

The Bulletin

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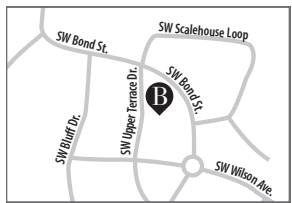
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

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 Tuesday, Feb. 16:

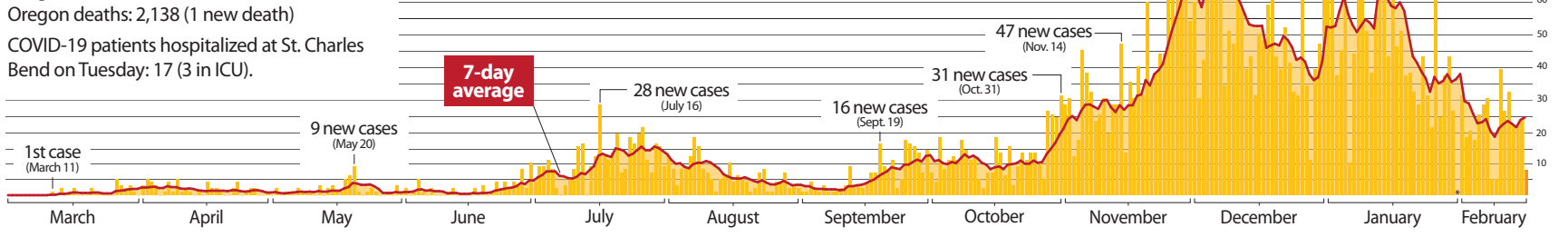
Deschutes County cases: 5,746 (8 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 56 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 749 (2 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,891 (3 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 27 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 150,875 (411 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,138 (1 new death)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles
Bend on Tuesday: 17 (3 in ICU).

LOCAL VACCINATIONS

23,086
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.



Bend reopens applications for 2 new committees

Due to technical issues, the city of Bend is reopening the application process for positions on the newly-created Human Rights and Equity Commission and the Transportation Bond Oversight Committee.

The city is reopening applications because there is a chance some applications weren't properly received due to technical problems, according to a city press release.

Applications for both committees will now be accepted until 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22.

Applicants whose forms were received have already been notified.

Applications can be found at www.bendoregon.gov/committees.

For questions about the Hu-

man Rights and Equity Commission, contact Senior Management Analyst Shelly Smith, at shsmith@bendoregon.gov or 541-388-5535.

For questions on serving on the Transportation Bond Oversight Committee, contact Senior Policy Analyst Susanna Julber at sjulber@bendoregon.gov or 541-693-2132.

Humane Society of Central Oregon celebrates 60 years

On its 60th anniversary, the Humane Society of Central Oregon credits the support from the community for helping the animal shelter continue its mission of caring for animals.

Because of the support for programs and services at the humane society, the number of shelter animals has decreased over the past six decades while

the region's population has grown, the humane society said in a press release.

In 1991, when Bend's population was 25,000, the humane society cared for 4,500 animals. Today, with Bend's population around 100,000, the shelter cares for about 3,000 animals annually, the society said.

Part of the decrease in shelter animals is due to more people spaying and neutering their pets, the humane society said. In 2018, the humane society added the Bend Spay+Neuter Project.

Over the years, the humane society also added programs to reunite lost pets, vaccinate and microchip pets, collect food donations and cremation services.

Last year, the humane society expanded its HOPE Pet Food Bank to help people keep their pets fed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The

program expanded into the tri-county area with pet food being distributed to regional food pantries.

The humane society formed Feb. 14, 1961, after a small grassroots group decided Bend needed a humane society. Bend had a population of 11,936 at the time.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary, the humane society is selling items at the shelter and thrift store such as limited edition masks and long-sleeved T-shirts.

Veterans court presentation planned

An upcoming presentation in La Pine will offer information for veterans who are defendants in the criminal justice system.

The meeting will begin at 12:34 p.m. at the La Pine

Christian Center, 52565 Day Road. Presenter Bill Minnix said the venue practices safe social distancing and masks will be required to enter the building.

Minnix was involved in the passage of federal legislation funding veterans treatment courts across the country. Veterans courts offer intervention opportunities for military veterans charged with low-level crimes. The program is aimed at reducing recidivism and instances of relapse and smoothing their re-entry into society.

Deschutes County Commissioner Tony DeBone will attend. Pizza will be provided.

The meeting can also be attended online via Zoom with the meeting code 744-6351-2642.

For information, call 503-457-6942.

— Bulletin staff report

LOCAL BRIEFING

Republican leader: Session shouldn't resume until all Oregonians have power,

BY BETSY HAMMOND

The Oregonian

The Oregon Legislature is slated to resume its virtual session on Wednesday. But with more than 200,000 Oregon households still without power Tuesday afternoon, that is likely too early to reopen the Legislature, House Republican Leader Christine Drazan said.

Members of the public can only read proposed bills, watch lawmakers deliberate and offer testimony online, given coronavirus-related closure of the Capitol in Salem, she noted.

"Legislative leaders committed to an open and transparent session. We must honor that commitment and not leave Oregonians behind in a rush to return to busi-

ness as usual," Drazan said in a statement issued early Tuesday afternoon.

"Today I am calling on the speaker to put the welfare and on-going recovery of Oregonians first and pause all legislative activity," Drazan said.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, who has been part of the decision-making team that canceled Monday's and Tuesday's planned session activities, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

As of 12:30 p.m., Portland General Electric was reporting that 205,000 households, mostly in Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah and Washington counties, lacked power. Drazan's district, centered on Canby, is in south-

ern Clackamas County.

In addition, Comcast reported Tuesday that 125,000 households were without internet services, in some cases even though the homes had power.

Oregon House Democrats have not indicated whether they plan to resume operations Wednesday. But they and some caucus members have used social media to share information to help Oregonians affected by power outages.

Drazan said Tuesday the focus should stay there. "We need to keep our focus on serving constituents and the most vulnerable while we await power to be restored. Our work in the legislature should come back online once the power does."



Contributed/via Blue Mountain Eagle

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this helicopter to conduct a deer survey in the coming weeks.

New method of deer survey planned amid declining populations

BY RUDY DIAZ

The Blue Mountain Eagle

A new deer survey will soon be underway, but officials expect more of the same: declining populations.

Ryan Platt, the assistant district wildlife biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's John Day Field Office, said ODFW is flying for the survey earlier this year because they will conduct a new survey method to count the declining deer population.

A helicopter will be flying out starting Feb. 22 as it conducts surveys on the deer population for three weeks throughout Grant County.

This year, Platt said ODFW is working with a statistical sampling-based survey method called Sight Rat, the first time they have used this method in the John Day District. He said this survey combines two population methods based on sizes and quadrants.

"We're kind of guessing we'll see more decline from the previous years when we did our statistical sampling," Platt said. Platt said one problem deer face in the John Day Valley is winter range degradation caused by juniper and annual grass encroachment. He also said some ranges are not as productive as they used to be due to a change in climate, suppressing fires and the decline of logging.

Disease issues are also growing with mule deer, according

to Platt. He said, in 2015, mule deer in the Eastern Oregon region faced an outbreak of the epizootic hemorrhagic disease. This disease makes deer bleed internally, which either kills them right away or causes lasting effects, Platt said. "On bucks, we know that it shrivels their testicles, and they're unable to produce hormones that regulate antler growth," Platt said. "That's why you'll see velvet bucks this time of year when everyone one else has antlers that hardened or dropped off."

Platt said they are not sure how the epizootic hemorrhagic disease harms does, but they have suspicions that it could impact their fawn productivity or survival.

Prior to 2015, he said there were about 60 fawns per 100 does going into winter with about 30-40 fawns coming out of the season. Since 2015, there have been about 40 fawns per 100 does in the winter, coming out with 25-35 fawns after.

"That right there indicates that we don't have the fawn recruitment that we need to sustain a growing population locally," Platt said. "Those are probably the two biggest impacts of our mule deer population locally. It's just a bad time to be a mule deer in the West. Pretty much all populations are going down, and no one has found that silver bullet cure to change the trajectory."

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