcheck.com; 5-1-1. QuickMap in California: <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> Winter Driving Tips: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/pages/winter-driving.aspx> Oregon's chain law applies to all highways throughout the state. When you drive in winter conditions, you may see signs telling you to carry chains or traction tires and when you are required to use them. In some areas, lighted message signs also will advise you about chaining up. Traction tires may be used in place of chains on vehicles rated at 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or less and that are not towing or being towed. Studded tires are legal in Oregon from November 1 through March 31. Because of the damage caused by studded tires, the Department of Transportation encourages motorists to use studded tires only when necessary. Delaying putting on studded tires or using other traction tires helps preserves Oregon's highways. / RECREATION: If you are heading to the mountains after the storm to play, remember to purchase your Sno-Park permit. A Sno-Park permit is required for all Sno-Parks and must be displayed in your vehicle from November 1 to April 30. Funds from Oregon's Sno-Park program help provide

snow removal at nearly 100 Sno-Parks across the state. There are Sno-Parks in most of Oregon's mountain passes. For a list of Sno-Parks, visit <https://www.tripcheck.com/Pages/Sno-Parks> Whether you are a winter enthusiast who goes to the Sno-Parks all season or someone who enjoys the snow occasionally, there is a permit that meets your needs. They include a \$25 seasonal permit; a \$9 three-day permit (good for three consecutive days); or a \$4 one-day permit. Permits can be purchased: Online at <https://www.oregondmv.com/dmv2u> OR In person from permit agents at various resorts, sporting goods stores, and other retail outlets. Sales agents may charge an additional service fee for each permit they sell. Due to COVID-19, Sno-Park permits are not available at DMV offices this season. Plan ahead! If you buy a one-day or three-day permit online, allow time for the permit to be mailed to you. If you buy an annual permit online, a printable interim permit is emailed to you immediately. You can use this interim annual permit for up to 14 days until you receive the annual permit in the mail. /

PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTING FORM

DATE OF
BROADCAST 11/24/21

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

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION: Officials have issued a Beach Hazards warning through Friday evening. There's a higher threat of sneaker waves on the coast. Sneaker waves can suddenly knock people off of their feet and quickly pull them into the frigid ocean, which may lead to serious injury or drowning. Immersion in cold water can cause cold water paralysis within minutes, further impairing an individual's ability to escape. The high tide occurring Thursday afternoon might bring the period of highest threat. Stay alert, keep your eyes on the surf, stay out of dangerous areas where waves tend to run up the beach. Stay off jetties and rocks where there's a risk of being swept away. / FISHERIES, BUSINESS: Good news as we head into the holiday if you're a fan of Dungeness crab: For the first time in years, commercial Dungeness crab fisheries in Oregon, Washington state and Northern California will start their season on Dec. 1 after preseason testing showed high meat yield in crabs. For years, marine toxins, skinny crabs and contentious price negotiations have all played a role in delaying the start of Oregon's lucrative commercial Dungeness crab season recently. But Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife experts say things are looking good for an on-time December 1 start of the commercial Dungeness crab season. / COMMUNITY, TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH, SAFETY: Millions of Americans are loading up their cars or piling onto planes, determined to reclaim Thanksgiving traditions that were put on pause last year by the pandemic. The number of air travelers this week is expected to approach or even exceed pre-pandemic levels. Auto club AAA predicts that 48.3 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home over the holiday period, an increase of nearly 4 million over last year despite sharply higher gasoline prices. Many feel emboldened now that close to 200 million Americans are now fully vaccinated. But there remain concerns about whether the virus will have a winter surge, fueled a holiday gatherings. The U.S. continues to average nearly 100,000 new COVID-19 infections per day. Hospitals in Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, and Arizona are seeing alarming increases in patients. The seven-day daily average of new reported cases up nearly 30 percent in the last two weeks through Tuesday, according to figures from Johns Hopkins University. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says unvaccinated people should not travel, although it is unclear whether that recommendation is having any effect. More

than 2.2 million travelers streamed through airport checkpoints last Friday, the busiest day since the pandemic devastated travel early last year. From Friday through Monday, the number of people flying in the U.S. was more than double the same days last year and only 8 percent lower than the same days in 2019. For their part, airlines are hoping to avoid a repeat of the massive flight cancellations — more than 2,300 apiece — that dogged Southwest and American Airlines at different times last month. The breakdowns started with bad weather in one part of the country and spun out of control. In the past, airlines had enough pilots, flight attendants and other workers to recover from many disruptions within a day or two. They are finding it harder to bounce back now, however, because they are stretched thin after pushing thousands of employees to quit when travel collapsed last year. American, Southwest, Delta and United have all been hiring lately, which gives the airlines and industry observers hope that flights will stay on track this week. Officials with Transportation Security Administration are dismissing concern that it might have staffing shortages at airport checkpoints this week because of a requirement that federal employees be vaccinated against COVID-19. White House officials said 93 percent of TSA employees are in compliance with the mandate, and they don't expect any disruptions. For holiday travelers going by car, the biggest pain is likely to be higher prices at the pump. The nationwide average for gasoline on Tuesday was \$3.40 a gallon, according to AAA, up more than 60 percent from last Thanksgiving. Those prices could be one of several factors that will discourage some holiday travelers. In a survey conducted by Gasbuddy, which tracks pump prices, about half of the app users who responded said high prices will affect their travel plans this week. About two in five said they aren't making as many trips for a variety of reasons. / HEALTH, BUSINESS: Growing numbers of Oregonians are vaccinated against COVID-19. Efforts to prevent its spread are increasingly effective. And there is growing evidence that being outdoors in fresh air can add an extra layer of protection. Yesterday, state health officials announced the lifting of Oregon's outdoor mask requirement for those in crowded outdoor settings, such as football games, concerts, or holiday festivals. But you'll still need to wear masks in indoor public settings to protect against the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. The Oregon Health Authority still strongly recommends outdoor mask wearing for people who are unvaccinated; the elderly; those who are immunocompromised; people at higher risk of contracting COVID-19; and people who live with someone who falls into one of those categories. Oregon was the first state in the U.S. to reimplement an outdoor mask mandate for both vaccinated and unvaccinated residents. It went into effect in August as the highly contagious Delta variant spread. At the time, Oregon was in the midst of its worst surge during the pandemic, with record case numbers being recorded daily as hospital beds filled with those suffering extreme complications from the coronavirus—many of whom were unvaccinated. But state officials say COVID-19 cases in Oregon are continuing to decrease, which led to yesterday's announcement. / HEALTH: After several weeks of holding pediatric clinics for children between the ages of 5 and 11, Lane County Public Health on Tuesday will begin offering booster doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for adults ages 18 and older. The doses are available to anyone who is either six months past their second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, or two months past their initial dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. For now, the county will only be offering booster doses of the

Moderna vaccine. But again, if you're eligible for a booster you may receive the Moderna dose regardless of which vaccine you previously received. If you prefer to receive a dose of the Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson vaccine, check instead with your primary care provider or local pharmacy. The county will be holding drive-thru vaccination clinics Tuesday through Friday of next week at the Lane Events Center, located off West 13th Avenue in Eugene. Public health officials are encouraging you to book an appointment. If you stop by without one, they will try to accommodate you if there is room but you might have a bit of a wait. Those with appointments have priority. Lane County Public Health begins accepting appointments for the adult boost doses this morning on their COVID-19 vaccination website. Public health officials say the past two-plus weeks of pediatric vaccination clinics for children ages 5 through 11 were highly successful. They say that along with local pediatric, family care, and pharmacy providers, 20 percent of youngsters in that age groups have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. / SPORTS: In college football: As expected, the Oregon Ducks fell out of contention for the College Football Playoff after Saturday's loss at Utah. The Ducks dropped eight spots from Number 3 to Number 11 yesterday afternoon when the latest playoff rankings were revealed. Now, the focus is on Saturday's rivalry game as the Ducks and the Beavers meet to help determine who wins the Pac-12 North title and has a shot at playing in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on New Year's Day. The showdown between Oregon and Oregon State kicks off Saturday at 12:30 p.m. in Eugene's Autzen Stadium. The game is being broadcast on ESPN. ; If you're a hardcore Oregon sports fan and you have \$552 to spare, might we suggest a new Airbnb rental located near the Eugene Country Club? It's the latest effort by a group of current and former Duck athletes to use the NCAA's new "Name, Image, and Likeness" rules to earn some compensation off the field. It's part of what's known as Division Street, a new sports venture company that is managing the effort. Division Street has the financial backing of some big names, including Nike's Phil Knight, former Duck women's basketball standout Sabrina Ionescu, and other former athletes and donors. Various current Duck athletes will take turns decorating the home to personalize the experience for those renting the house. Football star Noah Sewell is the first player to do so, and his Airbnb-theme will remain in place through the end of January. Then another Duck athlete will create their own unique experience in the house. ; Saint Mary's defeated the Oregon Men's Basketball team 62-50 in a semifinal of the Maui Invitational on Tuesday. Saint Mary's will face Wisconsin in today's championship game. ; All three local teams that remain in the high school football playoffs have advanced to the finals: Top-ranked Siuslaw will face South Umpqua on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Cottage Grove High School in the Class 3A Championship game. Seventh-seed Marist takes on Number 1 Marshfield in Saturday's Class 4A Championship game. The contest is at 7 p.m. at Cottage Grove High School. No. 5 seed Thurston will meet Number 2 Silverton in the Class 5A Championship on Saturday at 3 p.m. The game is taking place at Hillsboro Stadium. / GOVERNMENT, YOUTH, EDUCATION, ANIMALS: Give it up for Pleasant Hill 5th Grader Emerie Martin (say: emery), who yesterday was named Oregon's "Kid Governor" for 2022. The Kid Governor program is part of the curriculum that teaches fifth graders about Civics. Every candidate chooses a platform on which to campaign. More than 2,200 students registered to nominate and vote for a candidate in this year's election. Emerie's focus is on preventing

animal abuse and helping to educate new pet owners. She created a short video in which, among other things, she visits an animal shelter and later holds a dog. Emerie's one year term begins in January. She'll visit the Oregon State Capitol and take part in a special inauguration ceremony. And while we're at it, congratulations to some other local fifth graders who were finalists for the Kid Governor title. They include Andy from Eugene's Adams Elementary. Her platform is about helping the homeless. Another finalist is Kinley with Junction City's Territorial Elementary School, whose focus is on reducing food waste. /

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DATE OF
BROADCAST 11/26/21

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

NAME OF
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LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT: On the Central and Northern Oregon Coast: There is a higher threat of sneaker waves through this evening. Sneaker waves can suddenly knock people off their feet and quickly pull them into the frigid ocean, which may lead to serious injury or drowning. Immersion in cold water can cause cold water paralysis within minutes, further impairing an individual's ability to escape. Stay alert, keep your eyes on the surf, stay out of dangerous areas where waves tend to run up the beach. Stay off jetties and rocks where there's a risk of being swept away. / BUSINESS, ECONOMY: Retailers hope to usher in the unofficial start to the holiday shopping season today with bigger crowds than last year and take a closer step to returning to normal. Today is "Black Friday," The traditional beginning of the Christmas shopping season is when retailers offer big savings to entice shoppers and ideally see their financial "bottom line" move "into the black." Historically, many retailers would open at midnight or even on Thanksgiving to take full advantage of the shopping excitement. But in recent years, more large retailers have rolled out early specials in stores and online by late October. Some even stayed closed on Thanksgiving Day, a reflection of the pandemic and the changed retail landscape. Buoyed by solid hiring, healthy pay gains and substantial savings, customers are returning to stores and splurging on all types of items. But the spike has also resulted in limited selection across the board as suppliers and retailers have been caught flat-footed. Shortages of shipping containers and truckers have helped to delay deliveries, while inflation continues to creep. The combination of higher prices and lack of inventory could make for a less festive mood. ; Americans are doing the main thing that drives the U.S. economy — spending — but accelerating inflation is casting a pall. A raft of economic data issued Wednesday showed the economy on solid footing, with Americans' incomes rising and jobless claims falling to a level not seen since the Beatles were still together. The spike in prices for everything from gas to rent, however, will likely be the chief economic indicator Americans discuss over Thanksgiving Day dinner. The Commerce Department reported that U.S. consumer spending rebounded by 1.3 percent in October. That was despite inflation that over the past year has accelerated faster than it has at any point in more than three decades. ; Tomorrow is Small Business Saturday. It underscores the importance of shopping locally, keeping your dollars in your community to

support local merchants and local jobs. Founded in 2010, Small Business Saturday has become an important part of small businesses' busiest shopping season. According to a study last year, spending among U.S. consumers who shopped at independent retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday reached an estimated \$19.8 billion. The survey also found that 97 percent of shoppers recognized the positive impact they can make by shopping small and 85 percent of them reported they also encouraged friends and family to "shop small" as well. / BUSINESS, AGRICULTURE, WEATHER: You can add Christmas trees to the list of items often in short supply or costing more this holiday season. Newsday reports several factors are driving the trend. These include over-the-top sales last year during the first Christmas during the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain issues this year. Here in the Northwest, some tree growers have left the business in recent years. Others planted fewer trees during the pandemic, or saw younger trees harmed by two years of drought and wildfire smoke. Demand also rose: Some people purchased trees earlier last year in an effort to "save the year" with a nice holiday celebration. In some cases, families purchased multiple trees for their homes or even replaced early tree purchases with fresh ones right before Christmas. Experts said tree buyers should expect to pay between 10 percent and 30 percent more for both live trees and artificial trees this year. There also is a smaller selection from which to choose. / CRIME: Theft from vehicle is one of the most common crimes in our area, and often increases during the holiday months. There is one clear message, if you want to keep someone from breaking into your vehicle, don't leave anything of value inside the vehicle. Following this rule can drastically decrease your chances of becoming a victim. You never know who might be watching. Don't park and then place something in your vehicle's trunk and then walk away from the vehicle. If someone observes you place property in the trunk of your vehicle, they can usually access your trunk by breaking into your vehicle and accessing the trunk release. Instead, place the item in the trunk before arriving at your location. This is especially important at hiking/running locations, sporting events and shopping malls. Secure vehicles by rolling up the windows and locking the doors. If possible, it is best to take your purchases and property home before making a trip to another location. / HEALTH: A new coronavirus variant has been detected in South Africa that scientists say is a concern because of its high number of mutations and rapid spread among young people in Gauteng, the country's most populous province. South Africa's health minister said the variant was linked to an "exponential rise" of cases in the last few days, although experts are still trying to determine if the new variant is actually responsible. The health minister says it appears to be. Officials say the new variant, currently identified as B.1.1.529, has also been found in Botswana and Hong Kong, in travelers from South Africa. The World Health Organization's technical working group meets today to assess the new variant and may decide whether or not to give it a name from the Greek alphabet, as the panel did with the highly contagious Delta variant that currently accounts for the vast majority of new infections in the world. ; The discovery of a new coronavirus variant sent a chill through much of the world as nations raced to halt air travel, markets fell sharply, and scientists held emergency meetings. But the risks of the variant remained largely unknown. Medical experts, including the World Health Organization, warned against any overreaction before the variant was better understood. A jittery world feared the worst nearly two years after

COVID-19 emerged and triggered a pandemic that has killed more than 5 million people around the globe. British Health Secretary Sajid Javid told lawmakers that the new version may be more transmissible than the delta variant and render vaccines less effective. ; COVID-19 hospitalizations will likely continue to decline because there aren't enough Oregonians left who are susceptible to the disease to cause a massive surge, according to a pandemic forecaster with Oregon Health & Science University. The Oregonian and OregonLive quotes OHSU researcher Peter Graven, who said in a statement that hospitalizations likely won't surge, though the current downward trend could stall as people gather for Thanksgiving. Graven cautioned against comparing the current uptick in hospitalizations happening in Europe to what could happen in Oregon. "The delta variant burned like a wildfire in Oregon compared to Europe at that time," Graven said. "In Oregon, we've already infected a large share of the unvaccinated population." But that doesn't mean Oregon can let down its guard quite yet. "While we don't have as large a group of susceptible people," Graven said, "we could still increase hospital case levels if we back off precautions too quickly." /

HOUSING, LOW-INCOME, PANDEMIC: Managers of Oregon's Emergency Rental Assistance Program say they are continuing to make strong progress on processing applications, despite a continued backlog. This week, they announced that they have paid close to \$150 million in federal emergency assistance to more than 22,000 tenant households and landlords. Leaders of Oregon Housing and Community Services say despite delays, their agency is ranked 8th in the nation in the percentage of funds paid and obligated. Still, Oregon Housing and Community Services is going ahead with a pause in accepting new applications starting December 1. The pause will last six weeks, with the goal of allowing those handling the program to reduce the backlog. Anyone who has fallen behind on rent or anticipates falling behind on their December rent is encouraged to apply for emergency rental assistance right away and before the end of the day on December 1 at oregonrentalassistance.org /

CRIME: Lane County Sheriff's deputies and Oregon State Police troopers last night were leading the search of a section of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area south of Florence for the suspect in a stabbing assault that occurred yesterday afternoon. The suspect was last seen on foot headed into the dunes from the Goose Pasture ATV staging area. He is described as being a white male, 30-40 years of age, standing about five-foot-eight to six-feet tall. Witnesses have described the suspect as likely having long blonde hair and facial stubble. He was seen wearing a brown or black jacket. No details on the incident that prompted the search. But investigators say if you observe the suspect, please dial 911 and do not approach him. ; A 23-year-old woman was jailed yesterday on charges of Reckless Endangering, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, and Reckless Driving after an early-morning incident in Eugene yesterday. Shortly after 3:45 a.m. Thursday, a Lane County Sheriff's Office deputy came across a two-vehicle crash that had just occurred at West 7th Avenue and Charnelton Street. As he approached one of the vehicles, a GMC Yukon that had crashed into a pole, he saw the driver holding a gun to her own head. The deputy backed away, heard a gunshot, and called for units from Eugene Police to assist. A second shot went off as the first Eugene Police PD cover units began to arrive. Officers blocked traffic at the intersection and evacuated the motorist from the other vehicle. As a safety precaution, they also temporarily closed a nearby coffee stand. Police say the woman, later identified

as 23-year-old Alyvia Marie Hudson, was heard yelling from the vehicle and did not appear to have been injured by the gunfire. A sheriff's sergeant began hailing her from his patrol vehicle and police say Hudson exited shortly after four a.m. and was taken into custody. Investigators determined Hudson had driven through a red light at West 7th Avenue, causing the crash, and then tried to shoot herself. One of the rounds had been fired out the SUV's window in the direction of surrounding buildings and passing traffic, and a second round through the floor of her vehicle. / CHARITABLE, HOMELESSNESS, HOUSING: Throughout the year, its programs and clients rely on donations to fund its services. But on Thanksgiving, the Eugene Mission gives back to the community in a major way. Chefs and volunteers at the Eugene Mission prepared enough turkey and sides to serve more than 1,500 people at its annual Thanksgiving meal. Sunday morning on Community Forum, we learn more about the Eugene Mission and its program to end homelessness and provide life skills and gainful employment for its guests. / RECREATION, BUSINESS, AGRICULTURE: The Thanksgiving holiday weekend is traditionally a big time for Oregon's wineries. The Wine Country Weekend draws tens of thousands of visitors who sample and purchase Oregon vintages. Oregon's wineries often planned to spread their Thanksgiving Wine Country Weekend over several weekends to try to attract more revenue. / RECREATION: For many, it's tradition to shop for deals on the day after Thanksgiving. But for others, it's a time to head outdoors and enjoy what Oregon has to offer. Again this year, there is free parking today at 25 popular Oregon State Parks that normally charge \$5 day-use fees. It's known as Green Friday—a counterpoint to the Black Friday shopping blitz. Backers note that many people who start their day visiting retailers to snap up holiday deals now like to finish with a trip to a park or trail. Some businesses, such as REI, encourage their shoppers to #OptOutside and take part in walks or outdoor events. Oregon State Parks leaders say by waiving day-use parking fees today at their 25 most popular parks, they're encouraging people to step away from any stress they might feel during the holidays or the continued pandemic. / RECREATION, FISHERIES: Today and tomorrow, you and your family and friends can fish, clam, and crab for free in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife every year sets aside the two days after Thanksgiving as part of the #OptOutside movement encouraging people to get outdoors. That means no fishing or shellfish licenses, or tags are required, including a Combined Angling Tag or Columbia River Basin Endorsement or Two-Rod Validation. Both Oregon residents and nonresidents can fish for free—so you can impress those out-of-state visitors while you're at it. All other fishing regulations apply including closures, bag limits and size restrictions. See the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for rules and remember to check for any in season regulation changes, especially for salmon and steelhead fishing. / WILDLIFE: An Oregon-born gray wolf that thrilled biologists as it journeyed far south into California was found dead after apparently being struck by a vehicle. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife says a truck driver reported spotting the carcass Nov. 10 near the town of Lebec, 75 miles northwest of Los Angeles. A radio tracking collar identified it as wolf OR93. A necropsy found injuries consistent with a vehicle strike. OR93 was born to the White River pack in northern Oregon in 2019 and entered California early this year. Gray wolves are listed as endangered in California. The department said the last wolf documented that far south was captured in 1922. / CLIMATE, WEATHER,

ENVIRONMENT: This summer's heat scorched Oregon trees and scientists are beginning to piece together what that means for the trees' long-term health. Oregon Public Broadcasting reports fading foliage and crispy conifers were seen within days of a June heat wave, during which many parts of the state endured consecutive days with temperatures higher than 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Aerial surveys from the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry and Washington Department of Natural Resources documented tree scorching on about 229,000 acres (92,673 hectares) in Oregon. Toasted trees were already stressed from the adverse effects of extreme drought, which in recent years has contributed to tree declines. Still said the combination of drought and heat is a "knockout punch" for trees. / SPORTS: In college football: As expected, the Oregon Ducks fell out of contention for the College Football Playoff after Saturday's loss at Utah. The Ducks dropped eight spots from Number 3 to Number 11 yesterday afternoon when the latest playoff rankings were revealed. Now, the focus is on Saturday's rivalry game as the Ducks and the Beavers meet to help determine who wins the Pac-12 North title and has a shot at playing in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on New Year's Day. The showdown between Oregon and Oregon State kicks off Saturday at 12:30 p.m. in Eugene's Autzen Stadium. The game is being broadcast on ESPN. ; Oregon will capture the Pac-12 Conference's North Division and a spot in next week's championship game against Utah with a win in its annual rivalry game against the Beavers on Saturday. But Oregon State won last year's game and has hopes of its own of a division title with a win and a loss by Washington State. The Cougars can claim the North with a win today and an Oregon State victory, but they haven't won the Apple Cup since 2012. ; All three local teams that remain in the high school football playoffs have advanced to the finals: Top-ranked Siuslaw will face South Umpqua on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Cottage Grove High School in the Class 3A Championship game. Seventh-seed Marist takes on Number 1 Marshfield in Saturday's Class 4A Championship game. The contest is at 7 p.m. at Cottage Grove High School. No. 5 seed Thurston will meet Number 2 Silverton in the Class 5A Championship on Saturday at 3 p.m. The game is taking place at Hillsboro Stadium. /

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SUBJECT
DISCUSSED

HEALTH: The World Health Organization says it could still take some time to get a full picture of the threat posed by omicron, a new variant of the coronavirus as scientists worldwide scramble to assess its multiple mutations. South Africa and Botswana quickly alerted the world last week to the presence of the new variant. And while they were the first to report it, experts say we may never be known when or where the first case cropped up. Cases had already been reported in Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and now Canada. Portuguese authorities identified 13 cases of omicron among team members of a professional soccer club after one member recently traveled to South Africa. Nations around the world sought today to keep the new omicron variant at bay with travel bans and further restrictions, even as it remains unclear what it means for the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. is among those banning flights from several countries in southern Africa. But some experts say the new cases in a handful of far-flung countries underscore the near-impossibility of keeping the variant contained in a world connected through travel and open borders. Some American experts suspect the variant is already in the United States. But they also encouraged people to keep things in perspective since scientists still do not know whether the variant is more contagious or even whether it can cause more severe illness. They say the primary threat remains the delta variant, which accounts for the vast majority of U.S. cases. They say vaccines are a good match for that variant and help prevent severe infection, hospitalization, and death. So far, COVID-19 has killed more than 5.2 million people worldwide—including more than 776,000 Americans. Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health in the United States, meanwhile, said no data as yet suggest the new variant causes more serious illness than previous COVID-19 variants. Collins echoed several experts in saying the news should make everyone redouble their efforts to use the tools the world already has, including vaccinations, booster shots and measures such as mask-wearing. Dr. Anthony Fauci says it will take approximately two more weeks to have more definitive information on the transmissibility, severity and other characteristics of omicron, according to a statement from the White House. ; The world has been living with COVID for close to two years now. As one columnist notes (Tom Jones with The Poynter Report), just as we all hoped for a chance at a somewhat normal and healthy

holiday season, we are introduced to an ominous new word: omicron. It's the newly detected variant of the coronavirus. Along with it comes bunch of questions, including: Is it more transmissible? Does it cause more severe illness? More deaths? Can it avoid vaccines? It's too early to tell. There are hopeful early signs that the new variant causes only mild illness. But medical experts agree that we simply don't have enough information to make any solid conclusions. / BUSINESS, HEALTH: The Oregon Health Authority is offering to pay pharmacies \$35 for each dose of COVID-19 vaccine they administer, with the intention to boost vaccination rates. Officials say close to four in every five eligible adults has received at least their first vaccine dose, but demand for initial and booster doses is outpacing the number of available appointments. The Statesman Journal reports that the new program — which launched this month — directly addresses staffing shortages at pharmacies, where growing workloads have resulted in long lines across the state. In some cases, customers have reported having to wait two or three hours to pick up their prescriptions. The temporary staffing program is only available to independent pharmacies. Corporate-owned pharmacies are not eligible, but they can still qualify for vaccine payments from the state if they meet certain standards for “vaccine equity,” including offering multilingual signs for COVID-19 vaccinations, “expanded vaccine-related counseling aimed at boosting vaccine confidence,” and a plan to continue to ensure equitable access. Officials say pharmacy staffing shortages have been aggravated by the closure of more than 35 Bi-Mart pharmacies earlier this month—including many in Lane County—and the limited reimbursements that pharmacies receive from what are known as pharmacy benefit managers. Brian Mayo, executive director of the Oregon State Pharmacy Association, told the Statesman Journal that if those reimbursements were, quote, “fair,” pharmacies would be able to hire more employees and lines would be shorter. Mayo said that due to the staffing crisis community pharmacies across Oregon are five to 14 days behind filling prescriptions because they can't keep up with the demand. / ECONOMY, BUSINESS: These days, the digital line has been blurred between Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. But one thing is clear: people did a lot of online shopping this past weekend — just not as much as last year. Adobe's tally says Black Friday spending was \$8.9 billion. That's below both this year's estimates and last year's totals. Adobe also says Thanksgiving sales were flat. That means it's the first time both days didn't see a year-over-year rise in online spending. It's a sign shoppers may have gotten a jump on the holiday shopping season. / TRANSPORTATION, BUSINESS: People shopping online will have to deal with the same kind of anxiety they did last year: Will packages they send get where they're supposed to be when they're supposed to get there? To cope with the crunch, both the U.S. Postal Service and private shippers UPS and FedEx are bringing in hundreds of thousands of temporary workers. In all, nearly 3.4 billion parcels are expected to be delivered this year — an increase of about 400 million over last year. But port and supply chain disruptions are creating new uncertainty about getting gifts delivered on time. Despite that, U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said this month: “We are ready.” / BUSINESS: Local merchants hope instead of worrying about shipping delays you'll do your shopping locally to support small businesses. Small Business Saturday took place over the weekend, but business owners and employees ask you to shop small businesses every day. They say it's critically important to shop locally, keeping your dollars in your community to support local

merchants and local jobs. / **ECONOMY, BUSINESS:** Lane County's unemployment rate fell last month to a seasonally-adjusted 4.9 percent. And a new report indicates the area's total employment will grow by 23,900 jobs between 2020 and 2030, according to new projections from the Oregon Employment Department. Economist Brian Rooney says the projections point to strong job growth between 2020 and 2030 and accounts for recovery from low employment levels in 2020 from the COVID-19 recession. In addition, many job openings are expected due to the need to replace workers who leave their occupations. In 2020, there were 162,100 jobs in Lane County. The 15 percent increase in employment between 2020 and 2030 includes private-sector gains of 21,200 jobs, 2,200 jobs in government, and an additional 500 gain in jobs for self-employed Lane County residents. All major industry sectors are expected to add jobs except federal government, which loses 100 over the 10-year period. Leisure and hospitality is projected to increase the fastest and add the most jobs. The projected 6,100 jobs (44 percent growth) in leisure and hospitality is mainly driven by the recovery from the pandemic, as restaurants, hotels and arts, cultural, and recreational establishments are expected to see increased demand as in-person and recreational activities resume. The private health care and social assistance sector is projected to add the second-largest number of jobs, gaining 4,700 jobs (18 percent growth) over the 10-year period. This growth is attributed to the aging of the state's population, longer life expectancies, and continued population growth. In addition, the county has become a regional health care center serving people from outside the county. Health care alone will account for nearly one out of five new jobs created by 2030. Trade, transportation, and utilities is a large industry sector that is projected to grow by 3,200 jobs (11 percent) due to a recovery from the COVID-19 recession in retail trade and demand for transportation services as more people shop online and need products delivered.

/ **BUSINESS, WOMEN, BIPOC:** Comcast last week announced a major expansion of its Comcast RISE small-business program to include all businesses owned by women. The effort, which started in the past year, has already provided grants toward improved marketing and technology services to more than 6,700 qualifying small businesses nationwide owned by people of color. According to a study by the National Association of Women Business Owners, 42 percent of businesses in the U.S. are owned by women, with more than 1,800 new businesses being starting every day. That's nearly five times the national average. However, according to the same study, women-owned businesses are growing at only half the rate of those run by men, namely because women struggle to access capital and other resources to help them succeed. The application date for the Comcast RISE grants opens on January 16, 2022.

/ **RECREATION, DISABILITIES, COMMUNITY:** Work is continuing this week on the new ARC Park, off 42nd and "E" Streets in Springfield. The two-million dollar project is located next to The ARC of Lane County's facility. The ARC Park will offer a fully-accessible play structure for children of all abilities. There will be water and sand play areas, sensory areas with interactive activities, family-friendly restrooms, and a picnic area. Also part of the ARC Park: A small amphitheater featuring a two-story structure: The stage is on the lower level while the upper level offers views of the park and surrounding area. Designers say the Comcast Amphitheatre and its small lawn could host music and art therapy classes, exercise classes, community plays, and other entertainment. The ARC of

Lane County serves children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Organizers continues to raise funds to install accessible turf at the ARC Park and are asking for community donations. / HOUSING, LOW-INCOME. PANDEMIC: Managers of Oregon's Emergency Rental Assistance Program say they are continuing to make strong progress on processing applications, despite a continued backlog. This week, they announced that they have paid close to \$150 million in federal emergency assistance to more than 22,000 tenant households and landlords. Leaders of Oregon Housing and Community Services say despite delays, their agency is ranked 8th in the nation in the percentage of funds paid and obligated. Still, Oregon Housing and Community Services is going ahead with a pause in accepting new applications starting December 1. The pause will last six weeks, with the goal of allowing those handling the program to reduce the backlog. Anyone who has fallen behind on rent or anticipates falling behind on their December rent is encouraged to apply for emergency rental assistance right away and before the end of the day on December 1 at oregonrentalassistance.org / CRIME: The Lane County Sheriff's Office on Friday said 40-year-old Robert Gavin Bowers is the person of interest in Thursday's stabbing in the South Jetty area south of Florence. Officials say Bowers is likely homeless, most commonly travels by foot, could be armed, and should not be approached. The Sheriff's Office also urged drivers to refrain from picking up hitchhikers and to report suspicious activity to law enforcement. Bowers was last seen on foot headed into the dunes from the Goose Pasture ATV staging area. He is described as being a white male, 30-40 years of age, standing about five-foot-eight to six-feet tall. Witnesses described him as likely having long blonde hair and facial stubble. He was seen wearing a brown or black jacket. / SPORTS: In college football: The Oregon Ducks moved up to Number 10 in the polls after their win over Oregon State on Saturday, 38-29. They learn Tuesday afternoon whether their fortunes also improved in the all-important College Football Playoff rankings. The Ducks, who won the Pac-12 Northern Division, meet Southern Division winner Utah on Friday night in Las Vegas to vie for the Pac-12 Conference title. The game kicks off shortly after 5 p.m. Friday on ABC / KEZI-TV. / WILDLIFE: An errant sea lion that spent several hours wandering a neighborhood in Lincoln City on Friday afternoon was eventually usher back to a nearby creek a short distance from the ocean. Oregon State Police posted an account of the rescue effort, noting that someone—a sea lion they named "Tiffany"—made a wrong turn. The Lincoln City Police Department began receiving calls about the marine mammal as it wandered down one residential street and appeared headed toward Highway 101. The sea lion wasn't interested in fresh fish purchased from a nearby grocery store. Crews used sheets of plywood to direct it down quieter streets and to the nearby waterway. It was not an easy process. The sea lion was reluctant to change direction and travel the two blocks to Schooner Creek, but eventually reached the waterway and slid down an embankment to a side channel where it awaited the incoming tide from Siletz Bay. /

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DATE OF
BROADCAST 11/30/21

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

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED

HEALTH GOVERNMENT: Officials with the Oregon Health Authority yesterday expressed concern about the Omicron variant of COVID-19 and urged vaccination as the key to basic prevention. State epidemiologist Dean Sidelinger says that while Omicron has not yet been detected in the United States, health experts expect it will be in the coming days because it appears to be so highly transmissible. Sidelinger adds that Oregon has one of the most robust variant surveillance systems in the United States. Sidelinger says we still do not know how Omicron affects vaccine effectiveness against severe infection, hospitalization, and death. But he notes that current vaccines have remained highly effective against other variants, and that it remains important to be vaccinated against the Delta variant, which accounts for almost all new cases in Oregon. Sidelinger says those who are due for a booster – which is all adults either two months after a Johnson & Johnson vaccination or six months after a Moderna or Pfizer vaccination – should receive it as soon as possible. He says wearing a mask when inside public places as well as social distancing and handwashing remain incredibly important in the face of an emerging variant and high levels of community transmission. State health officials say they know that news of Omicron's emergence will cause many to experience anxiety about the unknown. It comes amid widespread "pandemic fatigue" as COVID-19 continues to disrupt our lives. Mental health experts say such anxiety is natural, but that health experts are working to nail down facts about the new variant and make whatever adjustments are needed to vaccines and COVID-19 treatments. ; The Delta variant continues to be responsible for more than 99 percent of all new COVID-19 cases in Oregon. Yesterday, the Oregon Health Authority reported that during the five-day Thanksgiving holiday period—Wednesday through Sunday—they received reports of close to 2,600 (2,598) new COVID-19 infections and 27 COVID-related deaths. Hospitalizations have dropped from the surge in cases the state saw in late summer. But officials say some regions with lower rates of vaccination continue to see higher-than-normal case numbers and fewer available hospital and intensive-care unit beds. Statewide, 396 people are hospitalized with COVID-19, an increase of 21 from the day before. Ninety-one of those patients are in an ICU. ; Lane County Public Health yesterday received reports of 33 new COVID-19 infections between Sunday and Monday. Twenty-three are

hospitalized, with six of those in local ICUs with three of those six on ventilators. With no new death reports in the past week, our pandemic death toll remains at 328. Lane County Public Health today resumes offering booster doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for adults ages 18 and older. The doses are available to anyone who is either six months past their second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, or two months past their initial dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. For now, the county will only be offering booster doses of the Moderna vaccine. But again, if you're eligible for a booster you may receive the Moderna dose regardless of which vaccine you previously received. If you prefer to receive a dose of the Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson vaccine, check instead with your primary care provider or local pharmacy. The county is holding drive-thru vaccination clinics today through Friday at the Lane Events Center, located off West 13th Avenue in Eugene. Public health officials are encouraging you to book an appointment. If you stop by without one, they will try to accommodate you if there is room, but you might have a bit of a wait. Schedule on the Lane County Public Health COVID-19 vaccination website at <https://lanecounty.org/cms/one.aspx?pagelid=17388003> [This week's booster clinic schedule](#): Today (Tuesday, November 30): 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Wednesday, December 1: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Thursday, December 2: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Friday, December 3: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ; President Joe Biden is urging Americans to get vaccinated, including booster shots, as he seeks to quell concerns over the newly identified coronavirus variant named omicron. But he said Monday he won't be seeking any severe business or other widespread lockdown. The new variant is "a cause for concern, not a cause for panic," the president said in televised remarks from the White House. He was accompanied by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert. Fauci says there so far are no cases of the variant identified in the U.S., but it is "inevitable" that it will make its way into the country. ; U.S. health advisers are reviewing Merck's closely watched COVID-19 pill, which could become the first easy-to-use drug for American patients. The Food and Drug Administration asked its outside experts today whether the agency should authorize the pill. They will weigh new data that the pill is less effective than the company first reported. Merck said last week that final study results showed its pill reduced hospitalization and death by 30 percent, lower than the 50 percent reduction it first announced last month. The FDA panel will take that smaller benefit into consideration as it reviews the drug. FDA regulators will make its final ruling on the drug following the meeting. / CHARITABLE, COMMUNITY: Today is Giving Tuesday, a global day dedicated to giving something back. The occasion is intended to encourage individuals, families, businesses, community and religious groups, and others to celebrate generosity. Many people, after shopping for themselves, family, and friends over Thanksgiving weekend and Cyber Monday, donate to their favorite charities on Giving Tuesday. The effort is embraced by countries across the globe, major corporations, and smaller companies. The organization Giving Tuesday estimates last year's U.S. donations totaled close to \$2.5 (\$2.47) billion. / ECONOMY, BUSINESS: As supply chain bottlenecks create shortages on many items, some charities are struggling to secure holiday gift wishes from kids in need. They're reporting they can't find enough items in stock or are facing shipping delays both in receiving and distributing the gifts. The founder of the organization One Simple Wish says many gift requests for gaming consoles and

electronic items submitted to the charity have been out of stock. Another charity can't find enough doll styling heads, racially diverse Barbies and other items to give to kids in need. One expert believes charities are also bound to see less toy donations directly from manufacturers this holiday season. / ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY: According to numbers from the Center for Biological Diversity, the United States creates 5.8 million more tons of waste in December than in any other month of the year. That's enough to fill more than 28,000 (28,713) Boeing 747 aircraft. The folks at WasteWise of Lane County encourage you to spend more time with loved ones this holiday season by getting crafty and using recyclable materials to create festive holiday decorations and giftwrap can help reduce the environmental impact of your holiday while creating fun new memories. They say it's easy to find do-it-yourself ideas on websites like Pinterest or SimplifyTheHolidays.org and www.LaneCountyOR.gov/wastewise also offers education, tools, and resources. Among the ideas: Use old greeting cards or used wrapping paper to make wreaths, tree ornaments, gift tags, snowflakes, garlands, bunting or other cheerful holiday decorations. Have a gift-making get together and create soup mixes, hot chocolate kits, bath products, or other crafts to give as gifts during the holiday season. Many ingredients can be purchased in bulk, which saves on cost and single-use packaging. Decorate cereal or shoe boxes to use as gift boxes, and use comics, maps, calendars, or fabric in place of wrapping paper. WasteWise Lane County leaders say creating DIY decorations and gifts is one way to make lasting holiday memories with children and loved ones, save money, and reduce waste. / ECONOMY, HOUSING: It's good news for sellers, tough news for buyers, and keeps renters in a challenging financial vise. U.S. home prices rose briskly in September, another sign that the housing market is booming in the aftermath of last year's coronavirus recession. The gains slowed a bit nationwide, in part due to a typical fall slowdown in the real estate market. But the long-term picture is still dominated by dramatic price jumps. The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-city home price climbed 19.1 percent in September from a year earlier. Every city in the survey saw double-digit increases. Prices in all of the survey's 20 major cities set new records in September. Phoenix was the nation's hottest market, registering a 33.1 percent price increase. The Seattle area was ranked No. 7 with prices up 23.3 percent from the same time last year. / ECONOMY, BUSINESS: NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are spending freely and going back to store shopping, knocking out some of the momentum in online sales from last year when Americans were making many of their purchases exclusively via the internet. Shopper traffic roared back on Black Friday, but it was still below pre-pandemic levels in part because retailers spread out big deals starting in October. The early buying also is expected to take a bite out of online sales on Monday, also known as Cyber Monday. Still, Black Friday is expected to once again be the busiest shopping day of the year, while Cyber Monday should also be the year's biggest online spending day. / CRIME: The moral of the story is: Create records containing photographs and serial numbers of your more expensive stuff, whether it's electronics, bicycles, or something else. That documentation can be essential if something you value is stolen and you want law enforcement to help get it back. Case in point: A person whose bicycle was stolen in Eugene. The victim contacted Springfield Police and the bike was spotted for sale on Facebook Marketplace. The suspects agreed to meet in the Walmart parking off Olympic Street close the deal—unaware that officers were involved.

Long story short: the stolen bicycle was recovered from the back seat of the suspect's vehicle, which itself was reported stolen out of Corvallis. Springfield Police say the driver, 35-year-old Juan Gerardo Sanchez, was already wanted out of Linn County for Kidnapping. He now faces charges in this case. The passenger, 35-year-old Guy Gilbert Devault of Springfield, also had a warrant out for his arrest for possession of Methamphetamine and now faces charges in the bike theft. Police say your smartphone can be your best friend when it comes to photographing and storing details about your possessions, their serial numbers, and other identifying characteristics. It also helps law enforcement make cases that will stick. / WEATHER, ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES: It was a hot, dry summer along the North Umpqua River. In August, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife closed a big chunk of the North Umpqua to summer steelhead fishing to protect wild fish already struggling amid high water temperatures, low river flows, and lower-than-normal returns of adult fish. But conditions have improved, the waters cooled. Tomorrow, the North Umpqua River reopens to winter steelhead angling from the marker below Soda Springs Dam to where the confluence of the North Umpqua and the mainstem Umpqua River near River Forks Park. But a reminder for anglers: All wild winter steelhead in the Umpqua basin must be released unharmed. Preliminary wild summer steelhead counts in mid-September show returns are still running about 10 percent of average, or a mere 350 fish. Counts are determined by reviewing video from the fish passage at Winchester Dam video of migrating fish. Staff monitor summer steelhead using snorkel counts in Steamboat and Canton Creeks which were also low. See the ODFW sportfishing regulations for more information. ; Meantime, hatchery winter steelhead angling is opening as usual Dec. 1 on the South Umpqua River. Anglers who harvest a hatchery winter steelhead are reminded to return the snout to an ODFW collection barrel for a chance to win a \$50 gift card if their fish is coded wire tagged. This is the fourth year of an ongoing study to determine hatchery fish release timing that best benefits anglers. Hatchery winter steelhead were coded wire tagged in the fall and released in four groups at acclimation sites in Canyonville, each at a different time earlier this year during spring. ODFW scans collected snouts for the tags which contain the release date and group. This information informs which release timing is the most beneficial to anglers, particularly those fishing the South Umpqua River. Collection barrels are located at popular boat ramps around the Umpqua Basin and in Roseburg at Sportsman's Warehouse and outside the ODFW office on North Umpqua Highway. Bags for the snouts and tags with date and location of harvest are in the barrels. / COMMUNITY, SAFETY: Eugene's Prefontaine Memorial Park, often referred to as "Pre's Rock," is closed for the rest of the year while crews make some safety improvements. The 1.3-acre site is off a hairpin turn on Skyline Boulevard. There is a memorial set in stone at the site of the roadside boulder where elite local runner Steve Prefontaine died in a car crash in 1975. Visitors inspired by Pre's running career often leave behind memorabilia to honor him. The site was dedicated in December 1997. City officials say the planned renovations include an expanded sidewalk and viewing area, to provide safer places for visitors to stand, sit, and place the personal items. But until construction is complete, crews ask you not leave any new memorabilia, because it will have to be cleared and stored until after the improvements are finished. / SPORTS: In college football: The Oregon Ducks moved up to Number 10 in the polls after their win over

Oregon State on Saturday, 38-29. They learn this afternoon whether their fortunes also improved in the all-important College Football Playoff rankings. The Ducks, who won the Pac-12 Northern Division, meet Southern Division winner Utah on Friday night in Las Vegas to vie for the Pac-12 Conference title. The game kicks off shortly after 5 p.m. Friday on ABC / KEZI-TV. / SPORTS, MENTAL HEALTH: The Pac-12, Big Ten, and Atlantic Coast Conference are launching an initiative to raise awareness of the importance of mental health. It's part of their conference alliance announced earlier this year. Teammates for Mental Health will be unveiled this week during basketball games involving the three conferences, including the ACC/Big Ten women's and men's challenges. The centerpiece will be a public service announcement that will air throughout the 28 games being played from Nov. 29-Dec. 2. The PSA includes Oregon State men's basketball coach Wayne Tinkle, Duke men's basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski (shuh-SHEF'-skee), Maryland women's basketball coach Brenda Frese, and others. /

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DATE OF
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BROADCAST 5:30AM-8:30AM / KGNU-FM

NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED WEATHER, HEALTH: The National Weather Service has posted an Air Stagnation Advisory for the Southern Willamette Valley, Cascade foothills, and Cascades of Lane County for deteriorating air quality. It remains in effect until noon Thursday. Postpone outdoor burning and limit residential wood burning as much as possible. Prolonged periods of stagnant air can hold pollutants close to the ground where people live and breathe. Check with the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) for current restrictions. Those with respiratory illness should follow their healthcare provider's advice. / HOUSING, LOW-INCOME, GOVERNMENT, PANDEMIC: Rental protections for many tenants and landlords are on the mind of Oregon's governor and state lawmakers. With winter coming and federal funds drying up, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown says she will call a special session of the Legislature for December 13 to approve state funding for rental assistance and to extend eviction protections issued because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brown said it's clear that a state solution is needed to address the urgent and immediate needs of Oregon renters. She proposed that protections be extended for everyone who has applied and qualifies for rental assistance, that landlords are paid in full for the rent they are owed, and that up to \$90 million in additional rental assistance be provided to low-income tenants through the winter. Eugene Representative Julie Fahey, who chairs the legislature's committee on housing, issued a joint statement with her Oregon Senate counterpart yesterday. She said the panels have developed a proposal to extend the state's "safe harbor" protections and provide additional funds for direct rent assistance that will benefit both tenants and housing providers. Fahey says the intent is to prevent evictions during the holiday season and the coldest winter months while supporting small housing providers who have made major sacrifices throughout the pandemic. Officials with Oregon Housing and Community Services said last week they have received a total \$289 million in federal rental assistance funds to help Oregon renters impacted by the pandemic. The state agency and its local partners already have paid out close to \$150 million in federal emergency rental assistance to over 22,000 tenant households and landlords. State housing officials say they have received another more than 25,000 additional applications, which they are continuing to review and approve by the thousands each week. But they've determined that all remaining federal rental assistance funds will have

been requested by today. The state is putting a pause on new applications at 11:59 p.m. tonight. It will last six weeks with the goal of allowing those handling the program to reduce the backlog. Anyone who has fallen behind on rent or anticipates falling behind on their December rent is encouraged to apply for emergency rental assistance right away and before the end of the day on December 1 at <https://www.oregonrentalassistance.org/> Leaders of Oregon Housing and Community Services say despite the delays, their agency is ranked 8th in the nation in the percentage of funds paid and obligated. / HEALTH, GOVERNMENT: Oregon is working on a voluntary electronic vaccine verification tool for residents who want a way to share their COVID-19 vaccination status when businesses ask for proof of vaccination. KGW-TV reports the Oregon Health Authority said the tool would be optional and people could volunteer to opt-in. Health officials say Oregon is testing a model of the tool with "communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19." The goal is to make it available to anyone in Oregon in the spring 2022. Oregon does not require businesses to ask for customers' proof of COVID-19 vaccination, but restaurants and bars in Portland and other cities have established their own requirements. California has a voluntary statewide vaccine verification system and Washington state has started offering residents a digital record of their coronavirus vaccinations that can be used to access businesses and other places where proof is required. / HEALTH: The Delta variant continues to be responsible for more than 99 percent of all new COVID-19 cases in Oregon. Yesterday, the Oregon Health Authority received reports of more than 1,000 (1,054) new infections and 19 new coronavirus-related deaths. Lane County Public Health yesterday received reports of 77 new COVID-19 cases and one additional death. That puts our pandemic death toll at 329. Twenty-eight local residents are hospitalized. ; U.S. health advisers have endorsed an antiviral drug from Merck to treat COVID-19. It sets the stage for an expected authorization of the first pill that Americans could take at home for the coronavirus. The Food and Drug Administration panel voted that the drug's benefits in curbing hospitalizations and deaths outweigh its risks. Those risks include potential birth defects if used during pregnancy. The FDA isn't bound by the panel's recommendation and is expected to make its own decision before the end of the year. Merck's pill could provide a much-needed therapy as colder weather pushes case counts higher and U.S. officials brace for the arrival of the new omicron variant. / FISHERIES, BUSINESS: Good news as we head into the holiday if you're a fan of Dungeness crab: For the first time in years, commercial Dungeness crab fisheries in Oregon, Washington state and Northern California are starting their season today after preseason testing showed high meat yield in crabs. For years, marine toxins, skinny crabs and contentious price negotiations have all played a role in delaying the start of Oregon's lucrative commercial Dungeness crab season recently. But Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife experts say things are looking good for an on-time start of the commercial Dungeness crab season. / LAW ENFORCEMENT, LEGAL: The family of a 40-year-old man who was shot and killed by a Eugene police officer in 2019 after he was stopped for walking in the street has filed a federal wrongful death lawsuit against the city of Eugene, the officer and his supervisors. Eugene officer Samuel Tykol shot Eliborio Rodrigues Jr. after attempting to take him into custody upon spotting him walking in the road shortly after midnight and grabbing a plastic bottle out of a recycling bin at a home. The Oregonian and OregonLive report the

suit alleges Tykol forced Rodrigues into an unnecessary and unwarranted confrontation, failed to de-escalate the encounter and then used unreasonable deadly force. Lane County's district attorney found that the officer's use of the deadly force was justified, noting Rodrigues repeatedly punched Tykol and turned the officer's Taser against him before Tykol fired three times, killing Rodrigues. But the DA's added in her review of the incident that she hoped Eugene Police and other Lane County law enforcement agencies would review the shooting and their policies "to make sure they are designed to promote the safety of our officers and citizens when an officer is alone and a citizen who has committed a pedestrian violation but no observed crime, becomes uncooperative." At the same time, she also cautioned that people should realize "that it is never safe to fight with law enforcement and, if you believe that a stop was unlawful, to raise that issue in a court of law." Earlier this year, the University of Oregon filed a federal lawsuit against a former campus officer, alleging he lied in police reports and withheld key evidence in an alleged malicious prosecution of Rodrigues, who was stopped at gunpoint while riding his bicycle in 2018. Campus Officer Troy Phillips was fired for dishonesty, failing to disclose to a Eugene municipal prosecutor that his Oct. 27, 2018, stop of Rodrigues was videotaped and audio recorded through his police car's mobile camera, the university suit said. / SPORTS: In college football: The Oregon Ducks yesterday moved up to Number 10 in the College Football Playoff rankings after their win over Oregon State. The Ducks, who won the Pac-12 Northern Division, meet Southern Division winner Utah on Friday night in Las Vegas to vie for the Pac-12 Conference title. The game kicks off shortly after 5 p.m. Friday on ABC / KEZI-TV. / LEGAL, WOMEN, HEATH, RELIGION, GOVERNMENT: Abortion rights are on the line at this morning at the U.S. Supreme Court as historic arguments take place over the landmark ruling nearly 50 years ago that declared a nationwide right to end a pregnancy. The Mississippi law would ban most abortions at 15 weeks. Stakes are high because Mississippi's Republican attorney general is asking justices to use the case to overturn Roe v. Wade, the court's 1973 ruling declaring a nationwide right to abortion, and the 1992 ruling in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, which reaffirmed Roe. The case comes to a court with a 6-3 conservative majority that has been transformed by three appointees of President Trump, who had pledged to appoint justices he said would oppose abortion rights. /

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ISSUE OR
SUBJECT
DISCUSSED HEALTH, GOVERNMENT: They say our focus should remain on prevention, not panic. The U.S. announced its first known case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 on Wednesday — in a vaccinated traveler returning home to San Francisco from South Africa. Experts say the traveler was fully vaccinated with two doses of Moderna but had not yet received a booster. The traveler returned to the U.S. on November 22. Three days later, on Thanksgiving, they experienced mild symptoms and contacted health authorities. The person still has mild symptoms and is isolating. Officials say the individual's close contacts all have tested negative for the virus and are quarantining. The news comes as scientists continue to study the risks posed by the new strain of the virus. The Biden administration moved late last month to restrict travel from Southern Africa where the variant was first identified. ; President Biden today kicks off a more urgent campaign for Americans to get COVID-19 booster shots as he unveils his winter plans for combating the coronavirus and its Omicron variant. While Biden is calling for enhanced availability of shots and vaccines, his administration plans no major new restrictions. The plan includes a requirement for private insurers to cover the cost of at-home COVID-19 tests. There will be a tightening of testing requirements for people entering the U.S. regardless of their vaccination status. But as some other nations close their borders or reimpose lockdowns, officials say Biden is not moving to impose additional restrictions beyond his recommendation that Americans wear masks indoors in public settings. The Biden administration has come to view widespread adoption of booster shots as its most effective tool for combating COVID-19 this winter. Medical experts say boosters provide enhanced and more enduring protection against COVID-19, including new variants. Much remains unknown about the Omicron variant, including whether it is more contagious, whether it makes people more seriously ill and whether it can thwart the vaccines. About 100 million Americans are eligible for boosters under current U.S. policy, with more becoming eligible every day. Convincing those who have already been vaccinated to get another dose, officials believe, will be far easier than vaccinating the roughly 43 million adult Americans who haven't gotten a shot despite widespread public pressure campaigns to roll up their sleeves. And while Biden's vaccination-or-testing requirement for workers at larger employers has been held up by legal

challenges, the president today will renew his call for businesses to move ahead and impose their own mandates on workers so they can stay open without outbreaks. In an effort to encourage more people to take the booster doses, the Biden administration is stepping up direct outreach to seniors — the population most vulnerable to the virus. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will send a notice to all 63 million Medicare beneficiaries encouraging them to get booster doses, the White House said. The AARP will work with the administration on education campaigns for seniors. So far about 42 million Americans, about half of them seniors, have received a booster dose. / POLITICS, GOVERNMENT: He was first elected in 1986. Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio, the longest serving U.S. House member in Oregon history, is retiring. The 74-year-old Democrat announced Wednesday that he will not seek re-election next year. DeFazio represents Oregon's 4th Congressional District. It covers the southwestern portion of the state, including the cities of Eugene-Springfield, Roseburg, Reedsport, Coos Bay, Corvallis, Albany, Lebanon, and Sweet Home. The Springfield Democrat is the powerful chairman of the House Transportation Committee. He helped shape the priorities under the new national infrastructure bill and over the decades he's steered a lot of money to this state. Oregon U.S. Senator Ron Wyden praised DeFazio for securing funds for Oregon's roads, bridges, and transportation systems. In a Wednesday news conference, DeFazio also pointed to money he gained for improvements at Eugene's airport and funds to dredge Oregon's harbors to keep them open for business. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi praised DeFazio's efforts to get money for infrastructure projects across the country and to expand preservation efforts on public lands. His retirement means a loss of clout for Oregon, regardless of which party wins control of the U.S. House in the mid-term elections. DeFazio says his health played a role in the decision: He recently had back surgery and said frequent cross-country flights have become more challenging. He also wants to spend more time with his family and enjoy Oregon's outdoors. The last time a Republican was elected to the seat was in 1972. DeFazio's GOP opponent from 2020, Roseburg's Alek Skarlatos, is running again. Yesterday, Oregon Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle, a Springfield Democrat, said she will seek DeFazio's seat. The district is heavily Democratic, but Republicans consider this an opportunity to make inroads with GOP voters. / ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, BUSINESS: A Canadian energy company that sought to build a natural gas pipeline and marine export terminal in Oregon has pulled the plug on the controversial project. It comes after it failed to obtain all necessary state permits. The Jordan Cove project would have created the first liquefied natural gas export terminal on the West Coast in the Lower 48 states. It would have been located at Coos Bay, with a 230-mile feeder pipeline crossing southern Oregon. Supporters said project would bring jobs and business to the region. But many landowners, Indian tribes, and environmental groups objected. They said the project could ruin the environment and would have contributed to global warming by producing greenhouse gases. / HEALTH, BUSINESS, LABOR: Bargaining is continuing this week between McKenzie Willamette Medical Center and the union representing more than 400 employees of its employees. Workers staged a two-day walkout in October and have given notice they will be on the picket lines for five days, starting Monday, if there is no tentative agreement by then. SEIU Local 49 represents workers in a range of hospital jobs, including certified nursing

assistants, respiratory therapists, pharmacy technicians, housekeepers, and others. Their contract expired at the end of August. During the October walkout, McKenzie-Willamette officials said they anticipated no impact on those patients already being cared for at the hospital. They kept their emergency department open to walk-ins. But ambulances were being redirected to other hospitals during the picketing and some elective surgeries were rescheduled. / ECONOMY, FISHERIES, BUSINESS: One day after the opening of Oregon's commercial Dungeness crab season, operators of Eugene's Fisherman's Market say they'll have the first catch available for sale this afternoon with cooked crab available by this evening. For local seafood markets and grocery stores, this is the first time since 2014 that the commercial Dungeness crab season has started on time. Otherwise, Fisherman's Market owner Ryan Rogers says his staff has to travel as far south as California's Bodega Bay or as far north as Blaine, Washington, to secure fresh crab for holiday customers. The Newport fishing vessel, Monde Uni, is bringing in the prized catch for the Eugene business. For years, marine toxins, skinny crabs and contentious price negotiations have all played a role in delaying the start of Oregon's lucrative commercial Dungeness crab season. But Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife experts say testing showed high meat yield in the crabs, leading to the green light for an on-time start of the season. / ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES: The Lummi Indian Business Council has passed a resolution declaring a disaster after more than 70,000 European green crab — an invasive species — were captured and removed from the Lummi Sea Pond in recent months. The Tribe cultivates shellfish and juvenile salmon in the 750-acre sea pond surrounded by the most productive natural shellfish beds on the reservation. The crabs threaten hatchery operations, Tribal shellfish harvests and may have larger impacts if the infestation spreads. Lummi Nation Chairman William Jones Jr. says the appearance of the European green crab is a serious threat to their treaty fishing rights. / WEATHER, WILDLIFE, CLIMATE: The warming of the planet is taking a deadly toll on seabirds, which are in decline because of heatwaves, extreme weather, failure to reproduce and inadequate fish to eat. They include birds such as albatrosses off the Hawaiian Islands and puffins off the Maine coast. The birds are less able to build nests, raise young and hunt for fish as the ocean heats up. That has resulted in mass die-off events of birds such as the Cassin's auklet in recent years. One estimate says seabird populations have fallen 70 percent since mid-century. / WILDLIFE: An injured sea otter that hauled ashore on a beach at Yaquina Head, north of Newport, is being cared for at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. A park ranger spotted the sea otter on Tuesday and alerted aquarium staff. They received permission from a federal wildlife agency to rescue the otter and coordinated with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network to retrieve it. Aquarium veterinary staff say the male sea otter was underweight with limited mobility. Its fur, which provides a key layer of insulation, was in poor shape. Experts say the sea otter also had lacerations and puncture wounds, possibly the result of being bitten by a shark. The marine mammal is being treated for infection and is alert and accepting food, but it's uncertain whether he will make a full recovery. Staffers with the Oregon Coast Aquarium say while they treat the sea otter, they are limiting human interaction as much as possible should it be possible to release him back into the wild. A reminder: If you see marine mammals in trouble on the Oregon coast, note its location and report it to the Oregon State Police Tipline at 800-452-7888, the

Marine Mammal Stranding Network at 1-866-767-6114, or the Oregon Coast Aquarium at 541-867-3474. / COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT: It does the city's dirty work but with a lot less noise. The City of Eugene recently purchased its first all-electric street sweeper. The battery-operated, zero-emissions "broom" reduces noise and eliminates fuel exhaust. It's another example of how electric vehicles are remarking commercial and government fleets. The sweeper cost about \$570,000. Fuel-powered sweepers have an expected lifespan of seven years and produce an estimated 115 tons of carbon dioxide. Electric sweepers produce none. Eugene's Public Works Department has been using seven diesel-powered street sweepers to clean more than 40,000 curb miles of streets each year. When one of those sweepers requires repairs, officials say it is usually because of malfunctions with the emissions system. They say the all-electric sweeper is easier to repair, which should eliminate typical repair downtimes with diesel-fueled units that can last up to one month. / RECREATION, DEVELOPMENT: Planning to get outside and enjoy some of today's sunshine? Construction upgrades are finished on one portion of Eugene's South Bank River Path and it's ready for you to walk, roll, or ride. The section stretches from the pedestrian and bicycle bridge near Autzen Stadium to the path's Hilyard Street entrance. Crews realigned and rebuilt approximately 3,000 feet of the South Bank Path this summer. The new, twelve-foot-wide path has a better alignment, new energy-efficient lighting, and a new gravel walking and running trail — converted from portions of the old path. Another section of the South Bank path remains closed from the pedestrian and bicycle bridge at Alton Baker Park to the path's Hilyard Street entrance. That's because of the construction underway at the Downtown Riverfront Park. But that path section will reopen next year. In the meantime, the entire North Bank Path is open. / CRIME: Oregon State Police have identified the remains of a girl found last year and say two people—her mother and the mother's female companion—have been arrested in Michigan in the child's death. The girl's body was found in December of last year near a rest stop off Oregon Highway 18 along the Van Duzer corridor in the Coast Range. The body was found in a duffel bag hidden in the woods. Investigators made several public appeals for tips in the case and sent samples for DNA testing. Yesterday, they announced that the remains are those of nine-year-old Haley Mae Coblentz. Her mother, 28-year-old Shawna Browning, and 33-year-old Lauren Harrison were arrested on Tuesday and charged with Aggravated Murder. / ECONOMY, CHARITABLE: Move over Black Friday and Cyber Monday, GivingTuesday has churned out a new record for giving. Organizers for GivingTuesday say American donors gave \$2.7 billion during Tuesday's giving day. The donations top last year's record, when American donors gave nearly \$2.5 billion in the aftermath of the racial justice protests and amid growing needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The GivingTuesday organization, which promotes the giving day, says 35 million U.S. adults participated this Tuesday through various forms of generosity, including by volunteering and donating goods. The giving campaign was launched in 2012 as a way to get people to give during the holiday shopping season, a time known for consumption. /

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SPORTS: No. 10 Oregon Football has made it to the Pac-12 title game for the third straight year. The Ducks are looking to improve to 5-0 all-time in the championship game and get back to the Rose Bowl. No. 14 Utah is seeking its first Pac-12 championship in the Utes third trip to the title game. Utah has never been to the Rose Bowl. The rematch tonight in Las Vegas kicks off shortly after 5 p.m. this evening on ABC / KEZI-TV. The forecast today in Las Vegas: Sunny with a high of 72. / SAFETY, MENTAL HEALTH, CRIME: A 31-year-old psychiatric patient from the Oregon State Hospital in Junction City walked away yesterday from a supervised outing in Eugene. Oregon State Police are asking that anyone who spots Jordan James Savariego call 911. They say Savariego should not be approached. Savariego was last seen at the 5th Street Public Market in Eugene shortly after 2 p.m. yesterday. Oregon State Hospital staff members assigned to escort Savariego lost visual contact when he ran away from staff. Hospital officials describe him as a white male, 5-foot-10, 203 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing blue sweatpants, a blue denim Carhart-style jacket, white t-shirt, brown hiking boots, and headphones. He also wears eyeglasses. Officials say Savareigo was admitted from Lincoln County to the Junction City campus of the Oregon State Hospital in January of this year. He had been found Guilty Except for Insanity on the charges of Arson 1 and Aggravated Harassment. / CRIME: Eugene Police say they've arrested a 30-year-old man and charged him in connection with firing shots in a West Eugene neighborhood. Korbin Alcide Renaud is charged with DUII, Unlawful Use Weapon, Reckless Endangering, Disorderly Conduct, and Driving While Suspended. It happened late Sunday night. Police received calls from multiple people about multiple shots being fired in the 1300 block of Oak Patch. One witness said Renaud was observed shooting a handgun, going into an apartment, then coming out and leaving in his car. An officer quickly located the vehicle near 17th Avenue and Buck Street and because a firearm was involved, multiple police units conducted a high-risk stop and took Renaud into custody. Investigators say they recovered a firearm from the apartment. There were no reported injuries. / CRIME, AGRICULTURE, WILDLIFE: Investigators say eight wolves in Eastern Oregon have been poisoned this year, including all five members of a single pack. Now, Oregon State Police are asking the public for leads in the case. In February,

officials say they were notified of a deceased, collared wolf and discovered all five members of Union County's Catherine Pack were dead. In mid-March, a collared female wolf from another pack was discovered deceased in the same area of Union County. Two more wolves were found dead in the region in April. Testing on the wolves, as well as two dead magpies and a dead skunk found near some of the remains revealed they died from a poisonous substance. Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers say they continue to investigate but have exhausted the leads in the case. They're asking for tips from anyone who might have information. Wolves have become a flashpoint in the debate over wildlife reintroductions in the West. Those supporting the reestablishment of packs say they were hunted to near-extinction more than a century ago under government-sponsored poisoning and trapping campaigns and are being returned to their natural range. But opponents including ranchers say that instead of preying solely on wild animals, wolves are responsible for the killings of some cattle and other livestock. They say the growth and spread of packs is making the problem worse. Northwest states have at times authorized the killing of individual wolves that have repeatedly been tied to livestock predation. But investigators say it is illegal to take the matter into your own hands. / SPORTS, EDUCATION,

DEVELOPMENT: It was built to last, with a fair amount of concrete and steel. So when it comes time to demolish the west side of Oregon State University's Reser Stadium to make way for expanded facilities, the structure will go out with a bang. OSU officials say demolition crews will use a controlled implosion on January 7 to take down the westside section of Reser. They say the decision came down to safety. The traditional demolition process would involve taking apart the large structure—including pieces of the tall roof canopy. But they say implosion by a licensed contractor will avoid putting crews at additional risk. This month, construction crews are making preparations by removing some steel and concrete. Then on Demolition Day, January 7, licensed contractors will use explosive charges to implode the stadium's west side. They'll make sure there's a clear area within 500 feet of the structure before setting off a series of explosives. That includes temporarily evacuating nearby residential, commercial, and campus structures, along with streets and sidewalks. Those up to 1,000 feet away will be asked to remain indoors for about ten minutes. Then, over the course of just two seconds—people will hear a series of pops—and as the charges detonate the westside stadium structure will drop to the ground. And, yes, OSU is planning a livestream. The Reser Stadium project is expected to be completed before the start of the 2023 football season. The west side of the stadium will include a new Welcome Center for prospective students and their families, and a Wellness Clinic for current students, OSU employees and community members. The stadium project is being funded through donations led by the OSU Foundation, including a \$50 million gift from an anonymous donor, the sale of premium seating, and game day revenues. Campus officials say the new Welcome Center is being funded by revenues from enrollment growth and the wellness center by a number of revenue sources. / ECONOMY, BUSINESS, HEALTH, LOW-INCOME:

America's employers slowed the pace of their hiring in November. They added a still-solid 210,000 jobs, but that total is the lowest in nearly a year. Today's report from the Labor Department also showed that the unemployment rate fell sharply from 4.6 to 4.2 percent. But the hiring remains uneven. The nation's factories last month added 31,000 workers, while transportation and warehousing gained

nearly 50,000. Analysts say that is an indication of just how much online commerce ahead of the holidays is picking up speed. But online activity isn't translating to the same amount of spending at the brick-and-mortar level. Retail employment dropped by 20,000 last month on a seasonally adjusted basis. Hiring in leisure and hospitality industries was up by 23,000, but that's far below October's gain of 170,000. Hiring at hotels and motels, restaurants and bars, and stores was especially soft in jobs where workers have to deal with the public face-to-face. The white-collar sector, which has largely shrugged off the worst effects of the pandemic, remained a source of strength, with a 90,000 jump in employment in professional and business services. The "quits rate" — a measurement of workers leaving jobs as a share of overall employment — has been at or near record highs, which suggests that workers are confident they can navigate the labor market to find something better. / ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY: Every year in early winter, high tides in Oregon are even higher than usual. These extreme high tides, commonly called "King Tides," occur when the moon is closest to the Earth. Every year, a group of dedicated volunteers head for the coast with their cameras to safely document the phenomena. Their goal is to better help scientists and others visualize and understand the impacts of sea level rise and tidal erosion, and the implications for those living at the ocean's edge. More King Tides are forecast today through Sunday. / RECREATION, ENVIRONMENT: Enjoy the outdoors and you might find something fun to keep. The Willamette Valley Visitors Association is holding its Fourth Annual Ornament Hunt on non-wilderness trails of the Willamette National Forest and a handful of trails on the Umpqua National Forest. The hunt started last week. Organizers say they've placed 200 wooden ornaments, each featuring a colorful valley sunrise, on spots along the trails. Eagle-eyed hikers and visitors who spot the ornaments get to keep them—one per household, please—and they may register online for a grand prize drawing. The ornaments have been placed on family-friendly trails and more challenging paths. If you're a strong hiker, you're encouraged to skip any ornaments you find in the first mile of trail so families with young children may find them. Learn more about the ornament hunt contest and a list of participating trails at <https://willamettevalley.org/ornament> / WEATHER, AGRICULTURE: Even Christmas trees aren't immune to the pandemic-induced shortages and inflation plaguing the economy. Extreme weather and supply chain disruptions have reduced supplies of both real and artificial trees this season. Industry officials say American shoppers should expect to have fewer choices and pay up to 30 percent more for both types this Christmas. Record-breaking heat and wildfires in late June took a heavy toll on Christmas tree farms in Oregon and Washington state, which are two of the nation's largest growers. Jami Warner is executive director of the American Christmas Tree Association and calls the situation a double whammy of weather and supply chain problems. / HEALTH: The omicron variant of COVID-19 has been discovered in at least five states, showing yet again how mutations of the virus can circle the globe with speed and ease. Just one day after the first known U.S. case was found in California, tests showed Thursday the omicron variant had infected at least five people in the New York City metropolitan area, plus a man from Minnesota who had attended an anime convention in Manhattan in late November. A case also was confirmed in the Los Angeles area. Officials reported another case in a Colorado woman who had recently traveled to southern Africa. The variant was also confirmed in an

unvaccinated Hawaii resident with no recent travel history. Much remains unknown about the new variant, including whether it's more contagious, as some health authorities suspect. Also unknown: whether it can thwart vaccines or make people as sick as the original virus. / New government autism numbers suggest more U.S. children are being diagnosed with the developmental condition and at younger ages. In an analysis of 2018 data, researchers with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that among 8-year-olds, 1 in 44 had been diagnosed with autism. But experts believe a lot of that reflects greater awareness of the autism spectrum, earlier diagnosis, and a wider availability of special services. / **TERRORISM, TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY:** The Transportation Security Administration is issuing new directives and recommendations to boost cybersecurity at U.S. rail and airport operators. The requirements, made public yesterday, are part of an effort to shield the nation's key infrastructure from cyberespionage and a surge in disruptive ransomware attacks. For rail systems, the new TSA rules require most passenger and freight operators to name a cybersecurity point person, quickly report incidents to a federal agency and develop a recovery plan in case of malicious cyber activity. Similar rules will go into effect for airport operators. /

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SPORTS: The Oregon Ducks fell to Number 14 in the final College Football Playoff Rankings and are headed to the Alamo Bowl to meet Number 16 Oklahoma on Wednesday, December 29. The game, at San Antonio's Alamo Dome, kicks off at 6:15 p.m. on ESPN. The Alamo bowl invitation came after Friday's 38-7 loss to Utah in the Pac-12 Championship game. The Ducks lost a trip to the Rose Bowl. Instead, Utah—which moved up to Number 11 in the CFP standings—will make its first trip to the New Year's Day contest in Pasadena, to face Number 6 Ohio State. This is Oregon's third trip to the Alamo Bowl. The Ducks last met Oklahoma in 2006. ; Oregon will be without offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead, who over the weekend accepted the head coaching job at Akron. They also might be without head coach Mario Cristobal: ESPN reports he's the lead candidate to take over the top coaching spot at Miami and is in, quote, "extensive discussions." Officials with the University of Miami are planning an announcement about staff changes, including a new head football coach and a new athletic director, as early as tomorrow. After Friday's game, Cristobal responded to media questions, saying he hasn't been offered anything from any school yet. The Oregonian, meantime, reports UO Athletics is offering Cristobal a contract extension, with hopes of keeping the 51-year-old in Eugene. ; Oregon State is going bowling this holiday season. The Beavers face Mountain West Conference champion Utah State in the inaugural LA Bowl on Saturday, December 18. The contest is set for a 4:30 p.m. kick-off on ABC / KEZI-TV at SoFi Stadium, the home of the NFL's Los Angeles Chargers and Los Angeles Rams. Comedian and talk show host Jimmy Kimmel and SoFi Stadium have a multiyear partnership that makes Kimmel the official naming rights partner of the LA Bowl. So it's officially the "Jimmy Kimmel LA Bowl." / HEALTH, LABOR, BUSINESS: Close to 300 union workers at Springfield's McKenzie Willamette Medical Center begin a five-day walkout this morning. SEIU Local 49 represents workers in a range of hospital jobs, including certified nursing assistants, respiratory therapists, pharmacy technicians, housekeepers, and others. Their contract expired at the end of August. The daytime pickets are scheduled for today through Friday. The union members staged a two-day walkout in October. McKenzie-Willamette officials say the two sides bargained extensively last week and the timing of the walkout is unfortunate with the continuing pandemic and

arrival of the holiday season. Hospital officials say they've added additional staff and that all inpatient, outpatient, and emergency services continue uninterrupted.

/ HEALTH: More states over the weekend announced additional cases of COVID-19 tied to the newly identified Omicron variant. They include Nebraska, Missouri, Georgia, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Utah, Colorado, Hawaii, and others. There are three recently diagnosed cases in Western Washington. Among those interesting contact tracers: A Minnesota man who developed an Omicron-related cases of COVID after attending an anime convention in New York in mid-November. Several of his friends also attended the gathering and also fell ill. Health experts say it the cases indicate the variant might have been circulating in this country earlier than originally suspected. They are working to determine its level of contagiousness and whether its symptoms might be less severe than other variants. They also say their main concern remains the Delta variant, which accounts for better than 99 percent of all new coronavirus infections nationwide and here in Oregon. They say vaccinations, booster doses, masking, and distancing remain effective prevention strategies as we head into the heart of the holiday season. ; U.S. health officials said Sunday that while the omicron variant of the coronavirus is rapidly spreading throughout the country, early indications suggest it may be less dangerous than delta, which continues to drive a surge of hospitalizations. President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told CNN's "State of the Union" that scientists need more information before drawing conclusions about omicron's severity. Reports from South Africa, where it emerged and is becoming the dominant strain, suggest that hospitalization rates have not increased alarmingly. Fauci said the Biden administration is considering lifting travel restrictions against noncitizens entering the United States from several African countries. They were imposed as the omicron variant exploded in the region, but U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has blasted such measures as "travel apartheid." Omicron had been detected in about a third of U.S. states by Sunday, including in the Northeast, the South, the Great Plains and the West Coast. Wisconsin and Missouri were among the latest states to confirm cases. / ECONOMY, LAW ENFORCEMENT: Plenty of local holiday shopping over the weekend. Among those in the stores: about 25 kids, accompanied by members of local law enforcement agencies who were helping them purchase gifts for their families. "Shop With A Cop" is an annual tradition. This year, members of the Eugene Police, Lane County Sheriff's Office, and University of Oregon Police Department participated. During Saturday's event, they helped the youngsters purchase holiday gifts for the children's siblings and parents, along with non-perishable food that will help provide a holiday dinner. All costs were covered through donations from the Eugene Police Foundation and Northwest Community Credit Union. Fred Meyer stores have partnered in the effort for several years and provided considerable discounts on purchases, donation of a portion of breakfast for the children, and a holiday tree. The gift purchases were wrapped by EPD's Volunteers in Policing and Eugene Police employees. / COMMUNITY, FAMILY: "The Oldest and The Coldest" returned to Springfield on Saturday. After a one-year postponement because of the pandemic, the Springfield Christmas Parade attracted a good crowd as participants celebrated its 69th year. The event featured music and vehicles, military flag-bearers, equestrian units and floats. Police handed out candy to youngsters along the route. Santa arrived in the basket of a utility truck, flanked by large reindeer

antlers. The event was hosted by the Oregon Riders Society. / VETERANS: Pearl Harbor survivors and World War II veterans are gathering in Hawaii this week to remember those killed in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack. Those attending will observe a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., the minute the bombing began. The ceremony marks the 80th anniversary of the attack that launched the U.S. into World War II. David Russell of Albany, Oregon, will be among the survivors there. The 101-year-old was a seaman first class assigned to the USS Oklahoma. He remembers torpedoes pounding his battleship and using a rope to jump to the USS Maryland when the Oklahoma capsized. ; A World War II veteran who was the last surviving officer of "Easy Company," which inspired the HBO miniseries and book "Band of Brothers," has died. Edward Shames was 99. An obituary posted by a funeral home said Shames, of Norfolk, Virginia, died peacefully at his home on Friday. Shames was involved in some of the most important battles of World War II. He made his first combat jump into Normandy on D-Day as part of Operation Overlord. He also fought with Easy Company in Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge. Shames was the first member of the 101st to enter Dachau concentration camp, just days after its liberation. / CRIME: Springfield Police on Friday arrested a 39-year-old man and charged him with Strangulation, Assault, Menacing, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, and being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm in connection with a domestic violence case. Manuel Vargas was arrested after the female victim was treated at a local hospital. Investigators said they learned Vargas had discharged a firearm during the course of an argument and it was believed he remained armed. He was arrested after Springfield and Eugene Police worked to locate him. He was a passenger in a vehicle and taken into custody during a traffic stop. ; A 49-year-old Eugene woman faces charges in connection with Thursday night's crash at Franklin Boulevard and Walnut. Investigators say man had been stopped at a red light on westbound Franklin Boulevard when his vehicle was rear-ended by the driver of a Nissan Sentra, later identified as Mary Dale Stewart. The impact had sent the Chevy through the intersection, narrowly avoiding a collision with a car that was turning north from Franklin Boulevard eastbound. Stewart was taken by Eugene Springfield Fire EMS to a local hospital. The Chevy's driver was injured but not transported. Stewart was cited in lieu of custody for DUII, Reckless Driving, Reckless Endangering and Assault. ; The Lane County Sheriff's Office is thanking everyone for their tips in the case. On Friday, officials said the suspect in a stabbing in the South Jetty area south of Florence had been arrested and jailed. 40-year-old Robert Gavin Bowers faces charges of Assault in the First Degree and Assault in the Second Degree. / ENVIRONMENT, DISASTERS, SAFETY, LEGAL: A federal judge has halted U.S. Forest Service plans to log part of the Willamette National Forest burned by last summer's wildfires. The ruling Friday comes after two environmental groups sued to stop the logging near Breitenbush Hot Springs and Detroit Lake. The groups allege the Forest Service changed their plans to thin trees and conduct prescribed burns to include salvage logging after the 2020 wildfire without going through the proper environmental review process and getting public input. A different judge halted Forest Service plans to log in another part of the Willamette National Forest in November. //

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SUBJECT
DISCUSSED

SPORTS: Miami hired a new head football coach on Monday: Oregon's Mario Cristobal. Cristobal is returning to his alma mater to become the Hurricanes' head coach. That means the Ducks are looking for a new coach just days after losing the Pac-12 championship and their chance to salvage an up-and-down season. Cristobal says he's looking forward to coaching his alma mater and the place where he started his coaching career and to competing for championships. Sources told ESPN that Cristobal's contract at Miami will be in the range of \$8 million annually, and that Miami also plans to pay his \$9 million buyout at Oregon. Duck Athletics officials still are waiting to learn which assistant coaches will follow Cristobal to Miami.; Oregon athletic director Rob Mullens has named Bryan McClendon interim head football coach for the upcoming Alamo Bowl. McClendon is in his second season with the Ducks, serving as pass game coordinator and wide receivers' coach. McClendon came to Oregon after spending four years as an assistant coach at South Carolina, including the final two as offensive coordinator. He began his coaching career at Georgia – his alma mater – from 2007 to 2015, earning a promotion to assistant head coach ahead of his final season with the Bulldogs. McClendon served as Georgia's interim head coach for its 2015 bowl game. The No. 14 Ducks (10-3) will take on No. 16 Oklahoma (10-2) on Wednesday, December 29, at the Alamodome (6:15 p.m. on ESPN). ; Oregon star defensive end Kayvon Thibodeaux made it official on Monday night and announced that he will skip the Alamo Bowl and his senior season to instead turn pro. Thibodeaux is the possible top pick in the upcoming NFL draft. In announcing his decision on social media, he thanked Oregon for giving him, quote, "the opportunity to transition into a man ready to take on the world." / SAFETY, CRIME: Investigators are asking for tips after a Cottage Grove man died after being struck by gunfire last Tuesday afternoon as he drove along a portion of Highway 38, west of Drain. The incident occurred sometime before 1:30 p.m. on November 30 when Oregon State Police troopers and Douglas County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call for medical assistance Interstate 5 near milepost 153. Investigators say the victim, 72-year-old Larry Eugene Mell of Cottage Grove, had been struck by a bullet while driving in the area of Putnam Valley Road and Roaring Camp Lane on Highway 38. Mell was rushed to the hospital but died from his wound. Officials are asking for leads from anyone who

might have seen Mell's red 2003 Ram 2500 4-door pickup with a black ladder rack last Tuesday along that stretch of Highway 38 shortly before 1:30 in the afternoon. Detectives do not believe there is an ongoing threat to the community. Contact the Oregon State Police at 1-800-442-2068 or OSP (677). Reference OSP Case #SP21-335049. ; Lane County Sheriff's deputies and officers from the Eugene Police Department yesterday arrested the suspect of a robbery that occurred on Saturday. Investigators say 32-year-old Nicholas John Sammut attempted to steal items from Jerry's Home Improvement on Highway 99 in Eugene at around closing time. When confronted, police say Sammut drew what appeared to be a handgun and pointed it at the employee before leaving. Deputies reviewed security footage and identified Sammut. Yesterday, he was taken into custody at the Safe Spot Community shelter located on Highway 99, about one mile south of the store. Officials say he had been a resident there for about three weeks. Sammut was charged with Robbery, Menacing, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, and Theft. Deputies recovered a black BB-gun that they say closely resembled a real firearm. / SAFETY: The Register-Guard is reporting that a vehicle delivery worker was killed Saturday night after he was pinned by a pickup truck that fell on him from a trailer in Eugene's Bethel neighborhood, according to Eugene Springfield Fire. Emergency personnel responded to the 4000 block of Souza Street at about 8:25 p.m. Saturday. Firefighters found the pickup truck halfway off the trailer, with the back axle pinning the man, who was in his 20s. The trailer had a handful of other vehicles, and the out-of-state delivery worker and another person had been making stops in the area, he said. The man's name will be released after relatives are notified. Eugene police are investigating the incident. Officials say it is not yet clear how the accident happened, and that the straps attaching the pickup to the trailer were still in place when firefighters arrived. / WILDLIFE, CRIME, AGRICULTURE: The rewards have climbed to \$36,000 for information on poisoning of five members of an Eastern Oregon wolf pack. Oregon State Police continue to ask the public for leads in the case. It comes in the wake of February's discovery of the deaths of Union County's Catherine Pack. Three other wolves in Union County died by poisoning over the next couple of months. Wolves have become a flashpoint in the debate over wildlife reintroductions in the West. Those supporting the reestablishment of packs say they were hunted to near-extinction more than a century ago under government-sponsored poisoning and trapping campaigns and are being returned to their natural range. But opponents including ranchers say that instead of preying solely on wild animals, wolves are responsible for the killings of some cattle and other livestock. They say the growth and spread of packs is making the problem worse. Northwest states have at times authorized the killing of individual wolves that have repeatedly been tied to livestock predation. But investigators say it is illegal to take the matter into your own hands. Contact the Oregon State Police through the OSP TIP Hotline: 1-800-452-7888 or OSP (677) or TIP. / WILDLIFE: They did what they could to tend to his wounds and help him recover. But that injured sea otter that hauled ashore on a beach at Yaquina Head, north of Newport, late last month has died. Aquarium veterinary staff say the male sea otter was underweight with limited mobility. Its fur, which provides a key layer of insulation, was in poor shape. Experts say the sea otter also had lacerations and puncture wounds, possibly the result of being bitten by a shark. In the past, other injured otters have been cared for at the aquarium.

Those who survive but are unable to be released back into the wild have often remained at the facility, allowing visitors to learn more about the marine mammals, their habitats, and the challenges they face. A reminder: If you see marine mammals in trouble on the Oregon coast, note its location and report it to the Oregon State Police Tipline at 800-452-7888, the Marine Mammal Stranding Network at 1-866-767-6114, or the Oregon Coast Aquarium at 541-867-3474. /

LOW-INCOME, HOUSING, PANDEMIC: The state's rental assistance application window recently closed, but Lane County's is open for another week. Lane County officials say you have until Tuesday, December 13, to apply for rental assistance on their website. Go to www.lanecountyor.gov/rent or call 541-682-3776 Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Officials say the number of pending rental assistance applications is expected to exhaust all available funding. But they add that county leaders recently extended local eviction protections. They provide applicants for rental assistance with a 90-day "safe harbor" from eviction while their applications are being processed. Since July 1, Lane County and its partners have distributed more than \$20 million to landlords and tenants, assisting more than 3,200 (3,281) local households. Lane County Rent Assistance Programs are prioritizing applicants with the lowest income, highest amount of rent owed, and who have been unemployed 90 days or longer. Those who have suffered the negative effects from the 2020 Wildfires also receive priority consideration. The rental assistance funding was approved by Congress and allocated to states and local governments. If you have received an eviction notice should contact Lane County Legal Aid to learn about your protections, rights, and responsibilities: 541-485-1017. Once the application window closes on Tuesday, December 13, only very low-income renters facing active evictions for nonpayment of rent will be eligible to apply. /

RECREATION, COMMUNITY, HEALTH: Willamalane is inviting the community to celebrate the ribbon cutting and grand opening of a new trail at Willamalane Park of 12th and G Streets in Springfield. It starts at 3 p.m. and features a few speeches, the ribbon cutting, and complimentary warm drinks. Then at 3:50 p.m., there will be a Kids' Fun Run on the new trail, named "Shana's Trail." (similar sound to "Shannon") Shana's Trail is an 800-meter (half-mile) running trail located at Willamalane Park. It starts at the parking lot at the east end of the Willamalane Park Swim Center, loops over along Mohawk Boulevard, then to "I" Street, Silke Field (say: silky), and the swale north of the pool. Shana's Trail is composed of the same specially applied aggregate and bark that makes Pre's Trail a popular destination for runners. The trail has been made possible, in part, by a family foundation grant from the Shana Thomas Barr Memorial Fund. The project received financial or in-kind contributions from McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center, the Wildish Companies, Star Rentals, Rexius Forest Products, Willamalane, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, SUB, the City of Springfield, and the Springfield School District. The Springfield Rotary Club made this their 2021 signature project. /

CRIME, ECONOMY: Shopping online? Make sure your packages don't wind up in the hands of thieves. Crime prevention experts with the Eugene Police Department have some tips on making sure your purchases don't wind up with "porch pirates": Consider requiring signatures for package deliveries so they're not left on your doorstep. You also can track and even add insurance for your package. Plan to be home when your package is expected to be delivered, or schedule it to arrive when you are at home. It might cost a bit extra, but it

eliminates a lot of the anxiety. See whether a friend, neighbor, or apartment management office is willing to receive the package while you're away. If you order through a retailer's website, see whether it can be delivered to their nearby store for you to pick up. You can have your package sent to a shipping company substation such as the UPS or FedEx Stores, local post office, or even your place of employment. Ordering from Amazon? There are Amazon lockers and other delivery spots around the area. If you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood, call your local law enforcement agency immediately. / VETERANS: Pearl Harbor attack survivors are expected to gather at the site of the bombing this morning to remember those killed 80 years ago. About 30 survivors and 100 other veterans of the war were expected to participate in a ceremony at a pier overlooking the USS Arizona Memorial. They will observe a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., the same minute the attack began decades ago. The bombing killed more than 2,300 U.S. troops. This year's ceremony is taking place as a strong storm packing high winds and heavy rains hits Hawaii, but a Navy spokesperson says there's been no discussion of cancelling the event. David Russell of Albany, Oregon, will be among the survivors there. The 101-year-old was a seaman first class assigned to the USS Oklahoma. He remembers torpedoes pounding his battleship and using a rope to jump to the USS Maryland when the Oklahoma capsized. /

PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTING FORM

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NAME OF
PROGRAM Morning News

LENGTH OF
PROGRAM 30 Seconds

ISSUE OR
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WEATHER, SAFETY: A Winter Weather Advisory is in effect through 9 p.m. Thursday above 2,000 feet. Total snow accumulations of 8 to 16 inches. Winds gusting as high as 35 mph. Be prepared for winter driving conditions when traveling across the Cascades. Short bursts of intense snow and localized blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. Slow down and use caution while traveling. Dial 511 on your mobile phone for updated conditions or go to www.tripcheck.com / HEALTH: It could be more evidence of the importance of receiving a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine: Pfizer officials said this morning that a booster dose of their COVID-19 vaccine might protect against the new Omicron variant. Pfizer and its German partner, BioNTech, conducted lab tests on how well vaccine-produced antibodies could neutralize Omicron. They found significant weakening of immunity after just the standard two doses. But said a booster dose increased antibody levels by 25-fold. Pfizer officials added that two doses still might protect against severe illness. Moderna also is testing how effective its booster doses are against the Omicron variant. Pfizer and Moderna scientists say they're working to analyze the new variant and modify their existing vaccines, with the aim of updating them as early as March. Omicron was first identified by scientists in South Africa last month. Since then, the World Health Organization has deemed it a "variant of concern." And it has since been detected around the world, including more than one-third of U.S. states. Researchers have been trying to understand how contagious the new strain is, as well as how well it might be able to evade COVID-19 vaccines and whether it causes severe disease. Some preliminary reports suggest the variant is more contagious, but may cause milder disease, though researchers say it is too early to be certain. / ECONOMY, COVID-19: U.S. employers posted 11 million open jobs in October, nearly matching a record high reached in July. Analysts say it was a sign that companies were confident enough in the economy to expand. But the Big Quit also is continuing: A report this morning from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that 4.2 million workers leaving their jobs in October. That's on the heels of 4.4 million in September. The churn in the labor market comes as many workers quit for better jobs with better pay and benefits. Others are opting for early retirement. Some have opted to stay home with their youngsters as childcare costs remain high. Still others are leaving the job market to care for a

family member or because of their own health problems. / BUSINESS, ECONOMY: Amazon's cloud-service network suffered a major outage Tuesday, disrupting access to many popular sites. For roughly five hours, companies dependent on Amazon's web services network to run their operations struggled to find workarounds. Among them: Amazon's own e-commerce operation. Other companies hit by the outage include Delta Airlines and Toyota, as well as web-based ops like Instacart, Venmo, the McDonald's app, Kindle, Roku, and Disney+. AWS also provides remote computing services to many companies, universities, and governments. By mid-afternoon our time, Amazon said it had identified and fixed the underlying problem, although many online services took even longer to recover. Critics said the issue highlighted the danger of centralizing too many of the internet's key functions. / ECONOMY, FAMILY, YOUTH: It's easy to go overboard on gifts for your kids for the holidays, but the result could be a drained bank account and an overstuffed toy bin come January. Money and child development experts point out that setting a holiday spending budget keeps your finances in check and could help avoid an overwhelmed child. Start by taking a toy inventory and assessing what you've already bought. Consider investing in experiences rather than things. You could also use a gifting strategy that works year after year, such as: something they want, something they need, something to wear, and something to read. / ENVIRONMENT: Lots of seismic activity the past 24 hours about 250 to 275 miles off the Central Oregon Coast. Dozens of earthquakes magnitude 3.5 to 5.8 have been recorded along an area known as the Blanco Fracture Zone. None were felt on shore. There was no tsunami threat. It's not unusual to have temblors in that area. But scientists say it does not pose the threat of a major quake the way the Cascadia Subduction Zone does. The Blanco Fault Zone is a transform or strike-slip boundary; that means it is a place where tectonic plates slide along one another. That different from subduction zones, where one plate dives beneath another and powerful earthquakes are more likely. There are occasional earthquake swarms along the Blanco Fault Zone. One swarm in 2019 produced a 6.3 magnitude quake. Experts say the Blanco Fault Zone is one of the most seismically active off North America. But because its temblors are closer to the ocean floor, they are less likely to be felt on land. The Blanco Fault Zone also is farther out to sea than the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The Cascadia Subduction Zone, by comparison, is where the Juan de Fuca plate is diving under the North American continental plate, building pressure that is released as quakes—usually small to moderate ones. But the cluster of moderate temblors is getting some attention. Some scientists believe this is how larger pressures in the subduction zone are eased over time and can reduce the chance of a larger quake. But all agree it's only a matter of time before a major event happens offshore from the Pacific Northwest. That's one reason officials stress the importance of disaster preparedness for communities, households, and businesses. The Cascadia Subduction Zone produces a major earthquake every 300 to 600 years. We're overdue, since the last magnitude 9 earthquake struck 320 years ago, in 1700. Experts say there's a 30 percent chance over the next 50 years of a major quake and tsunami in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, similar to the one that devastated parts of Japan in 2011. / SAFETY: Eugene Police yesterday released the name of the man who died when he was pinned under a truck that he'd been helping to remove from a multi-vehicle trailer. Investigators are working to determine how the accident happened.

The incident occurred on Saturday night, shortly before 8:30 p.m., in the 4500 block of Souza Street in the Bethel area. Police, fire, and EMS units responded. Bystanders had been trying to free the victim, but specialized equipment was needed to get the vehicle off the man. Responders attempted lifesaving efforts, but the man was deceased. Officials say the victim is 27-year-old Henrique Maia-Desouza, a citizen of Brazil who lives in New Jersey. He came to Eugene with a friend during a week-long trip delivering at various locations across the U.S., including Eugene. / CRIME, SCHOOLS: We'll start by saying there is NO ongoing threat to any local school. But Eugene Police say for a time yesterday they investigated a report of a student possibly armed with a gun at Willamette High School. They say they briefly detained the student but there was NO firearm. As they prepared to make contact with the student, some nearby classrooms were cleared as a precaution. But, again, NO ongoing threat, NO firearm. On Sunday afternoon, police say they investigated a call about an Instagram post regarding South Eugene High School. Central Lane 911 was told it referenced some sort of event that might take place next week, away from the school. But there was NO specific threat or criminal act mentioned and the post was taken down before investigators could get a look at it. Eugene Police say they're continuing to review the information. But, again, at this time, they say there is NO known credible threat of violence at either school. / VETERANS: Pearl Harbor attack survivors gathered yesterday at the site of the bombing to remember more than 2,300 U.S. military personnel killed 80 years ago. About 30 survivors and 100 other veterans of the war participated in a ceremony at a pier overlooking the USS Arizona Memorial. They observed a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., the same moment the attack began. The USS Chung-Hoon, a guided missile destroyer, passed in front of the pier with its sailors "manning the rails"—lining the ship's edge to honor the World War II veterans present. David Russell, a 101-year-old from Albany, Oregon, who survived the attack while on the USS Oklahoma, stood to salute the passing destroyer on behalf of the veterans. / LEGAL, HEALTH, GOVERNMENT: A federal judge on Tuesday blocked the Biden administration from enforcing a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for employees of federal contractors, the latest in a string of victories for Republican-led states pushing back against Biden's pandemic policies. The U.S. District Court judge in Augusta, Georgia, issued a stay to bar enforcement of the mandate nationwide. The order came in response to a lawsuit from several contractors and seven states -- Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, South Carolina, Utah and West Virginia. It applies across the U.S. because one of those challenging the order is the trade group Associated Builders and Contractors Inc., whose members do business nationwide. The judge found that the states are likely to succeed in their claim that Biden exceeded authorization from Congress when he issued the requirement in September. A White House spokeswoman said the Justice Department would continue to defend the mandate. A federal judge in Kentucky also had issued a preliminary injunction against the mandate last week, but it applied only to contractors in three states that had sued together -- Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee. President Biden issued an executive order Sept. 9 requiring federal contractors and subcontractors to comply with workplace safety guidelines developed by a federal task force. That task force subsequently issued guidelines that new, renewed or extended contracts include a clause requiring employees to be fully vaccinated by Jan. 18. That meant those receiving a two-

dose vaccine must get their second shot by Jan. 4. Limited exceptions were allowed for medical or religious reasons. The requirements would apply to millions of employees of federal contractors, which include defense companies and airlines. With Tuesday's ruling, all three of Biden's broad vaccine mandates affecting the private sector have been put on hold by courts. Judges already issued a stay regarding one that applies to businesses with 100 or more employees and another for health care workers across the U.S. Separately, Biden has imposed vaccine requirements for employees of the federal government and the military. The mandates are a key part of the administration's strategy to stop the spread of COVID-19, which has killed more than 791,000 Americans since last year. /