

The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

COVID-19 risk tiers

Crook County drops to high risk

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

A steep drop in COVID-19 infections nationwide was reflected Tuesday with 16 Oregon counties improving their infection risk levels.

Other than Multnomah, the largest county to not improve its level was Deschutes, which had already dropped to high-risk level in the previous report. The county showed significant improvement in cases and is on pace to move to the moderate tier on March 9.

Crook County dropped from extreme risk to high risk. Jefferson County remains at extreme.

Gov. Kate Brown said Tuesday that 10 of the state's 36 counties were dropping off the extreme-risk tier. The moves mean that restrictions on businesses, dining and activities will be less strict on Friday for a long list of Oregon cities, including Prineville in Central Oregon.

Among the larger cities that will see fewer restrictions are Eugene, Salem, Medford, Beaverton, Albany, McMinnville, Ontario, Oregon City and The Dalles.

"We are seeing great progress in stopping the spread of COVID-19 across Oregon and saving lives," Brown said. "Oregonians continue to step up and make smart choices."

Five counties — Jefferson, Benton, Josephine, Douglas and Coos — remain at the extreme-risk level. That compares to 26 counties in late November at the height of the holiday spike in infections.

The state's four-tier risk level rates counties at lower, moderate, high and extreme levels for COVID-19 spread.

See **Risk** / A13

NEW HOMELESS SHELTER

Bend proposes 2 code changes to smooth process

The lack of beds has prompted discussion about changing codes in order to make it easier for organizations to create shelters for homeless people. Without adequate space, they have had to find other places to go, like Hunnell Road, where more than 30 vehicles were parked Tuesday.



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Changes needed to allow Old Mill Inn & Suites to become homeless shelter

BY BRENNIA VISSER • The Bulletin

It could be easier to create a homeless shelter in Bend if newly proposed codes are adopted.

On Monday, the city planning commission heard two proposals that are designed to make establishing a homeless shelter easier in Bend, according to city staff.

The city wants to remove a code that requires 1,000 feet of separation between temporary housing facilities and make transitional housing, which includes warming and permanent homeless shelters, an outright use in commercial

zones and in the section of the Bend Central District that is west of Third Street. The Bend Central District sits east of U.S. Highway 97 and west of Fourth Street and is centered on Third Street.

The proposed changes are in

response to the city's effort to buy a hotel and turn it into a homeless shelter as a part of a state program called Project Turnkey. Earlier this month, the city entered a purchase and sale agreement with the owner of the Old Mill & Suites Motel on Third Street.

The changes also come at a time when the city is focused on how to close the gap between a growing homeless population and an inadequate number of shelter beds. According to a presentation from the city, there are roughly 600 shelter beds in Bend year-round.

An annual count of homeless people, called the Point-in-Time count, surveyed nearly 1,000

homeless residents in Bend in January 2020. Colleen Thomas, the homeless services coordinator for Deschutes County, said in an email new figures are not out yet for 2021, but early data suggests the population has grown again.

"We see why they are camping off Hunnell Road, or off Knott Road or making their own place at Juniper Ridge because we just don't have enough safe places, structures for them to go," said Carolyn Eagan, the city's economic development director, at the planning commission meeting Monday.

See **Shelter** / A4

Hundreds take aim at Senate gun bill

BY KEVIN HARDEN

Oregon Capital Bureau

A Senate hearing on legislation to alter state gun laws drew a cavalcade of passionate opposition.

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation heard four hours of virtual testimony Monday on Senate Bill 554, which allows local jurisdictions to prohibit people with concealed handgun permits from carrying firearms into public buildings. Anyone caught with a firearm in a public building could face Class C felony charges.

The bill is necessary, advocates say, because state law allows people with concealed handgun permits to carry firearms into some public buildings.

Bill allows local jurisdictions to classify carrying concealed firearms in public buildings as a felony

It was the first time this session that the committee heard testimony on gun-related legislation. Committee members will discuss SB 554 again during an online work session at 8 a.m. Thursday.

Most of the more than 200 people who testified online told the committee that the legislation seemed like a "mean-spirited" slam at law-abiding people who went through a legal process to get a concealed handgun permit. A total of 330 people wanted to speak in person, but the committee ran out of time to hear them all. The committee's witness registration list was

27 pages long. More than 630 people submitted written testimony.

Sen. Kim Thatcher, a Keizer Republican and committee vice chairwoman, said after the hearing that gun issues always drew a big response. "Gun legislation, especially legislation that targets members of the public who don't commit crimes (concealed handgun license holders), will always be controversial," she said. "It deals with constitutional rights."

Public officials 'vulnerable'

A handful of city and county officials who testified told the

committee the legislation was necessary to protect public buildings. Some also warned against adopting the bill, claiming it would criminalize otherwise lawful behavior.

Yamhill County Commissioner Lindsay Berschauer told the committee that as a sexual assault survivor and single mother, she obtained a concealed handgun permit for protection. She said SB 554 would create a "minefield of gun-free zones" across the state.

"We are not the cause of gun violence," said Berschauer, who three days earlier proposed an ordinance to make Yamhill County a Second Amendment sanctuary.

See **Gun** / A13

Redmond man guilty for murder of his ex-girlfriend

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

A Redmond man pleaded guilty to killing Nicole Gayle Jakubek, his ex-girlfriend he was known to be violent with.

Clinton Kevin "Clint" Holland, 62, will almost certainly receive a life sentence with parole possible after 25 years when

he is sentenced next month for the death of Jakubek, 54.



Holland

He recently accepted the terms of a plea agreement tying together the Jakubek murder case with a slate of crimes committed in Hood River County while on the run from the law.

See **Murder** / A4

