

A pandemic, a plan and a return to golf
SPORTS PULLOUT, A7-10

The Bulletin

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Coronavirus | Easing state restrictions

COVID-19 risk levels drop in all 3 counties

Trends looking better in Oregon, governor says; new ratings take effect Friday

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

Central Oregon restaurants and other facilities should be able to expand capacity starting Friday under new COVID-19 risk levels announced Tuesday.

Deschutes County will move from

high to moderate risk, while Crook County goes from high to lower and Jefferson County drops from extreme to high.

Under moderate risk, indoor dining, entertainment and recreational centers can go to 50% capacity or 100 people, whichever is smaller. Indoor gatherings can go up to eight people and outdoor gatherings to 10 people. Stores and malls can increase capacity of shoppers to 75%, however curbside pickup is still preferred.

New COVID-19 risk levels for Or-

regon's 36 counties showed continued improvement in the latest two-week report, signaling more areas will be able to expand business and dining occupancy starting Friday, while allowing for more activities.

"We are largely seeing case rates decline across the state, with the most counties in the lower-risk level since the framework was introduced in November," Gov. Kate Brown said in an official announcement Tuesday. They will go into effect Friday.

In all, 13 counties lowered their

risk level ratings, while three showed worsening trends to move up a level. Only Coos and Douglas counties remain on the extreme risk level, which once contained well over half of Oregon's counties.

Statewide, Oregon reported 4,615 cases between Feb. 26 and March 6. The statewide average was 108.9 cases per 100,000 residents and the positive test rate dropped to 3.2, indicating that numbers statewide should continue to drop.

See Risk / A4

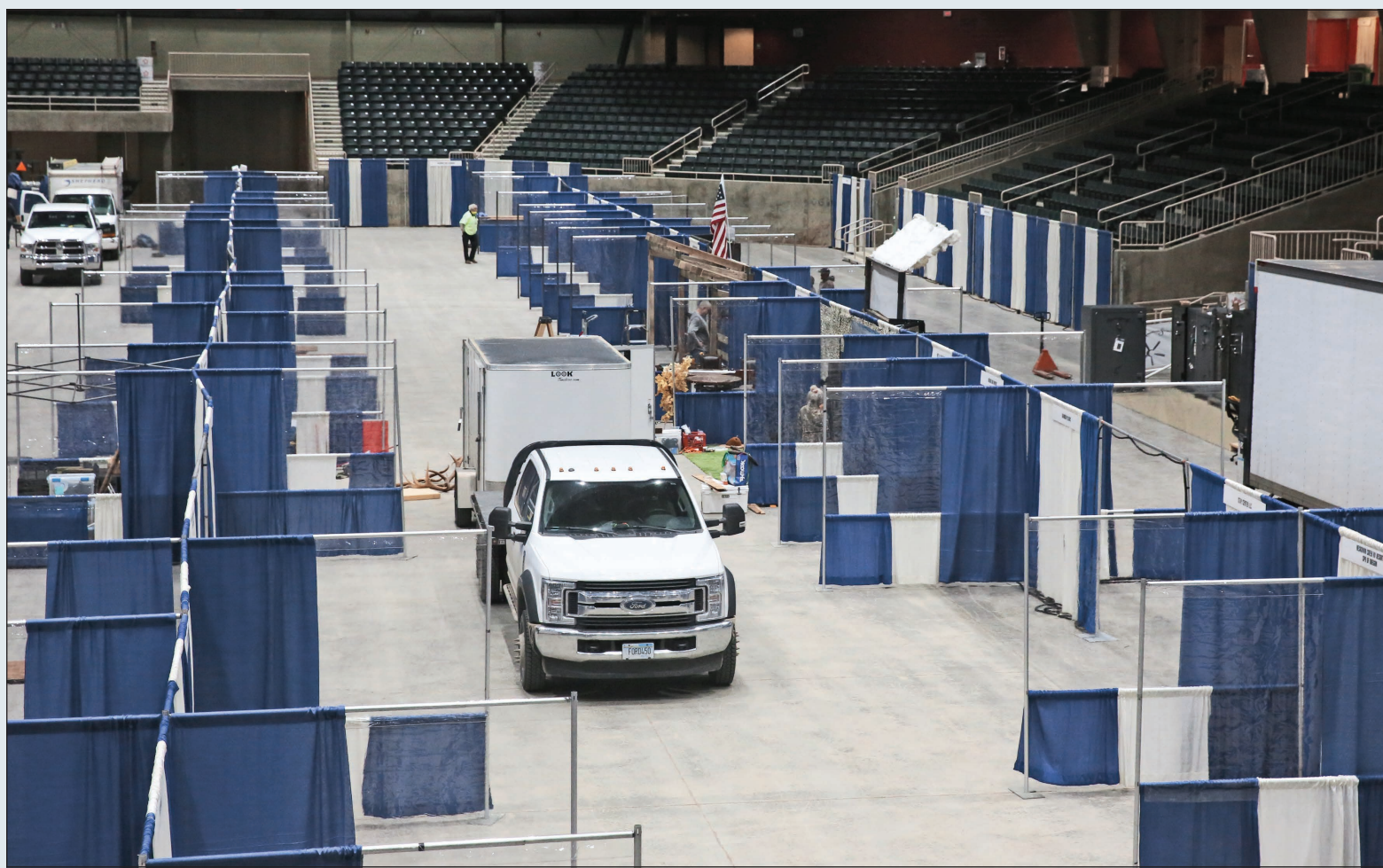
COMING THURSDAY

ONE YEAR OF COVID-19

» We asked Central Oregonians: How did the pandemic change your life?
» Plus: Key moments and photos show how the coronavirus pandemic left a mark on our region

THE SHOW GOES ON

Sportsmen's Show gears up for its first run in a COVID-19 world



BY BRENNIA VISSER • The Bulletin

The Central Oregon Sportsmen's Show at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center this weekend is one of the first major events the county has seen since the pandemic began a year ago.

Trey Carskadon, who does marketing for O'Loughlin Trade Shows, which puts on the event, said the company is making several changes to the long-running annual event to make it as safe as possible in the COVID-19 era. "Our goal from the outset is to create a zero

transmission environment," Carskadon said Tuesday.

Aside from masks and social-distancing requirements, the biggest change is a limit on the number of people who will be allowed into the show at any one time. The event is being held in four-hour shifts to manage the number of people in the facility at one time. For example, a ticketholder can only go to the show within that four-hour window.

When that window closes, those patrons are filtered out and a new group can attend. Under state guidelines, the event could have more

Setup is underway for the Central Oregon Sportsmen's Show at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond, where booth and aisle dimensions have been modified along with plastic screens to help with COVID-19 safety.

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

than 4,600 people at once, but the company has lowered the threshold to 2,000 people, Carskadon said.

See Show / A14

'REDMOND FIVE' MURDER CASE

State court strikes blow to Justin Link's parole chances

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

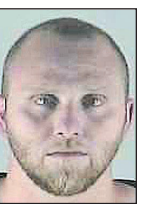
The Bulletin

Justin Alan Link, a member of the "Redmond Five," who was responsible for the murder of a Tumalo woman in 2001, has been dealt a blow to his prospects for early release, with a recent ruling by the Oregon Supreme Court.

The court's decision March 4 concerned the kinds of prison sentences lawmakers can mandate for minors. Link, who was 17 at the time of the murder, was tried and sentenced as an adult under Oregon's Measure 11 statute, which in 2003 allowed the teenager to be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

The supreme court overturned an earlier appellate court decision and ruled that the Oregon Legislature did have the authority to impose lengthy sentences like the one Link received.

Since he was given a "true" life sentence in 2003, Link's case has wended a labyrinthine path through the justice system.



Link

See Link / A14

Oregon House wants fast track for foreclosure moratorium

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

House Speaker Tina Kotek says she wants to see a legislative fast track for an extension of Oregon's moratorium on residential foreclosures.

An overall moratorium ended on Dec. 31. House Bill 2009, which the House Business and Labor Commit-

tee heard last week, would be retroactive to Dec. 31 and extend the moratorium to Sept. 1. But the new version would apply only to a set number of residential properties — the bill proposes five, although an amendment would raise it to 10 — and commercial property would be excluded.

Kotek, a Portland Democrat, is a chief sponsor of the bill along with

committee Chairman Paul Holvey, D-Eugene.

Kotek said lawmakers should have passed the extension during the Legislature's third special session on Dec. 21. The original moratorium, first imposed by an executive order of Gov. Kate Brown, was passed in a special session June 26.

See Moratorium / A4

Pandemic delays more diverse curriculum for Bend-La Pine

The goal: More viewpoints, and quicker to change

BY JACKSON HOGAN

The Bulletin

Bend-La Pine Schools' mission to use textbooks and learning materials with more diverse viewpoints was moving along in early 2020.

English classes planned to add new authors, from outside the traditional,

Eurocentric canon, by fall 2020.

Elementary teachers were finding ways to integrate lessons on equity and diversity into pre-existing curriculum.

High school social studies teachers were testing out new textbooks and materials to see which one could be adopted districtwide.

But in March of that year, COVID-19 arrived in Central Oregon, closing schools and monopolizing the conversation.

See Curriculum / A14

