

County allocates funding for COVID-19 response

The Deschutes County Commissioners and Deschutes County Sheriff L. Shane Nelson have allocated \$500,000 in emergency response funding for immediate COVID-19-related needs in Deschutes County.

The funds will allow the County to purchase additional ventilators, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies that will help expand regional capacity and help to keep first responders and the community safe.

“We’re working to do everything we can to control and contain the spread of COVID-19,” said Deschutes County Commissioner Phil Henderson. “The health and safety of our communities is our highest priority and we’re going to continue to work together to meet our region’s needs.”

Sheriff L. Shane Nelson added, “Critical equipment can be difficult to get and it is imperative we set this in motion so purchases could be made immediately in the interest of public safety. Working together is vital to success and I am proud of the partnership we have with our commissioners.”

County Clerk reminds voters of deadlines

The next election in Deschutes County is the Oregon Presidential Primary Election. Despite the many challenges brought by COVID-19, this statewide election will be held on Tuesday, May 19.

Oregon’s Vote By Mail elections allow voters to stay at home and vote early. Each of Deschutes County’s more than 144,400 registered voters will be mailed a ballot on Wednesday, April 29.

Deschutes County Elections reminds voters that Tuesday, April 28, is the voter registration deadline for the primary election. Oregon voters with an Oregon DMV number can register to vote online at www.oregonvotes.gov/register or fill out a paper Oregon Voter Registration Card, which is available at the U.S. Post Office or online.

Tuesday, April 28, is also the party choice deadline. Voters who wish to vote in the Democratic or Republican closed primary elections need to be registered as a member of that party by the deadline. Voters can update their party affiliation online at www.oregonvotes.gov/myvote. Voters who are not affiliated with a major party will receive a non-partisan ballot that will

only contain non-partisan state and local offices and measures.

Deschutes County Elections asks voters to check that their address, party affiliation, and name are up-to-date in their voter registration record. Voters can update their information online at www.oregonvotes.gov/myvote or with an Oregon Voter Registration Card.

Voters who will be away from home on Election Day should request an absentee ballot to be mailed to their temporary address. Voters should visit www.deschutes.org/clerk or call the Deschutes County Elections Office at 541-388-6547 for assistance in requesting an absentee ballot as soon as possible.

Commentary... Bull by Bull

By Judy Bull
Columnist

• Once the weather warmed up, I cut the elastic waistband off my long johns and sewed it — by hand — to a favorite wild rag, creating a less-than-perfect face mask.

• Since the only thermometer I own is a horse thermometer, I decided to rely on my sense of smell out at the barn as an indicator of whether I might have COVID-19. For me, there is just nothing like the smell of horses, goats and newly re-stacked hay to monitor how I’m holding up.

• I’m down to one horse and one goat out at the barn. We all three need cheering up these days so I took a drive out to the goat lady north of Redmond and picked out

two, 2-month-old Nigerian dwarf kids, dehorned and castrated. I know Winkin’ and Riddle’s spirits will be raised just by watching their antics, as will be mine.

• Today I made the best decision I’ve made in weeks: I promised myself that I would only watch ONE take per day of the daily news. I haven’t felt this free since I last divorced. I am no longer afraid to spend more time outdoors and less time inside pretending I’m going to clean and pretending I’m OK.

• My heart goes out to everyone, the world over. My self-talk of late is very familiar. It’s the same thing I’ve always said to my horses when they needed calming, “It’s OK. You’re all right.”



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