

Winter

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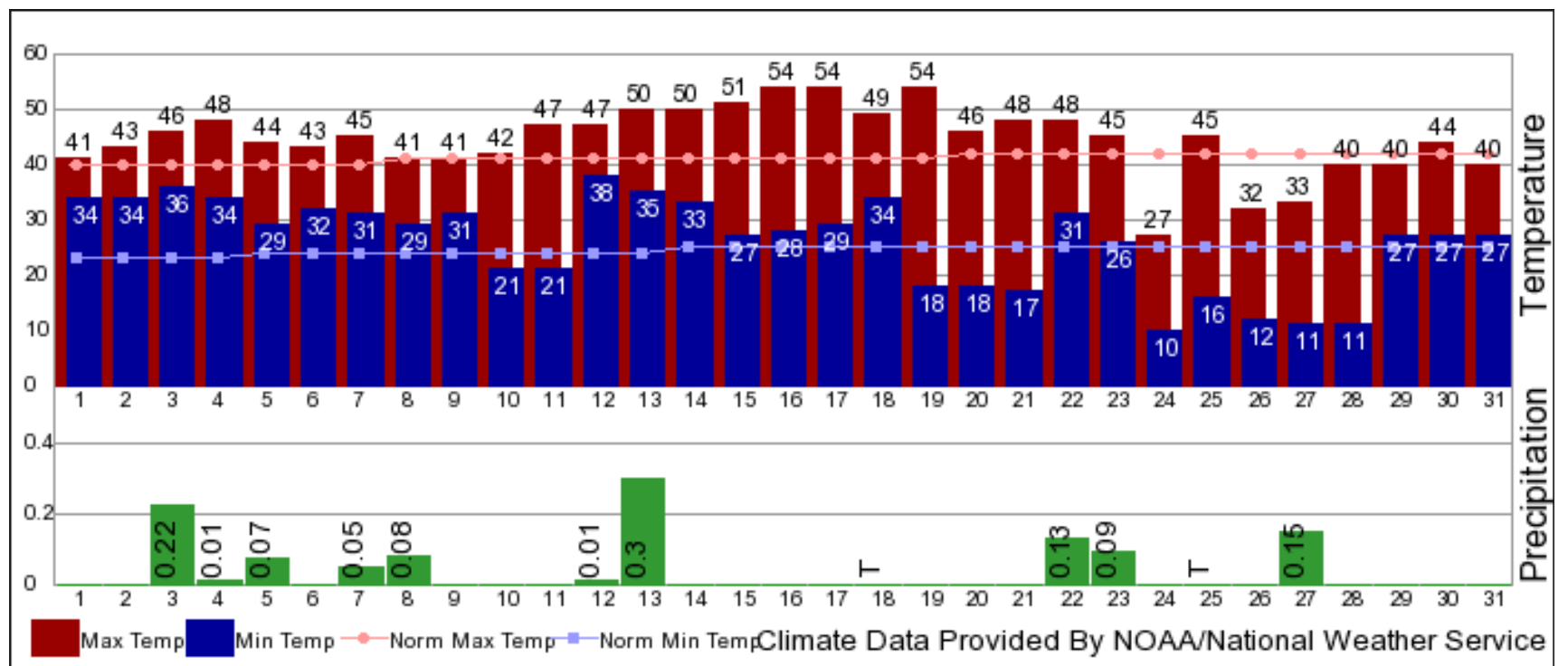
“That was unusual,” Cloutier said. “Very unusual.”

Overall, the outlook for February in Bend calls for colder than normal temperatures and below normal precipitation, according to the weather service’s monthly climate summary. The normal high temperature for February in Bend is 44.3 degrees, and the normal low temperature is 24.2 degrees. Normal precipitation is 1.09 inches.

The February forecast breaks a trend of warmer than normal conditions that have been recorded each month since March.

Last month in Bend was no exception. According to the climate summary, January in Bend was warmer than normal.

The average temperature in January was 35.2 degrees, which was 2.5 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 44.5 degrees, which was 3.4 degrees above normal.



The highest was 54 degrees on Jan. 16.

Low temperatures in Bend in January averaged 26 degrees, which was 1.7 degrees above normal. The lowest tempera-

ture was 10 degrees on Jan. 24.

A total of 22 days last month had a low temperature below 32 degrees. On Jan. 24, the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Bend recorded 1.11 inches of precipitation last month, which was 0.42 inches below normal.

Measurable precipitation of at least 0.01 inches was re-

corded on 10 days. The heaviest was 0.30 inches reported Jan. 13.

January snowfall in Bend totaled 5.7 inches with at least one inch of snow reported on

three days. The heaviest snowfall was 2.4 inches on Jan. 22, according to the climate summary.

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NATIONAL BRIEFING

FBI: 2 agents killed, suspect dead in Florida

Two FBI agents were killed and three wounded in a shooting that erupted on Tuesday when they arrived to search an apartment in a child pornography case, a confrontation that marked one of the bloodiest

days in FBI history. The suspect is believed to have killed himself.

FBI Director Christopher A. Wray identified the two slain agents as Daniel Alfin and Laura Schwartzenberger, both of whom specialized in investigating crimes against children.

— Bulletin wire report

Abuse

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“Good luck to you, sir. That’s all for today,” Crutchley told the defendant at the end of the swift-moving sentencing hearing.

Hough-Nielsen was arrested in September 2018 after a girl who lived in his home confided to police that he had abused her in different ways numerous times from May 2014 to June 2018, when she was between the ages of 7 and 10, prosecutor Stacy Neil told the court.

“She reported that he threatened to hurt her mother if she told anyone about this,” Neil said.

The victim, now 13, and her mother both did not wish to attend the sentencing or provide statements, Neil said.

Hough-Nielsen also declined to speak, though his attorney, Karla Nash, said he maintains he did not sexually abuse the girl.

Nash told the judge her client felt his chances at trial were dim due to his arrest record, which features several low-level juvenile arrests followed by a major one in 2005, when he was 16. That case horrified the Redmond community and received ample coverage in the press.

On Dec. 12 of that year, Hough-Nielsen, then 16, and two other boys broke into a Redmond couple’s home picked at random while skipping school. They ransacked the house and burned it down almost completely. Before dousing the inside in gasoline and making off with guns and jewelry, the trio shot three of six pets in the house, two dogs and a cat. Two other cats died of smoke inhalation.

Hough-Nielsen was charged as an adult, convicted of 23 of 24 counts and sentenced to serve 7½ years in custody.

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Redistricting

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In preparation for the reapportionment, the Legislature created the House and Senate redistricting committees.

The numbers for redistricting were supposed to be delivered by the Census Bureau to the Legislature no later than April 1. The Legislature would then have until July 1 to draw the new district maps.

If the lawmakers could not come to agreement by then, or if the governor vetoed the plan, the state legislative maps would be drawn by Secretary of State Shemia Fagan. The congressional maps would be drawn by a special panel of five retired federal judges — one drawn from each of the current five congressional districts — that would be created by the Marion County Circuit Court.

But the Census Bureau presentation says not only will it miss the April 1 deadline, it likely won’t be able to provide the data until late July — after the Legislature adjourns.

That has created a constitutional quandary. If the deadlines in the Oregon Constitution are to be met, the mapmaking would have to go directly to Fagan and the federal judges panel.

“As set forth in Article IV, Section 6 of the Oregon Constitution, the Oregon Legislature has until July 1 to complete legislative redistricting,” Fagan spokesman Aaron Fiedler said Tuesday. “If it does not complete/or is unable to complete redistricting by that time, the Secretary of State has until August 15 (also in Article IV, Section 6) to do the work. If by that point, the Secretary is unable to complete the work, it goes to the Oregon Supreme Court.”

Lawmakers are upset with the idea that they might not have a say in drawing the maps.

“The material we will build the district on, that we are required to use, will not get to us by the required deadline,” said Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, a member of the Senate Redistricting Committee.

The Census Bureau presentation materials for Wednesday’s hearing say the detailed population count was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other disasters around the country, such as Oregon’s wildfires, also put the count on hold. The bureau had to deal with directives from the Trump administration, which required more data to be gathered.

While data is delayed to all states, each has its own way of drawing districts, with deadlines in state statutes or constitutions.

Many states, such as Califor-

nia and Washington, have created independent bipartisan or nonpartisan commissions to draw the maps.

The commissions are a relatively new trend. The traditional way has been for legislatures to draw the lines. Oregon has retained that model and has deadlines set out in the Constitution.

Oregon is the only state in the nation in which both chambers of the Legislature and the governor’s office are controlled by Democrats. Several states have such “trifectas” with Republicans in control.

Hansell said lawmakers have discussed a possible special session for redistricting or delaying the legislative maps until 2023, while the congressional redistricting would move ahead this year with the federal judges.

“It is all somewhat speculative right now,” Hansell said. “It depends on how you interpret the Constitution.”

Hansell said the constitutional deadlines were obviously not written to address the possibility that the Census Bureau would fail to deliver.

“It may come down to the courts to decide,” Hansell said. “The Legislature would not be able to do their job through no fault of their own. It’s not happening because the Legislature can’t agree on a plan. It’s because the census numbers won’t get here in time.”

Oregon has 60 House districts and 30 Senate districts.

Each Senate district has two House districts “nested” inside its boundaries. That makes drawing the maps all the more difficult.

Since the last redistricting in 2010, there has been major growth in the Bend area and some Portland suburbs. An indication of how out of balance districts have become was shown in the November election.

More than 96,000 votes were cast in the race for Senate District 27, in which incumbent Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, defeated Democrat Eileen Kiely. No other Senate race had even 80,000 total votes cast.

With each redistricting, congressional seats are added to or subtracted from states, depending on population changes. Current estimates show that Oregon will gain a sixth seat, while neighboring California is expected to lose a seat.

Hansell said the impact of the missed deadlines will be discussed at Wednesday’s hearing featuring the presentation from the Census Bureau.

The Senate Redistricting Committee has already consulted with legal experts familiar with the census from Willamette University and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

“We’ll get a better feel for what is coming on Wednesday,” Hansell said.

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Grant

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The money would also go toward buying a small collection of tablets and phones to help connect families who need services but currently may not have access to the right technology to get services via telehealth, according to county documents.

The grant would help close a gap that has developed as a result of the pandemic. Due to schools being closed and the limitations some families have to use telehealth, referrals to the county from schools for children have dropped 36%, said Janice Garceau, the coun-

ty’s Behavioral Health director, in a commission meeting Monday.

“We are finding kids are not getting their needs met, and these groups are particularly vulnerable,” Garceau said.

But Commission Chair Tony DeBone took issue with the grant application including terminology like LGBTQ and BIPOC, which stands for Black, Indigenous and people of color, saying he doesn’t understand the terms or why these communities are being singled out.

DeBone said using these terms seems to separate the community instead of being welcoming, and said he is

“over” using this kind of terminology.

He voted against submitting the grant application in a meeting Monday. His two colleagues, Commissioners Phil Chang and Patti Adair, voted in favor.

“Either we’re providing health services for anybody in our community who needs it and getting the right service for the right person or we’re not,” DeBone said.

Garceau explained that these communities are being focused on because they are more vulnerable than the dominant population, which for Deschutes County is white, straight and cisgen-

der — a term that refers to someone who identifies with the gender they were assigned by doctors and their parents at birth.

“I think with our LGBTQ community, it is often a question of whether they are feeling safe when they are being served and feeling like their needs are understood and being met,” Garceau said.

Data also show that these groups are more vulnerable in general, said Shannon Brister-Raugust, the county’s interim behavioral health manager. About 30% of the LGBTQ community are more likely to experience a mental health crisis, said Brister-Raugust.

Investing more resources into this population means the county has the ability to act sooner to limit hospitalizations, she said.

“It’s not to say everybody in the LGBTQ community will need this service,” Brister-Raugust said. “It’s identifying those who do and making sure they know about it.”

Brister-Raugust also said that it is clear people of color are also underrepresented. Of the 112 children in the school-based health care programs in Redmond and La Pine, only 13 are Black, Indigenous or people of color, which is not proportional to the population in these areas.

Chang said in the meeting that Deschutes County already has a high youth suicide rate and that he believes more robust outreach efforts at school-based health centers “could have a huge impact.”

“You could look at this as one more suicide prevention tool in our toolbox,” Chang said.

DeBone maintained that he did not support a grant application that uses this terminology.

“If I’m missing something, someone explain it to me,” DeBone said.

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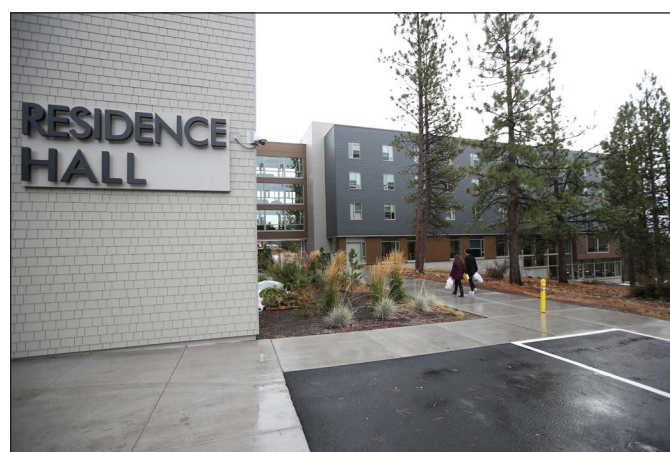
COCC

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“We may adjust as we go, but for now, our hope is to be as fully occupied as we can be,” he said.

Many details of the reopening plan haven’t been hashed out yet — including whether or not to require vaccinations for students who live in the residence hall, or what COVID-19 testing for residents would look like, Chesley and Davis said. The college will make that decision closer to September, they said.

COCC also hopes to bring back many of its classes to in-person teaching in the fall, Chesley said. Right now, the vast majority of courses are done online, and that will still be an option for many classes,



The Residence Hall on the Central Oregon Community College campus.

she said.

The college will lose about \$2.6 million in room and board revenue from keeping the residence hall closed for a year and a half — \$567,000

from the spring 2020 term, and an estimated \$2.1 million from the 2020-21 school year, according to college spokesperson Jenn Kovitz. In contrast to COCC, Bend’s other

higher education institution, Oregon State University-Cascades, has kept its residence hall open throughout the pandemic despite moving most classes to remote learning. This is because of a variety of reasons, said OSU-Cascades spokesperson Christine Coffin. OSU-Cascades used its Oregon State University connections to provide twice-a-week COVID-19 testing and sample wastewater for the coronavirus, Coffin said. And the university had a need to support its students who live outside the Bend area — 41% of OSU-Cascades students are from outside Central Oregon, she said. Meanwhile, 83% of COCC students taking credit courses are from the college’s vast district, which includes all three Central Oregon counties, far-

north Klamath and Lake counties and the southern tip of Wasco County, Chesley said.

The COCC board will still get a chance to provide feedback on the reopening plan at its meeting on Feb. 10.

Oliver Tatom — the one COCC board member who voted against COCC’s initial dorm reopening plan in July 2020 — said he approves of reopening the residence hall by September 2021.

“I am more optimistic about what the fall is going to look like, in terms of COVID, than I have in a long time,” Tatom said. “There’s a very good possibility that with sufficient immunization rates, that we might be in a position to open safely.”

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DEATH NOTICES

Michael Jerry Cowger of Terrebonne, OR Feb 17, 1962 - Jan 21, 2021
Arrangements: Autumn Funerals, Redmond 541-504-9485 www.autumfunerals.net
Services: Services will be held at a later date.

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines 541-385-5809 Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm.
 No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays.
 Email: obits@bendbulletin.com