

The Bulletin

How to reach us

CIRCULATION

Didn't receive your paper?
Start or stop subscription?
541-385-5800

PHONE HOURS

6 a.m.-noon Tuesday-Friday
7 a.m.-noon Saturday-Sunday
and holidays

GENERAL INFORMATION

541-382-1811
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

ONLINE

www.bendbulletin.com

EMAIL

bulletin@bendbulletin.com

AFTER HOURS

Newsroom 541-383-0348
Circulation 541-385-5800

NEWSROOM EMAIL

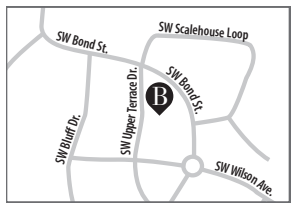
Business business@bendbulletin.com
City Desk news@bendbulletin.com
Features communitylife@bendbulletin.com
Sports sports@bendbulletin.com

NEWSROOM FAX

541-385-5804

OUR ADDRESS

Street 320 SW Upper Terrace Drive
Suite 200
Bend, OR 97702
Mailing P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708



ADMINISTRATION

Publisher
Heidi Wright 541-383-0341
Editor
Gerry O'Brien 541-633-2166

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Advertising
Steve Rosen 541-383-0370
Circulation/Operations
Vitto Kleinschmidt 541-617-7830
Finance
Anthony Georger 541-383-0324
Human Resources 541-383-0340

TALK TO AN EDITOR

City Julie Johnson 541-383-0367
Business, Features, GO! Magazine
Jody Lawrence-Turner 541-383-0308
Editorials Richard Coe 541-383-0353
News Tim Doran 541-383-0360
Photos 541-383-0366
Sports 541-383-0359

TALK TO A REPORTER

Bend/Deschutes Government
Brenna Visser 541-633-2160
Business
Suzanne Roig 541-633-2117
Calendar 541-383-0304
Crook County 541-617-7829
Deschutes County 541-617-7818
Education
Jackson Hogan 541-617-7854
Fine Arts/Features
David Jasper 541-383-0349
General Assignment
Kyle Spurr 541-617-7820
Health
Suzanne Roig 541-633-2117
Jefferson County 541-617-7829
La Pine 541-383-0367
Music
Brian McElhiney 541-617-7814
Public Lands/Environment
Michael Kohn 541-617-7818
Public Safety
Garrett Andrews 541-383-0325
Redmond
Jackson Hogan 541-617-7854
Salem/State Government 541-617-7829
Sisters 541-383-0367
Sunriver 541-383-0367

REDMOND BUREAU

Mailing address P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708
Phone 541-617-7829

CORRECTIONS

The Bulletin's primary concern is that all stories are accurate. If you know of an error in a story, call us at 541-383-0367.

TO SUBSCRIBE

Call us 541-385-5800
• Home delivery and E-Edition \$7 per week
• By mail \$9.50 per week
• E-Edition only \$4.50 per week

To sign up for our e-Editions, visit
www.bendbulletin.com to register.

TO PLACE AN AD

Classified 541-385-5809
Advertising fax 541-385-5802
Other information 541-382-1811

OBITUARIES

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.
Phone 541-385-5809
Fax 541-598-3150
Email obits@bendbulletin.com

OTHER SERVICES

Back issues 541-385-5800
Photo reprints 541-383-0366
Apply for a job 541-383-0340

All Bulletin payments are accepted at the drop box at City Hall or at The Bulletin, P.O. Box 6020, Bend, OR 97708. Check payments may be converted to an electronic funds transfer. The Bulletin, USPS #552-520, is published daily by Central Oregon Media Group, 320 SW Upper Terrace Drive, Bend, OR 97702. Periodicals postage paid at Bend, OR. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Bulletin circulation department, P.O. Box 6020, Bend, OR 97708. The Bulletin retains ownership and copyright protection of all staff-prepared news copy, advertising copy and news or ad illustrations. They may not be reproduced without explicit prior approval.

Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

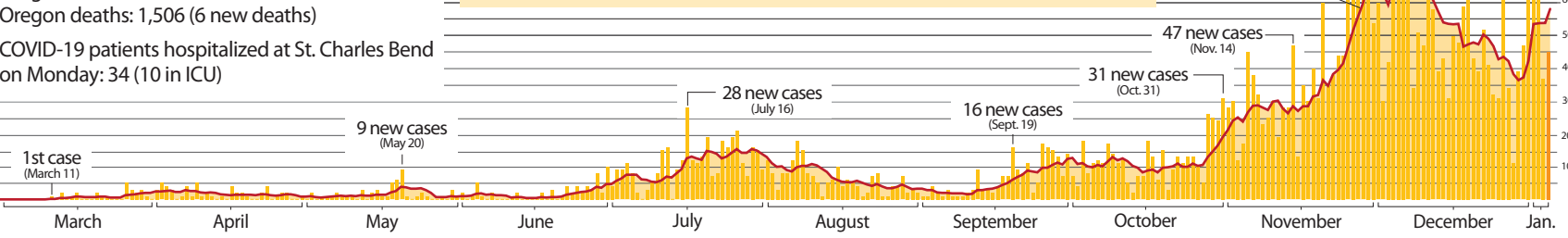
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC

Total COVID-19 cases as of Monday, Jan. 4:

Deschutes County cases: 4,207 (45 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 22 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 471 (zero new cases)
Crook County deaths: 7 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,540 (6 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 118,456 (731 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 1,506 (6 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Monday: 34 (10 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.



DESCHUTES RIVER

Water conservation plan gets go-ahead

BY MICHAEL KOHN

The Bulletin

A habitat conservation plan designed to increase the flow of water in the Deschutes River in winter to protect endangered species has been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The service adopted the plan after more than a year of review. It was formally adopted Thursday, according to a statement from Bridget Moran, the field supervisor for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The plan, which was 12 years in the making, was produced by the Deschutes Basin Board of Control member irrigation districts and the city of Prineville. In exchange for increasing the flow of water in Deschutes Basin rivers, the signatories will receive an incidental take permit, which allows them to continue their primary activities without the threat of litigation.

“This is a huge milestone and historic agreement for the districts and the basin,” said Mike Britton, general manager for the North Unit Irrigation District, one of the eight districts involved in the plan. “But really this is only the beginning. We’ve not got to meet the commitments we’ve agreed to as well as completing conservation projects to make sure we stay on track.”



Photos: Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin file; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ABOVE: Water flows along the Deschutes River below Wickiup Reservoir in November.
INSET: An Oregon spotted frog in 2012 at the Old Mill District in Bend. The species needs better water flow than current rates in the Deschutes River.

The plan is laid out in a sweeping 850-page document, which details a timeline for the districts to increase the flow of water in Deschutes Basin rivers and other measures to restore habitats that have been degraded due to agriculture.

Districts are spending millions of

taxpayer dollars to pipe their canals, the primary strategy for conserving water that can be saved for the river. Central Oregon Irrigation District alone plans to spend over \$100 million over the next decade on piping projects.

Canals are notorious for leaking water back into the ground, especially in

Central Oregon, which has very porous canal beds due to volcanic soils and rock.

The current rate of flow in the Deschutes River from Wickiup Reservoir is around 100 cubic feet per second. Biologists say the flow in winter must be closer to around 600 cfs to protect the Oregon spotted frog, listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

According to details in the plan, the minimum flow of 100 cfs must be maintained in years one through seven of the plan, after which the rate needs to hit 300 cfs until year 12. The Deschutes flow must then increase to 400 to 500 cfs in winter from years 13 through 30.

Craig Horrell, manager for the Central Oregon Irrigation District, said in addition to piping canals, his district also intends to focus on wildlife habitat conservation. More than \$5.2 million is planned for conservation over the next 30 years, said Horrell.

Reaction to the plan among environmentalists is mixed. While the plan to increase the flow of water in the Deschutes has been welcomed, some say the target dates to reach the goals can be shortened, and with a lower cost, with more aggressive on-farm water conservation measures.

“The fastest way to help both farmers and the river is to combine water conservation projects and market-based incentives in an integrated strategy,” said Tod Heisler, director of the Rivers Conservation Program at Central Oregon LandWatch. “Private laterals can be piped at a low cost and significantly reduce water delivery problems.”

Reporter: 541-617-7818, mkohn@bendbulletin.com

OREGON

Number of rejected ballots dropped in 2020 versus 2016

BY JIM REDDEN

Pamplin Media

Although a record number of Oregonians voted in the 2020 general election, the number of ballots rejected for technical reasons dropped from the 2016 general election.

State election officials say 2.4 million ballots were returned in November's election. That is 18% more than the 2 million ballots returned in the previous presidential election year.

But the number of ballots rejected for signature problems fell by 5%. In the 2016 general election, 17,574 ballots were rejected because their return envelopes were not signed or their signatures did not match those on file with elections officials. Four years later, only 16,680 ballots were rejected for those reasons.

The decline reflects the national results of the 2020 general election. Although final figures are still being collected, election experts said far fewer mail-in ballots were rejected for technical reasons across the country than expected, especially considering how many states allowed more people to vote by mail because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Donald Trump and his supporters have pointed to the low rejection rate as evidence of widespread voter fraud. But the reason in Oregon is simple.

According to Multnomah County Election Program Communications Specialist Eric Sample, state election rules were changed between the two elections to make it easier for voters who failed to



Pamplin Media Group
In Oregon, 2.4 million ballots were returned in November's election.

sign their ballots to submit a new signature before the final results were certified.

Before the change, voters who did not sign their return envelopes had to physically come into a county elections office and do so before a deadline for their ballots to be counted. After the change, they only had to sign and return a statement that said they are legally qualified to vote and had voted.

The result of the change was dramatic. In Multnomah County, only 16% of voters who did not sign their envelopes returned a new registration card in time in 2016. After the change, that jumped to 67%.

“The change made it a lot easier for voters who hadn't signed their envelopes,” Sample said.

Voters whose signatures did not match still had to submit new voter registration cards for their votes to count. The percentage increased between the

two elections — 50% in 2016 and 63% in 2020.

The percentage of rejected ballots in both elections was small. Statewide, only 0.9% were ultimately rejected in 2016 compared to 0.7% in 2020. In Multnomah County, only 0.4% were rejected in 2016 compared to 0.6% in 2020.

Although those are small percentages, they are still enough votes to change the results of close elections. For example, 292 ballots in Gresham were rejected for signature problems in the 2020 general election. But the mayor's race on that ballot was decided by only 13 votes.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$21.00 per month and business services are \$33.00-\$37.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

Find it all online
bendbulletin.com

