

The Bulletin

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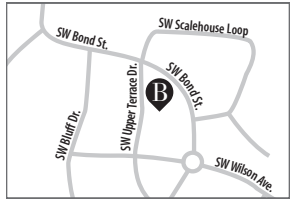
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No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
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Lottery results 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

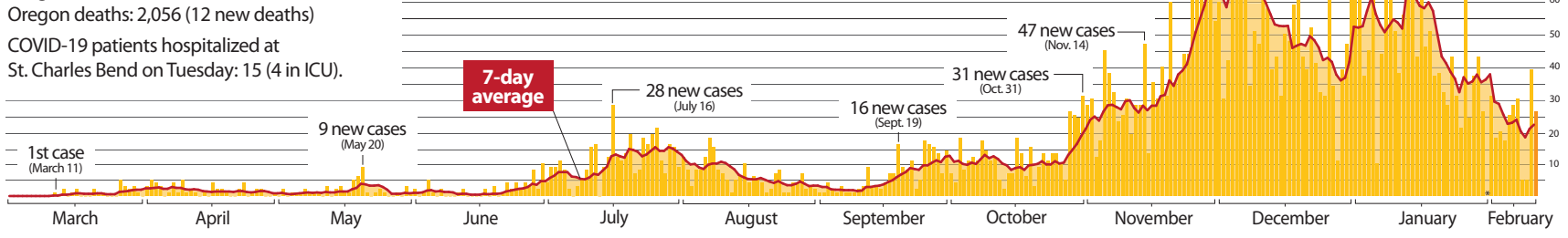
COVID-19 data for Thursday, Feb. 11:
Deschutes County cases: 5,640 (26 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 49 (1 new death)
Crook County cases: 734 (11 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 16 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,867 (16 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 26 (1 new death)
Oregon cases: 149,082 (621 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,056 (12 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Tuesday: 15 (4 in ICU).

LOCAL VACCINATIONS

22,704
Number of vaccinations given by St. Charles Health System

What is COVID-19? It's an infection caused by a new coronavirus. Symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath. This virus can be fatal.

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 mask. 6. Cough into your elbow. 7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Proposed bill aims to limit bans on homeless camping

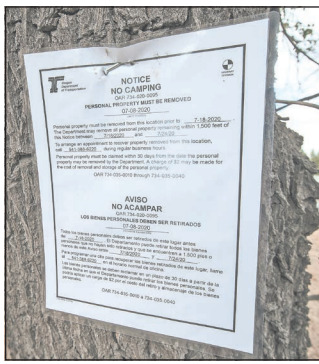
BY SARA CLINE

The Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND — Cities and counties in Oregon aiming to ban homeless people from sitting, sleeping and camping on public property may soon face a barrier under a proposed bill introduced by state lawmakers earlier this month.

House Bill 3115 would require local governments to be “objectively reasonable” when regulating sitting lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry on public property.

If passed, the measure would largely force cities statewide to comply with the well-known “camping lawsuit” in Boise, Idaho, where a federal judge ruled that prosecuting people for sleeping on the streets, when there are no shelter beds available, as unconstitutional and cruel and unusual punishment. “We have a lot of folks continuing to live in public spaces, and that ruling in the court said



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin
A vacate notice nailed to a tree can be seen in a homeless encampment near U.S. Highway 97 and Revere Avenue in Bend in July.

that you can't penalize people for experiencing homelessness if there isn't enough shelter,” Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek, who is the sponsor of the bill, said Monday.

Twelve years ago, a group of homeless people sued the city of Boise, Idaho, for ticketing them for sleeping outside, despite there being a shortage of

shelter beds in the area. In 2018, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that cities cannot prosecute people for sleeping on the streets if there is nowhere else for them to go.

On Monday, a \$1.8 million settlement was reached in the Boise case that includes \$1.3 million to create overnight shelters or rehabilitate existing shelter spaces, \$435,000 for the plaintiffs' attorneys and \$5,000 in damages to the plaintiffs.

In addition, the city of Boise will not cite or arrest people when no shelter is available, officials said Monday in a news release.

The 9th Circuit ruling affects Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Kotek said that the proposed bill would help set guidance for local government, as it relates to the Boise ruling “about how local jurisdictions should work on and how they should treat folks experiencing homelessness.”

Report: Some jails ill-equipped to handle mental illness, disabilities

BY JAKE THOMAS

Salem Reporter

SALEM — Despite some Oregon jails cutting their populations in half on average because of the pandemic, more people died in local correctional institutions last year, according to a report released by Disability Rights Oregon.

The report found similar circumstances surrounding 10 deaths in eight locally run jails the disability rights group investigated last year. Over half of the people who died in jails had a mental illness or a substance abuse disorder, according to the report. It concluded that their deaths could have been prevented with better standards of care and directing people to community health services instead of jail.

“We have long known that jails have become the de facto mental health provider for many communities and yet are ill-equipped to provide the necessary care,” the report said. “The catastrophic loss of life detailed in this report demands better solutions.”

Of the 10 deaths included in the report, six were by suicide.

The report said that each person that died by suicide was left unsupervised in the cell. It also criticized jails for not addressing fixtures that prisoners could use to hang themselves.

The report also found that people in jails who express suicidal thoughts are put in isolation, are denied phone calls, have their clothes and personal items taken from them and made to wear a smock. People incarcerated in jails are less likely to report suicidal thoughts because of these protocols, according to the report.

“In every single one of these jails, the suicide protocols were punitive,” said Liz Reetz, the author of the report. “These aren't necessary to keep people safe. In fact, it makes them less safe.”

The report pointed out that data is limited on jail deaths. But the report pointed to an OPB investigation that found that seven people died in Oregon jails in 2019 and nine in 2018. The report found there were at least 10 deaths in jails during the first 10 months of 2020. Reetz said that these deaths had a number of common factors.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Secretary of state confirms that Buehler is no longer in GOP

The Secretary of State's official voter registration website showed Wednesday that former Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, has left the Republican party and re-registered as a “non-affiliated” voter.

As late as Tuesday night, the Secretary of State's office listed Buehler as a Republican. As of Wednesday, his voter registration is listed as “Not a member of a party.”

Buehler, the GOP nominee for governor in 2018 and a 2020 candidate in the 2nd congressional district Republican primary, said Feb. 1 that he had decided to leave the party. He said he could no longer remain in the party following the attack on the U.S. Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump.

After his statements, which first appeared in the New York Times, Buehler's registration with the Secretary of State remained listed as a Republican through Feb. 9. Some journalists and critics questioned if Buehler had in fact made the switch.

Buehler said he had made the change online, seen by his wife and a friend, and any listing delay was due to delays with the state system.

The state ORESTAR system showed the change Wednesday morning.

An analysis of January voting records by The New York Times published Wednesday found that nearly 140,000 Republicans have quit the party in 25 states that tracked the data.

Vaccinations at the fairgrounds to continue despite winter weather

A snowy forecast will not dampen the efforts by the county health officials to complete COVID-19 vaccination appointments at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.

All scheduled appointments will be maintained, however, if the weather doesn't allow an appointment to be kept Thursday and Friday, the Deschutes County Health Services says not to worry.

“Those who are scheduled to receive a dose and are unable to safely travel to the clinic due to inclement weather will be contacted early next week to have their appointment rescheduled,” said Morgan Emerson, Deschutes County Health Services spokeswoman.

The vaccination clinic is prepared for the bad weather caused by the winter storm warning put into effect by the National Weather Service. A storm warning means a storm could occur within the next 36 hours.

Sidewalks will be kept clear and staff is prepared to help maintain clear access for anyone with an appointment, Emerson said.

For more information, call 541-322-7400.

—Bulletin staff reports

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