

The Bulletin

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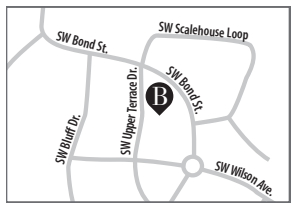
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No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

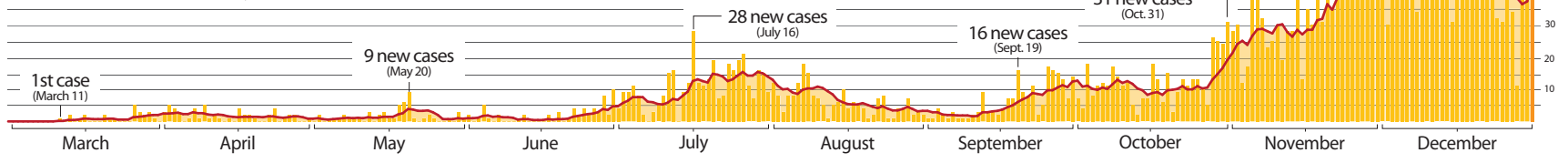
DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC

Total COVID-19 cases as of Thursday, Dec. 31:
Deschutes County cases: 3,976 (68 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 22 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 448 (6 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 7 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,425 (32 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 17 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 113,909 (1,682 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 1,477 (9 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Thursday: 27 (6 in ICU).

What is COVID-19? It's an infection caused by a new coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can cause a range of symptoms. Some usually cause mild illness. Some, like this one, can cause more severe symptoms and can be fatal. Symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath.

7 ways to help limit its spread: 1. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. 2. Avoid touching your face. 3. Avoid close contact with sick people. 4. Stay home. 5. In public, stay 6 feet from others and wear a cloth face covering or mask. 6. Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue or cough into your elbow. 7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Elgin man faces murder charges

BY KALEB LAY
La Grande Observer

ELGIN — The Union County Sheriff's Office announced on Wednesday the arrest of Gary Otis Mason, 54, of Elgin, in the deaths of Candy K. Williams, 56, and a juvenile. Williams was Mason's significant other, according to the sheriff's office, which did not identify the juvenile. The sheriff's office detained

Mason on Tuesday following an initial investigation at his home outside Elgin, where Williams also resided. The sheriff's office booked Mason into the Union County jail on suspicion of two charges of first-degree murder. He remains in the county jail on no bail.

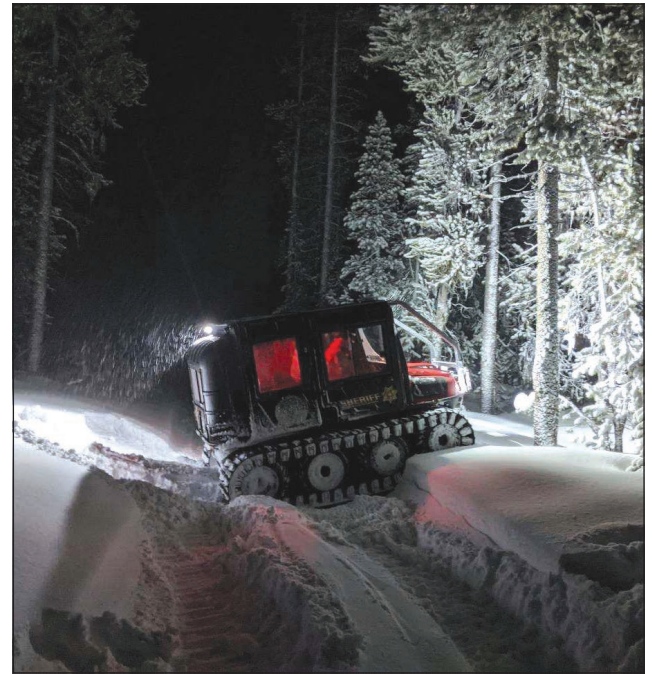
According to the sheriff's office, Mason called the Union County Dispatch Center from

his home shortly after midnight Tuesday.

A deputy with the sheriff's office and an Oregon State Police trooper responded and found two bodies upon arrival. Mason was at the scene and received aid from the Elgin Ambulance and La Grande Fire Department.

The sheriff's office would not provide any additional information on the case.

LOCAL BRIEFING



Deschutes County Sheriff's Office
An all-terrain vehicle helped rescue a father and his daughter Wednesday from their car, which was stuck in heavy snow near Paulina Lake.

Father, daughter rescued after night in the forest

A father and daughter stranded overnight in their vehicle near Paulina Lake were located by Deschutes County Search and Rescue on Wednesday and helped back to safety. Paul Thompson, 37, of Bend, and his 13-year-old daughter had been stranded since Tuesday evening, according to a statement from Shane Zook, assistant search and rescue coordinator for the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. The pair were initially reported missing by Thompson's father. Family members had a general idea of the location of the pair by using a phone application to ping the location of the missing 13-year-old's phone. The app indicated they were on the north side of Paulina Lake.

A later attempt made by a deputy to ping the phone failed, either because the phone was turned off or the battery had died. Search and rescue volunteers traveled the majority of the way to the presumed location of the two missing people in a 4x4 pickup and then deployed an all-terrain vehicle to continue the search. The volunteers located Thompson, his daughter, and their two dogs in the stranded vehicle at 5:30 p.m. after traveling 5.5 miles in the ATV. They were reportedly unharmed and given a ride to awaiting family members on China Hat Road.

— Bulletin reports



Guests at Berts Growler Garage in Ontario enjoy lunch under a new outdoor heater.
Liliana Frankel/The Enterprise

Ontario springs for heaters and tents to help restaurants

BY LILIANA FRANKEL
Malheur Enterprise

ONTARIO — Restaurants in Ontario got a little extra something this holiday season to keep their employees and guests warm. The Ontario City Council in early December approved about \$12,000 to buy tents, weights, wind walls, heaters, and propane tanks for restaurants looking to expand into outdoor dining — which is currently the only kind of on-site dining allowed under Oregon's COVID restrictions. The city began delivering the materials last week.

"The only olive branch that Kate Brown was giving restaurants was outdoor dining," said Jason Jungling, owner of the Plaza Inn Restaurant. He was responsible for proposing to city councilors that they do something to help the local hospitality industry. Jungling plans to combine a tent he already has with the tent he was given by the city to provide cover in an area measuring 20 by 45 feet. He intends to use the space to seat eight tables of socially distanced customers.

"I hope this helps our restaurants with additional options other than carryout," said Adam Brown, Ontario city manager. "They are really struggling and the City Council really wanted to do something to support them." Pepe Bovadilla of Fiesta Guadalajara knows that struggle well. "We've been losing a lot of business," he said. "There's a lot of people calling to see if

we're open to dine in. There's people coming in that we have to turn around. This month of December is the best month we have the whole year, but this year it's been nothing but trying to make it through."

With the supplies he received from the city, Bovadilla plans to set up an outdoor dining area that will take up about two parking spaces worth of territory in front of the Oregon Street establishment.

Berts Growler Garage has a patio that's been open for most of the pandemic. But according to owner Michelle Bertalotto, the provision of tents and a new heater will be a big help, especially as the weather worsens.

"It means a lot that the city is doing something," she said. Buying those weather-

proofing supplies was "just one more added expense that we didn't need right now."

Those three restaurants and Mackey's Steakhouse and Pub, Romio's Pizza and Pasta, Brewsky's Broiler, and Second and Vine received a dozen heaters.

Brown said that among those restaurants that have already received supplies, several had requested additional heaters, so a dozen more will come in over the next week. Brown said there was still money for more heaters and supplies if other establishments come forward with a need.

"I just hope (new outdoor dining efforts) are well-supported by the community," said Jungling. "I know I'm not the only one doing it!"

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Police: Ku Klux Klan flyers dropped at California homes

The Associated Press
TULELAKE, Calif. — Some 15 to 20 packages filled with rice and Ku Klux Klan flyers were scattered around a small town in Northern California near the Oregon border, according to police. Residents of Tulelake, California found the materials on the doorsteps of their homes and businesses, the Herald and News in Klamath Falls reported. The flyers claim the "radical left" was trying to steal the

2020 election and institute a Communist agenda.

Tulelake Police Chief Tony Ross said this week that KKK recruitment paraphernalia also appeared in town about four years ago. He said police haven't identified a culprit in either case.

Ross said a person found responsible could be charged with offensive littering, but advertisements for the hate group are generally considered free speech and are not illegal.

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