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AFTER HOURS 541-383-0348 Circulation. ...541-385-5800

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

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES **New COVID-19 cases per day** 129 new cases (Dec. 4) COVID-19 data for Thursday, Feb. 18: What is COVID-19? It's an infection caused by a new **LOCAL** 108 new cases coronavirus. Symptoms include fever, coughing and Deschutes County cases: 5,812 (19 new cases) **VACCINATIONS** shortness of breath. This virus can be fatal 90 new cases Deschutes County deaths: 58 (2 new deaths) 7 ways to help limit its spread: 1. Wash hands often Crook County cases: 760 (9 new cases) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. 2. Avoid Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths) touching your face. 3. Avoid close contact with sick Number of vaccinations given by St. Charles people. 4. Stay home. 5. In public, stay 6 feet from others Jefferson County cases: 1,912 (12 new cases) and wear a mask. 6. Cough into your elbow. 7. Clean and Jefferson County deaths: 27 (zero new deaths) Health System disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Oregon cases: 151,713 (466 new cases) Oregon deaths: 2,149 (6 new deaths) COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Thursday: 12 (2 in ICU). 31 new cases (Oct. 31) 16 new cases March May August December February September

COVID-19 in Oregon

Risk levels to maintain or drop for most counties

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

Most Oregon counties would maintain or improve their COVID-19 risk rating next week according to preliminary data from the Oregon Health Authority.

Counties won't officially find out where they place on the four tiers of risk level until Tuesday. Another week of data will be included in the ratings and movement up and down is possible compared to current trends. "All data are provisional and subject to change," OHA says on its website.

The Oregon Health Authority measures COVID-19 cases and positive test percentages each week. Every other week, it uses the numbers to adjust the position of counties on the four-tier risk chart of extreme, high, medium and lower risk.

Each category has different restrictions on businesses and activities.

Deschutes County barely

increase rain in the area and

how temperatures and light-

ing storms could affect the severity of wildfires.

Interested individuals can register at the OSU-Cascades

OSU-Cascades releases

fact sheet on campus

economic impact, or size,

of Oregon State Universi-

released that information,

and more tidbits, in its an-

neatly presents basic infor-

The four-page document

mation about OSU-Cascades

Not only can one find the to-

tal number of students at the

university (1,374) but also

are first-generation col-

how many of those students

lege students (28%) or how

many local jobs the univer-

sity plans to create by 2025

To find this information,

visit OSU-Cascades' website

at osucascades.edu.

Bend police chief to

discuss body cameras

Bend Police Chief Mike

Krantz will discuss the plan

during The Bulletin's Face-

book Live broadcast Friday

lot program to test camera

vendors and is getting ready

to purchase the equipment

The public can ask ques-

tions during the broadcast at

facebook.com/bendbulletin/

— Bulletin staff reports

for all its officers.

live videos.

Bend has been using a pi-

at 9 a.m.

to give officers body cameras

nual fact sheet Thursday.

ty-Cascades? The university

Curious about the local

Science Pubs page.

The lecture is free to view.

made the drop from extreme to high risk last week when cases dipped to 195.3 per 100,000. Getting below the 200 mark moved the county out of the extreme risk category for the first time in several weeks. The county is currently on track for 159.6 cases per 100,000. The positivity rate has fallen to 3.4%. The current data is only through Feb. 13 and could be affected by numbers from an outbreak at Summit High School in Bend.

Crook and Jefferson counties will likely remain in the extreme category.

Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties are maintaining cases and rates that would allow them to stay in the high risk category. But Umatilla, Wallowa,

Union, Morrow and Harney counties appear to still be maintaining extreme level caseloads.

Lane County, which includes Eugene, is at 194.5 cases with a 2.7% infection rate numbers that could move it from extreme to high risk.

Lake County continues to be a center of COVID-19 infections, with 1,002.4 cases per 100,000 and a rising infection rate of 19.4%

Statewide, Oregon has 181.3 cases per 100,000 and a test positive rate of 3.8%

A full report of the most recent data can be found at www.oregon.gov. gwarner@eomediagroup.com

LOCAL BRIEFING

Sunriver Nature Center hosts lecture on swans

The Sunriver Nature Center is inviting Margaret Smith, executive director of the national Trumpeter Swan Society, for a virtual lecture at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Smith will discuss the return of trumpeter swans to North America after the species faced near extinction at the turn of the 20th century due to over hunting.

The nature center is part of Oregon's trumpeter swan breeding program. The center recently welcomed a new female swan to pair with a resident male, Pete, who was widowed last fall when his

Gracie was a beloved resident of the nature center and helped repopulate the threatened species in Oregon. About 35 trumpeter swans call Oregon home, but wildlife officials hope the number triples to allow the species to become self-sustaining.

During her virtual lecture, Smith will teach the audience about the different priorities for swan management and restoration across North America, and the role zoos and refuges have played in the swan's recovery. Smith will also discuss the habitat and health issues swans face

The lecture is free, but registration is required. People can register online at the nature center's website to receive a link to the Zoom webinar.

OSU-Cascades Science Pub to focus on climate

From wildfires in the west to a rare freeze in Texas and increasing numbers of hurricanes in the Atlantic, climate change has become an inescapable part of the daily conversation in this country.

Central Oregon is not immune to the impacts of climate change as the area suffers from drought and waning sources of water. Larry O'Neill, an associate professor of climatology at Oregon State University, will address these issues during a virtual lecture March 16 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

O'Neill, who works with OSU's College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, will discuss how drought and shrinking snowpack will affect water availability for Central Oregon. Other topics include how weather patterns may

Police identify man who plunged into river

The man who lost control of his vehicle on the Interstate 205 bridge on Sunday, plunging into the Columbia River below, was identified Thursday, officials said.

He was identified as Antonio Lopez-Amaro, 57, of Portland, according to the Portland Police Bureau.

His family said Lopez-Amaro was driving home from his job at his family's Hazel Dell restaurant about 5 p.m. Sunday.

Witnesses reported seeing a maroon SUV that was going south on the bridge, which connects Oregon and Washington, hit a patch of ice, go over a snow embankment and plunge into the water about 5:45 p.m. Sunday. The crash happened as a major winter storm was hitting the region, creating hazardous road conditions throughout the Portland area.

Lopez-Amaro and the vehicle were discovered by a private search crew Wednesday evening after days of search-

"We found the car for the sheriff, and we're waiting for the sheriff to be able to pinpoint the location on their own, as well," said Jared Leisek of Adventures with Purpose. He traveled from Bend to search the waters around the bridge using so-

"Reading sonar is an art," he said. "If you don't read sonar everyday you can miss things."

Leisek said the crew did two passes and found the car practically underneath the bridge. The car was upside down in the river.

STATE BRIEFING



The Glenn L Jackson Memorial Bridge on I-205 crosses the Columbia River.

Monmouth man arrested on suspicion of killing 2

A Monmouth man was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of killing two other men in the small Polk County city southwest of Salem.

William Gembala is sus pected of murder, assault and unlawful use of a weapon in the deaths of 58-year-old Ioseph Delgado Jr. and 64-yearold Michael Bennett, according to Monmouth Police. Gembala, 50, is being held in the Polk County Jail.

Officers initially responded to reports of people yelling and found Delgado and Bennett suffering from "critical injuries consistent with an edged weapon," police said. Police didn't specify the kind of weapon used.

Delgado and Bennett, who were both Monmouth residents, died at the scene, according to police.

Police said Gembala and the slain men knew one another. An investigation continues.

Earthquake warning system to roll out

LOS ANGELES — The earthquake early warning system known as ShakeAlert will be capable of delivering alerts directly to wireless devices in

Oregon on March 11 and to Washington state in May, completing the West Coast rollout, the U.S. Geological Survey said Tuesday.

The ShakeAlert system. which warns of significant quakes, has been enabled in California since October 2019

The system uses a network of sensors that detect the start of an earthquake and calculate magnitude, location and the expected amount of shaking. It sends the information in real time to distributors that send out alerts to cellphones and the internet.

The information moves so quickly that people may have valuable seconds to protect themselves before shaking arrives, trains can be slowed or industrial processes stopped. The USGS said that as of Jan.

31, the West Coast network was 70% complete, with 1,132 out of 1,675 seismic stations installed.

The USGS and partners planned an outreach Thursday to Pacific Northwest residents on Reddit and a test message on Feb. 25 to Washington's King, Pierce and Thurston counties, delivered to wireless devices through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Integrated Public Alerting & Warning System.

- Bulletin wire reports



