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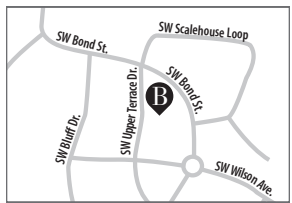
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN GRAPHIC

COVID-19 data for Thursday, March 18:

Deschutes County cases: 6,147 (11 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 70 (zero new deaths)

Crook County cases: 794 (5 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)

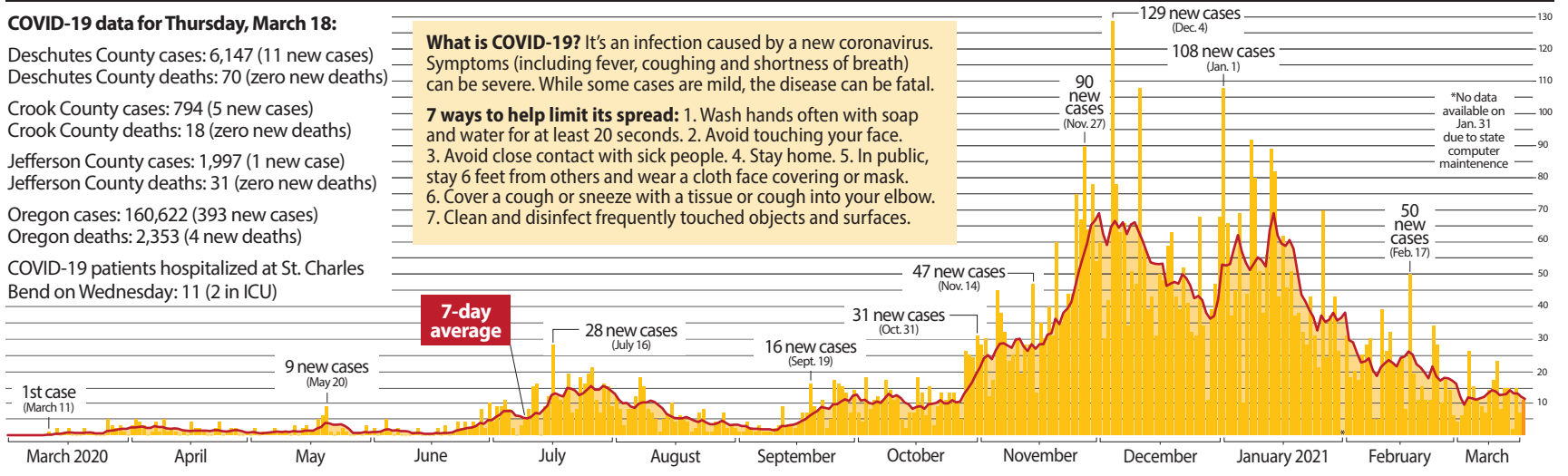
Jefferson County cases: 1,997 (1 new case)
Jefferson County deaths: 31 (zero new deaths)

Oregon cases: 160,622 (393 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,353 (4 new deaths)

COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Wednesday: 11 (2 in ICU)

What is COVID-19? It's an infection caused by a new coronavirus. Symptoms (including fever, coughing and shortness of breath) can be severe. While some cases are mild, the disease 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 cloth face covering or mask. 6. Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue or cough into your elbow. 7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



LOCAL BRIEFING

Fees waived for veterans housing project in Bend

The Veterans Village project will not have to pay system development charges to the Bend Park & Recreation District, eliminating one more financial barrier for the proposed transitional housing site.

The board authorized a waiver at a meeting March 16 because it felt the Veterans Village project is the type of transitional housing the district wants to support, according to a statement from the district.

System development charges, or SDCs, are fees the park district charges to developers to pay for new parks and new trails. Most park projects and improvements are heavily funded by SDC revenue in Bend.

The waiver is the product of a monthslong discussion about how affordable housing waivers should be considered by the district. The city of Bend last year asked the district to get rid of its 400-unit cap on waivers given to affordable housing projects.

In response, the board approved a resolution which waives SDCs for temporary and emergency shelter developments, and the Veterans Village qualified.

The Veterans Village project will include a temporary shelter with social services to house veterans experiencing homelessness. The village is expected to be completed in summer 2021.

Girl Scouts plan in-person cookie sale this weekend

COVID-19 has prevented local Girl Scout troops from selling their famous cookies

at their usual booths this year. But this weekend, cookie lovers will get to buy their beloved Thin Mints and Samoas at an in-person event in Bend.

Girl Scout Cookies can be purchased at the Girl Scouts of Oregon and southwest Washington's Bend location from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, according to a Girl Scouts press release. The Bend office is located in the Bend River Promenade, 3188 NE Third St.

All eight Girl Scout Cookie varieties will be sold this weekend, the release stated.

Girl Scout Cookies can still be ordered online at the organization's website through March 28, and proceeds will still benefit local troops, the release stated.

Redmond School Board Chair Carpenter resigns

Tim Carpenter, chair of the Redmond School Board, resigned from the board Wednesday evening, effective immediately.

Carpenter's seat, which doesn't expire until June 2023, will be filled by appointment, according to a school district press release.

Those interested in applying must do so by April 1. Applicants must have lived within the Redmond School District — which consists of Redmond, Tumalo, Terrebonne and the surrounding areas — for at least a year, and must be a registered voter, the release states.



Carpenter

Carpenter had served two separate six-year stints with the Redmond School Board, and is a Redmond High School graduate, the release stated.

Vice-chair Shawn Hartfield will become the new board chair.

Those interested in registering for Carpenter's seat can visit www.redmondschools.org or call Executive Assistant Gina Blanchette at 541-923-8250 for more information.

County residents can preregister for vaccine

Deschutes County residents can preregister to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through a new system set up by the county and St. Charles Health System.

Residents can preregister online at www.centraloregon-covidvaccine.com.

Those who preregister online will be contacted by email or text with a link to schedule their vaccine appointment at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds when they are eligible and vaccine supply is available. Links to the appointment will expire after 48 hours.

Residents can also preregister by calling 541-699-5109. Those who call will receive a call back to schedule their appointment when a vaccine is available.

The first appointments are expected to be made Monday, according to the county.

Teens set first in-person climate strike since 2020

To show support for similar events worldwide, the Bend-based teen climate activist group Youth Climate Congress will hold a climate strike



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

Freddy Finney-Jordet uses a microphone to address the crowd during an Oregon Youth Climate Strike in downtown Bend in 2019.

in Downtown Bend on Friday afternoon — the group's first in-person event since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020.

The climate strike will take place at the corner of Newport Avenue and Wall Street at 3 p.m., according to a Youth Climate Congress press release.

Event organizer Freddy Finney-Jordet — a 19-year-old Central Oregon Community College student who has hosted climate-focused protests in Bend for two years — told The Bulletin the event is partly meant to remind people about the urgent threat that climate change poses.

"This is to make people aware of the problem, and the severity of the problem," he said Thursday. "We're still seeing lots of inaction."

The Youth Climate Congress also has a specific list of demands for Oregon's state

lawmakers, including ending legislative walkouts and passing a series of environmentally focused bills being debated in Salem this year, Finney-Jordet said.

"This is showing that we care enough about this legislation that we're willing to hit the streets, even during a pandemic, to show them support," he said.

All protesters must wear face masks and stay socially distanced from people during the climate strike Friday, the press release stated.

The event in Bend is being held on the same day as other climate strikes around the world, organized by famed Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg, Finney-Jordet said.

"We figure, if we exercise safety precautions, we can participate and contribute to that worldwide action," he said.

— Bulletin staff reports

Oregon State president staves off dismissal, put on 'probation' instead

BY JEFF MANNING

The Oregonian

A split Oregon State University board of trustees voted Wednesday to place new President F. King Alexander on probation through July 1 after reports that he tolerated a culture of sexual misconduct and harassment while president of Louisiana State University.

The trustees also voted to commission an independent review of Alexander's tenure at Louisiana State University and specifically the accuracy of a report that was highly critical of Alexander's actions there.

The trustees considered for more than six hours whether to discipline or dismiss Alexander before reaching a split decision. Two of the board's 13 members dissented but didn't publicly explain what action they felt the university

should take.

After the vote, Alexander told the trustees he would prepare an action plan to repair relationships on campus as they requested.

"I hear you loud and clear," Alexander said. "We will work diligently in the coming months to respond."

The board met all afternoon Wednesday to hear community concerns and Alexander's explanations for the problems at LSU, where he served as president until the end of 2019.

During testimony, Alexander said repeatedly Wednesday that the accusations against him were false. He insisted he was the guy who established a meaningful Title IX program at LSU. It was Alexander, he asserted, who formed a presidential commission at LSU to further explore how to protect women on campus.



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