

# The Bulletin

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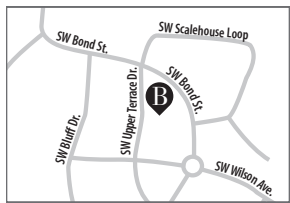
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No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
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Lottery results 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. 26:

Deschutes County cases: 5,934 (17 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 59 (zero new deaths)

Crook County cases: 775 (zero new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)

Jefferson County cases: 1,951 (1 new case)  
Jefferson County deaths: 28 (zero new deaths)

Oregon cases: 154,878 (336 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,206 (2 new deaths)

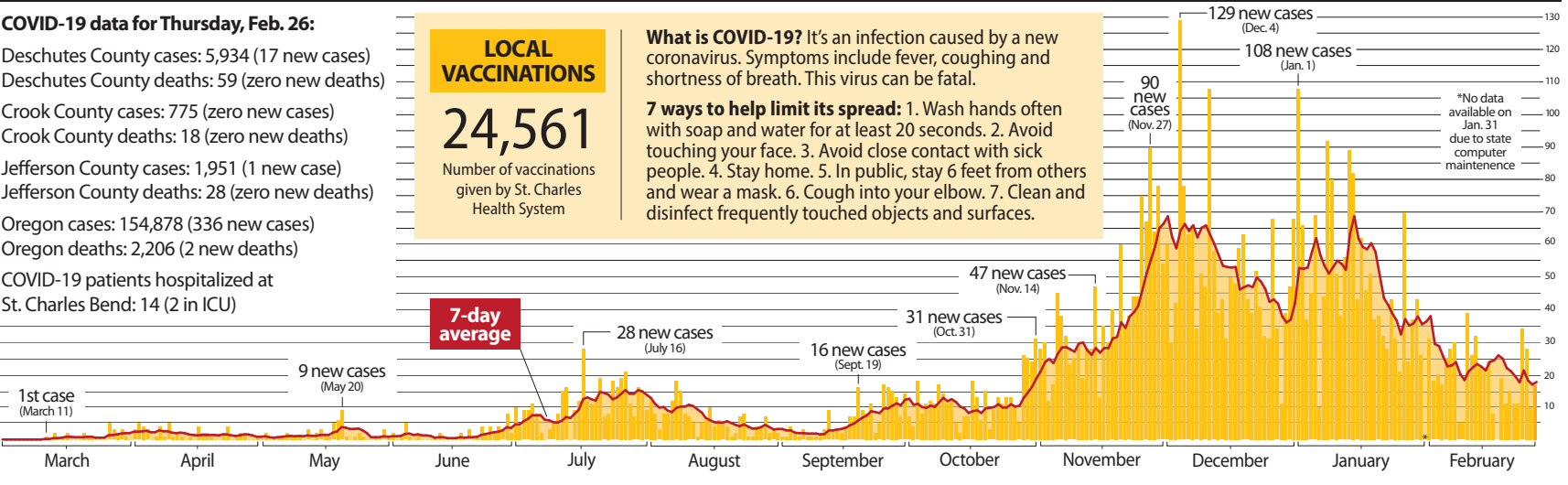
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend: 14 (2 in ICU)

### LOCAL VACCINATIONS

**24,561**  
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 man gets 21 years in luring, child porn case

BY GARRETT ANDREWS  
The Bulletin

A Bend man was sentenced to 21 years in prison for attempting to lure an undercover police officer posing as the mother of a fictitious 11-year-old and for also possessing thousands of images of child pornography.

The case of Donal C. Stevenson began with a detective in Kentucky, and ultimately led to the arrest of a fictitious 11-year-old and for also possessing thousands of images of child pornography.

Stevenson, 45, appeared Friday in Deschutes County Circuit Court, where prosecutor Brooks McClain read aloud the case's lengthy fact pattern.

In April 2019, a detective with the Kentucky Department of Justice contacted Oregon State

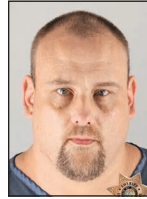
Police to say she had begun an investigation into a Bend man while working undercover on the anonymous messaging app Whisper. She'd been posing as a 31-year-old single mother of an 11-year girl.

"If you don't like my rules then don't bother chatting," read the fictitious woman's initial Whisper post.

Stevenson had reached out, inquiring about the child and the woman's "rules." Over the next few weeks, he and the detective communicated fairly regularly, McClain said.

"They very quickly turned into communications that were very sexual in nature," McClain said. "And the sexual intent was directed at the 11-year-old child."

Stevenson eventually pro-



Stevenson

vided the undercover officer with advice on how to groom the fictitious mother's daughter for sexual contact with an adult.

He sent her videos showing prepubescent girls being sexually abused by adult men.

The detective told Stevenson she was also responsible for a 2-year-old niece, and he expressed an interest in sexual intercourse with this child, as well.

He used a fake name in the chats but sent the detective a real photo of himself and his actual phone number.

OSP detectives connected the phone number and photo to

Stevenson, a registered sex offender and Taco Bell employee living with his mother in Bend.

Law enforcement officers next arranged a meetup in Deschutes County between Stevenson and the fictitious woman. On the appointed day, May, 13, 2019, OSP detectives tailed him to the Chalet motel, noting stops along the way at a Dollar Tree and the Imagine That adult store. When police later searched his vehicle, they found newly purchased children's toys from Dollar Tree and sex toys from Imagine That.

On Stevenson's digital devices, police located thousands of images and videos of children in pornographic displays. OSP detectives pulled several photos from March of that year that contained embedded GPS

coordinates.

As a result, OSP contacted law enforcement officers in Missouri, who responded to the home of a couple there, placed a child in protective custody and charged the parents for the creation of those pornographic images.

Stevenson was charged with 30 counts of encouraging child sexual abuse and one count each of first-degree attempted sexual abuse, first-degree rape and first-degree online sexual corruption of a child.

He pleaded guilty earlier this month to six counts of encouraging child sexual abuse and one of online sexual corruption of a child and one of attempted child sex abuse.

Reporter: 541-383-0325, g.andrews@bendbulletin.com

## HAMMOND RANCHES

# Biden administration rescinds grazing permit

BY MAXINE BERNSTEIN  
The Oregonian

A senior adviser in the Department of Interior on Friday rescinded the decision by the Trump administration to grant Hammond Ranches Inc. a 10-year grazing permit and directed the Bureau of Land

Management to give the matter further consideration.

The decision came as Congress was moving to confirm President Joe Biden's pick of Deb Haaland as the new Interior secretary and followed a day after four environmental advocacy groups filed a lawsuit

in federal court to block the grazing permit for the Hammonds.

It also comes just days before the cattle were expected to be turned out on the more than 26,000 acres of public lands neighboring the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge about 45

to 70 miles south of Burns.

The action marks the latest twist in a years-long saga surrounding the grazing rights of Dwight Hammond Jr. and son Steven Hammond after they were convicted of setting fire to public lands and served prison time.

A memo from the Interior secretary's office Friday found that the prior administration had not allowed for sufficient time to receive and consider public challenges to the proposed awarding of the permit to the Hammond family.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### City of Bend buildings set to reopen with limitations

The city of Bend will partially reopen of some of its public facilities for in-person services starting Monday.

The buildings have been closed to the public for nearly a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visitors will be required to wear masks and stay physically distant at all times while inside city facilities.

The city is still asking people to call or conduct their business online if possible to limit the number of people coming into facilities.

Public meetings will still be held virtually, according to a city press release.

City Hall at 710 NW Wall St. will be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Utility Billing building at 639 NW Franklin Ave. will be open 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The municipal court lobby and service windows at 555 NE 15th St. will be open 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Bend Police Department, will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Joshua Romero, the city's communications manager, at 541-693-2185 or at jromero@bendoregon.gov.

### Science Pub to discuss environmental activism

The next installment of Oregon State University-Cascades' Science Pub series of lectures will focus on the intersection of environmental justice and social activism.

The presentation will be held virtually at 6 p.m. on March 8, and Robert Melchior Figueroa



Figueroa

— an associate professor of environmental justice and philosophy at OSU — will speak, according to an OSU-Cascades press release.

Figueroa will discuss the history of environmental activism, from the late 19th century to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event will be broadcast on YouTube. To register, visit OSU-Cascades' website.

### COVID-19 vaccines available at pharmacies

Pharmacies in Central Oregon are now offering COVID-19 vaccines to eligible groups, according to the Deschutes County Public Health Department.

Appointments can be made at the following pharmacies:

- Albertsons/Safeway: www.safeway.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html
- Costco: www.costco.com/covid-vaccine.html
- Health Mart: www.health-

martcovidvaccine.com/

There are not enough vaccines available to vaccinate all eligible Oregonians at the pharmacies due to limited supply, according to the county health department.

Those currently eligible for COVID-19 vaccines in Oregon are adults 70 and older, educators and school staff and health care workers. Appointments for adults 70 and older are now full in the region.

Central Oregon residents can sign up online to be notified when they are eligible to receive the vaccine at vaccine.deschutes.org.

### Man gets 30 days for trespassing on tarmac

A Redmond man was sentenced to 30 days in jail for trespassing on the tarmac of the Redmond Airport and approaching airplanes loaded with passengers.

TJ Nikalus Murray, 26, appeared Friday in Deschutes County Circuit Court by video from the Deschutes County jail, where he's been since his arrest Feb. 4. Judge Aly-

cia Sykora gave him credit for time served, meaning he had six days remaining on his sentence.

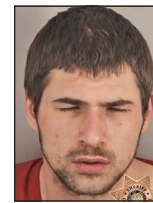
Murray had gained access to the airport by hopping a chain-link fence. He wandered around, coming within 30 feet of a Delta plane attempting to take off, prosecutor Marc Miller told Sykora.

Once at the Deschutes County jail, Murray became "uncooperative" and wrestled with corrections deputies, taking a swing at one, Miller said.

Murray was charged with trespass, harassment and assaulting an officer. He pleaded guilty earlier this week to the trespass and assault charges.

Asked why he had approached the airplanes, Murray told police he did it, "because he was bored."

Murray's attorney, Lisa Valenta, said Friday that video of the incident clearly confirmed Murray was experienc-



Murray

ing a mental health crisis.

In addition to jail time, Murray was given 18 months probation and ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation and abide by all prescribed treatment.

### Warm Springs gets \$1.5M for affordable housing

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have received \$1.5 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to preserve and expand their stock of low-income housing.

The funds are part of the \$652 million award to Native American communities across the nation, according to a statement on Friday issued by HUD. In total, Oregon tribes were awarded \$15.2 million and tribes in Washington were awarded \$42.4 million.

Under the program, eligible activities include housing development, operation and modernization of existing housing, crime prevention, and activities to solve affordable housing.

— Bulletin staff reports

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