

The Bulletin

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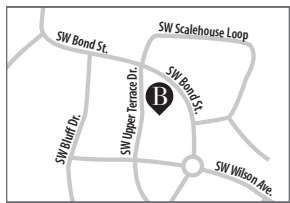
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No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Phone 541-385-5809 Fax 541-598-3150 Email obits@bendbulletin.com

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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

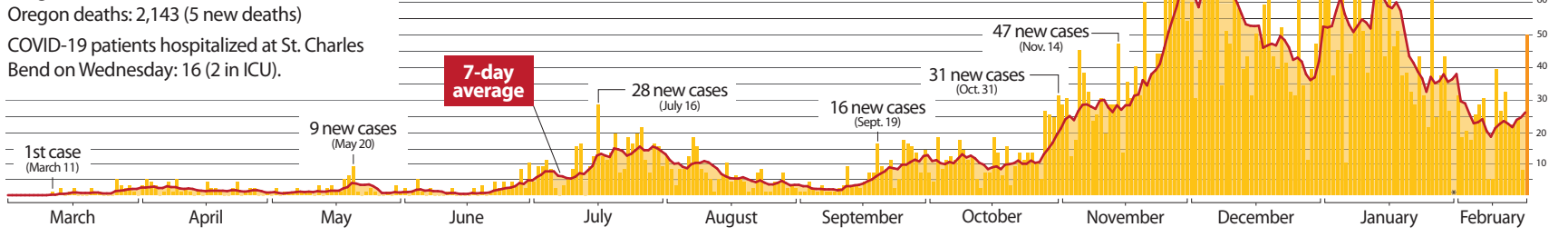
COVID-19 data for Wednesday, Feb. 17:
Deschutes County cases: 5,795 (50 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 56 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 751 (2 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,900 (10 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 27 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 151,257 (473 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,143 (5 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Wednesday: 16 (2 in ICU).

LOCAL VACCINATIONS

23,115
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.



LOCAL BRIEFING

District buys land for new park in southwest Bend

The Bend Park & Recreation District is buying 3.5 acres of land in the new Shevlin West development with the intent to build a new park.

On Tuesday, the park board voted unanimously to enter a purchase and sale agreement with Empire Shevlin LLC, the developer behind the planned 116 lot subdivision in southwest Bend for \$147,287.

The park will have direct trail access to Shevlin Park, according to park district documents. The park district plans to use roughly \$1.4 million in system development charges, which the park district charges to developers to pay for new parks and new trails, to purchase and develop the property.

A district goal is to have a park at least ½ mile away from most homes within the district, according to park documents.

Redmond man accused of sexually abusing girl

A Redmond man was charged Wednesday with five felonies for allegedly sexually abusing a girl younger than 12.

Adam Gordon Lovett, 35, was arraigned in Deschutes County Circuit Court on four counts of first-degree sexual abuse and one of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration. He was listed as an inmate of the Deschutes County jail with no bail amount set.

According to Lovett's indictment, he abused a girl over three dates in 2020 — July 1, Aug. 1 and Nov. 25. On Tuesday, a grand jury approved the current charges against him.

A judge earlier approved an order forbidding Lovett from attempting to contact the alleged victim, who is referred in court records by her initials.

He has a plea hearing scheduled for next month.

Sheriff's office investigates arson at home in Sisters

The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office is investigating a suspected arson in Sisters.

After a house fire Saturday at 152 N. Larch St., an investigation determined the fire started outside the house and the cause was arson, according to the sheriff's office.

Deputies responded to the fire at 9 p.m. Saturday along with local fire departments. Fire crews were able to quickly extinguish the fire. Damage was estimated to be \$75,000.

An investigator from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office and a detective from the Oregon State Police Arson Unit were sent to the house.

The sheriff's office is working with the state fire marshal's

office and OSP to continue the investigation.

Anyone with information related to the fire is encouraged to contact the sheriff's office at 541-693-6911.

Redmond approves \$283K for downtown parking lot

A Redmond City Council vote Tuesday night was the final bureaucratic step in transforming a blighted patch of downtown Redmond into 36 parking spots.

The City Council — acting as the Urban Renewal Agency Board — unanimously approved a \$282,906.30 contract to build a parking lot with Redmond contractor McKenzie Cascade at a board meeting Tuesday night.

The lot will be built at the northwest corner of NW Fourth Street and SW Evergreen Avenue, only two blocks away from Redmond's main downtown strip.

The city purchased the vacant land in September 2019 with the intention of building the parking lot, city documents state.

Not only would the project add more parking to downtown Redmond, but it would also add a sidewalk along Fourth Street, between Evergreen and Deschutes avenues, city documents state.

The city expects construction on the lot to begin in March, with parking available by June.

Deschutes library to host virtual series on nature

Throughout March, Deschutes Public Library will host eight virtual events focused on nature, wildlife and environmentalism.

The series, dubbed "Know Wild," will cover a range of topics from local wolf populations, to saving bees, to how climate change is impacting Central Oregon's wildlife, according to a library press release.

All eight events are free, and will be presented over Zoom. For a list of events, dates and topics — along with corresponding Zoom registrations — visit Deschutes Public Library's website at www.deschuteslibrary.org.

— Bulletin staff reports

Poll: Self-service, grocery liquor sales are popular

BY ZANE SPARLING

Oregon Capital Bureau
Hands off that gas pump!

The quirks of life in the Beaver State might bemuse outsiders, but surely true-blue Oregonians cherish our time-honored idiosyncrasies, right?

It's just not so, according to a new survey.

A poll by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center, a project of DHM Research, found that a majority of state residents are ready to pump their own gas and buy a bottle of spirits at the local supermarket.

Just don't expect them to vote in a sales tax, which three out of four here oppose.

"Support tends to increase among higher-income Oregonians, but no demographic groups reach 30% support for this policy change," according to a DHM policy brief on a potential sales tax.

Here are the key findings:
• Nearly two-thirds of Oregonians (63%) are in favor of allowing motorists to pump their own gas, rather than relying on an attendant. Demographics showing the strongest support include those making more than \$100,000 per year (73%) and political conservatives (71%). Support is lowest among political moderates, pegged at 55%.

• Even more unifying is the proposal to allow hard alcohol sales in grocery stores, instead of restricting them to state-licensed liquor stores. Roughly two-thirds (65%) support such an idea, including 70% of Democrats and 69% of those living outside the metro area and Willamette Valley. Those aged 65 and up registered the least support, with just 57% in favor.

• Oregonians overwhelmingly gave the thumbs down to creating a new statewide sales tax, with 75% of residents in opposition. Demographics that most strongly rejected the idea include those without school-age children (79%), those earning less than \$50,000 per year (73%), conservatives (79%)



EOMG file photo/Oregon Capital Insider

and those living in the outer suburbs (88%). Those making more than \$100,000 per year were most in favor, but only 26% offered support.

• The idea of paying a tax at the cash register became slightly more palatable when paired with a proposed reduction in the state income tax, with half opposed, one-third in favor and the remainder unsure. Opposition was strongest among those aged 65 and up (67%), while those with college education evinced the most support (40%).

At age 76, Bob Fankhauser remembers pumping thousands of dollars' worth of gas at a service station in San Francisco — and that was when it only cost 25 cents on the gallon.

"It's always presented as, 'if you pump your own gas, you'll save money,'" said Fankhauser, who lives in the Garden Home area of Washington County. But he's not buying the argument. "They charge you the same amount in Washington as they do in Oregon."

Today, New Jersey is the only other state still requiring attendants, though Oregon lawmakers allowed rural residents to pump their own gas in 2018.

Fears of viral transmission early last year prompted a pilot project for self-service gas, because motorists feared being near gas station atten-

dants might help spread the COVID-19 virus. But that pilot project didn't last long, and the state soon returned to attendants-only service in May.

"I am sometimes a little annoyed that I can't pump my own gas," admitted Fankhauser, "but it provides employment to people who might not otherwise have it."

On the topic of liquor sales, southeast Portlander Suzanne Bader is in favor of loosening the rules slowly, potentially through a pilot program.

"I would not like to see it available in convenience stores or sold 24/7," the 59-year-old said.

Fankhauser disagreed, saying the restrictions smacked of "lingering puritanism."

And the two survey respondents split on the topic of a sales tax, with Fankhauser in opposition, noting that a sales tax is "regressive" — that is, it puts the heaviest burden on those with the least income.

But Bader said the state doesn't have enough revenue to match the ever-rising expense of providing services. "I don't think our residents have a realistic view of what things cost," she said.

DHM surveyed 603 Oregon adults in January, using respondents from a professional panel who were selected to be representative of state demographics. The margin of error for the poll is 2.4% to 4%.

Taylor Towery and the team at The Bulletin have been knowledgeable, attentive to our needs and delivered successful print and digital campaigns. We will continue to use them as we grow our business and expand throughout Oregon and look to them for advertising guidance. Thank you for your continued professionalism and kindness.

Very Sincerely,
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