

# The Bulletin

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## CENTRAL OREGON TRUMPETER SWANS

# ELOISE ALONE



Eloise, a trumpeter swan, sits on a frozen pond without her mate, Pete, who died Saturday at Aspen Lakes.

Dean Guernsey/For The Bulletin

*With death of Pete, tragedy strikes trumpeter swan breeding program again*

BY KYLE SPURR  
The Bulletin

The most prolific trumpeter swan pair in Oregon's breeding program experienced a tragic turn of events Saturday when the male, Pete, died from a bacterial infection.

Pete and his mate, Eloise, produced 15 young in the past three years from their home at the Aspen Lakes Golf Course in Sisters. The pair was a boost to the state's effort to repopulate the threatened species.

Eloise is now the second swan in Central Oregon



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

In this 2018 file photo, Pete, a male swan donated to the Aspen Lakes Golf Course to enhance Oregon's trumpeter swan breeding program, swims with his cygnet Sydney on a small pond at the golf course in Sisters. Pete died Saturday.

to lose a mate in recent months, after Gracie, the resident swan at Sunriver Nature Center, was killed in October, leaving her mate, Gus.

See *Swan* / A13

## DESCHUTES COUNTY COMMISSION

# No decision yet on whether to go nonpartisan

BY BRENN A VISSER  
The Bulletin

Deschutes County commissioners do not appear interested in asking voters this year to decide whether their seats should be nonpartisan, but they are still considering it for next year. During a meeting Monday, commissioners discussed what it would take for this issue to make it to the ballot. State statute prevents a commission from putting an issue like this

on the ballot of a May special election, according to county attorney Dave Doyle, leaving a special election in November as the soonest the commissioners could put the issue before voters.

But the commission unanimously decided against that after learning that a special election in November would cost the county \$140,000 if no other issue joined the ballot.

"I could not justify calling an

election in November just for this item," Commissioner Phil Chang said Monday.

The idea was raised by Chang, the newly elected Democrat to the commission who earlier this month asked the commission to explore changing the seats to be nonpartisan. Currently, candidates for the commission must win a Republican or Democratic primary before facing off in the November election.

The last time this issue was con-

sidered was in 2006. Residents voted against this, as well as increasing the number of commissioners from three to five and against making a commission position a part-time job.

Chang argued making races nonpartisan would allow everyone in Deschutes County to decide who gets to be on the commission, not just those who are registered Democrats or Republicans.

See *Commission* / A13

## COVID-19 U.S. to boost vaccine deliveries, A4

# Methods for annual count of homeless see change

BY BRENN A VISSER  
The Bulletin

Some Central Oregon social service providers are worried the number of homeless people will be underreported because of federal COVID-19 guidelines limiting interaction between the homeless and the volunteers who tally them in the annual Point-in-Time Count.

Each year, Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties participate in the federally-mandated Point-in-Time count, where volunteers count the number of people experiencing homelessness or are in transitional housing on one day in January. The national effort offers a snapshot of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a region, and often is tied to funding for homeless services.

See *Homeless* / A4

# Vaccinations in Central Oregon proceed to next group: seniors

BY SUZANNE ROIG  
The Bulletin

Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties opened up vaccinations to people 75 and older ahead of the state schedule after rapidly dispensing shots to health care professionals and teachers.

It's part of a priority process the Oregon Health Authority has set up for counties that have moved through each group and want to go to the next on the priority list.

"Deschutes County was one of those counties, and began vaccinating educators last week," said Charles Boyle, a spokesman for Gov. Kate Brown.

See *Vaccinations* / A4

### INSIDE

• How to make an appointment, A4

# New COVID-19 rule allows gyms leeway to reopen

BY GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

Gyms can reopen under tight guidelines to control COVID-19 infections, Gov. Kate Brown announced Tuesday.

The new rules for "indoor recreation" were included in an update of county risk levels.

There was little movement among counties from their risk levels two weeks ago. Nearly all of the state's most populous counties were among the 26 that remained in the extreme risk category.

Under the four-tier risk ratings, counties are assigned a level based on COVID-19 spread: lower, moderate, high or extreme. As the levels go up, more health and safety measures, along with business and activity restrictions, are required.

See *COVID-19* / A4

TODAY'S WEATHER



Rain or snow  
High 40, Low 27  
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