

The Bulletin

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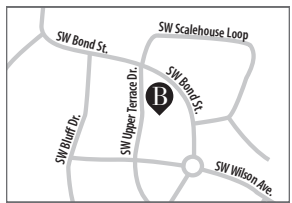
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The Bulletin's primary concern is that all stories are accurate. If you know of an error in a story, call us at 541-383-0367.

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OBITUARIES

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 Tuesday, April 6:

Deschutes County cases: 6,504 (35 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 71 (1 new death)

Crook County cases: 822 (2 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 19 (1 new death)

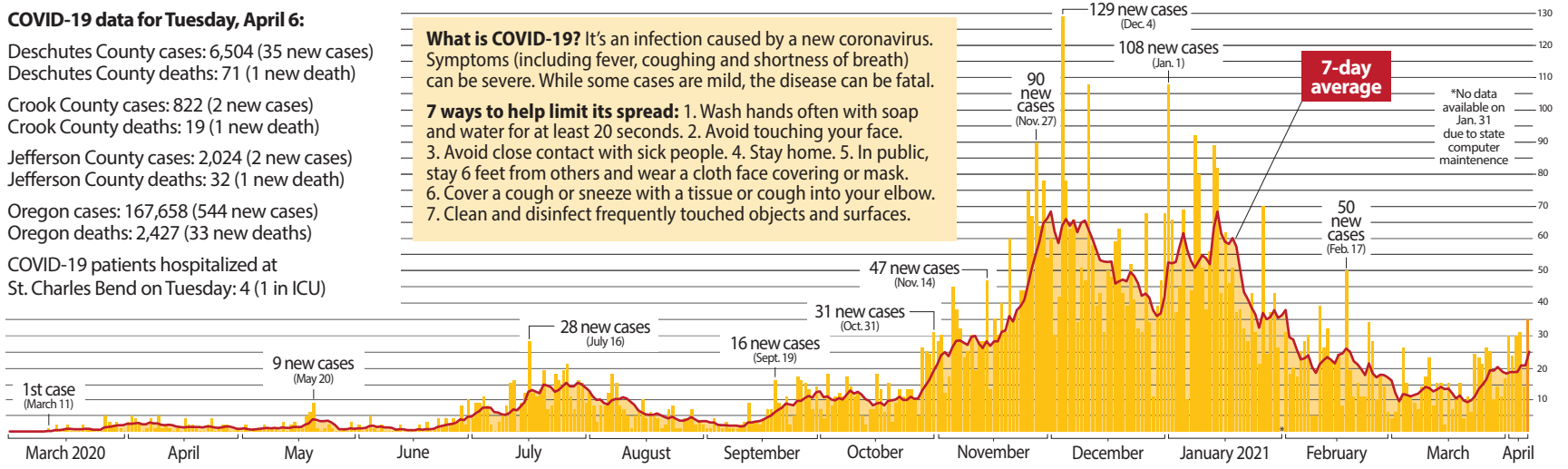
Jefferson County cases: 2,024 (2 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (1 new death)

Oregon cases: 167,658 (544 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,427 (33 new deaths)

COVID-19 patients hospitalized at
St. Charles Bend on Tuesday: 4 (1 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.



Correctional facilities risks

Prisoners still lack access in vaccine rollout

Oregon is one of four states to offer shots to its entire adult inmate population

Associated Press

This week, Florida expanded eligibility for COVID-19 vaccines to all residents 16 and older. But across the state, more than 70,000 people still don't have access to the vaccine. Those men and women are state prisoners.

More than half the country has opened up vaccine eligibility, vastly expanding the ability for most Americans to get the shots, whatever their age or medical conditions. But inside prisons, it's a different story: Prisoners, not free to seek out vaccines, still lack access on the whole.

Nationwide, fewer than 20% of state and federal prisoners have been vaccinated, according to data collected by The Marshall Project and The Associated Press. In some states, prisoners and advocates have resorted to lawsuits to get access. And even when they are eligible, they aren't receiving important education about the vaccine.

And it's not just the prisoners. Public health experts widely agree that people who live and work in correctional facilities face an increased risk of contracting and dying from the coronavirus. Since the pandemic first reached prisons in March 2020, about 3 in 10 prisoners have tested positive and 2,500 have



Aaron Lavinsky/AP

A red tag hangs on a cell door Jan. 4, signifying an active COVID-19 case for its inhabitants at Faribault Prison, in Faribault, Minnesota.

died. Prisons are often overcrowded, with limited access to health care and protective gear, and populations inside are more likely to have preexisting medical conditions.

"This is about a public health strategy," said Jaimie Meyer, an associate professor of medicine and public health at Yale University. "If you want to see an end to the pandemic, you've got to vaccinate the people in the places where there are the largest clusters and the most cases."

In some facilities, basic supplies like soap and toilet paper have been scarce, and mask-wearing is inconsistently enforced among both prisoners and

guards, including in Oregon.

In some states, vaccine supplies for prisons have been limited by infrastructure and by political demands. Even as more vaccines start to become available to correction systems, prison officials, public health experts and prisoner advocates say there is widespread hesitancy among prisoners over receiving the vaccine.

According to the CDC, 40% of adults in the United States have gotten at least one vaccine shot, and President Joe Biden has promised that all Americans will be eligible for vaccination in April. But vaccination rates behind

bars still trail the general population in two-thirds of states.

The four states that say they have offered the vaccine to every adult in their state prisons — Oregon, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Virginia — have seen more prisoners take it, averaging about 70%. Meyer said that was a positive sign but likely to be lower in many other states.

In Georgia, roughly 700 prisoners had been vaccinated by March 30, according to Department of Corrections spokesperson Joan Heath. That number, about 1.5% of the state's prison population, is expected to jump by mid-April, when the agency anticipates receiving 2,000 doses per week.

"Our goal is to ensure every offender in our custody is offered and receives a COVID vaccine," she said, adding that the state is asking anyone with "incarcerated friends or loved ones, to encourage them to accept the vaccine when offered."

In some states, prisoners and advocates have resorted to lawsuits to speed up the pace of vaccinations. In February, a federal judge ordered Oregon officials to offer the vaccine to all state prisoners, which the state says it has now done. Washington state prisoners filed a similar lawsuit in late March, demanding additional protection from correctional staff who refused the vaccine. Last week, a New York Supreme Court justice ruled that the state must vaccinate all people incarcerated in prisons and jails.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Power restored in Bend after squirrel trips outage

Pacific Power has restored electricity to more than 1,400 homes and businesses in downtown Bend following an outage on Tuesday morning that lasted from 8:21 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tom Gauntt, a spokesperson for Pacific Power, said a squirrel caused the outage, and its remains were found by work crews conducting repairs.

Squirrels, birds, rats and even snakes can get into equipment and cause damage or harm work crews, said Gauntt. "All critters who get too close to equipment can essentially become a connection between two wires that are kept separate," said Gauntt. "One claw on one wire and another claw or beak or mouth on another and the unlikely connection can be made."

Gauntt said Pacific Power

does take precautions against animals chewing on wires, such as installing special sleeves and clearing vegetation near power lines, but animals can still infiltrate equipment.

"Squirrels are pervasive," said Gauntt. "Our work with vegetation management helps keep them away from lines, but climbing a pole is nothing to a squirrel."

Jefferson County sheriff Adkins to retire

Jefferson County Sheriff Jim Adkins has announced his upcoming retirement.

Adkins, 57, confirmed he intends to step down June 30.

He told The Bulletin he has no big plans for retirement but thought it better to allow a successor to assume control ahead of what's expected to be another tough fight to win voter approval for an operations levy

for the Jefferson County jail. In 2019, voters approved a temporary levy intended to keep the jail functioning for three years.

"It's just going to take a real energetic person," he said.

Adkins is recommending that Undersheriff Marc Heckathorn be appointed to replace him, then run for election in November.

Jefferson County commissioners must vote to approve Heckathorn's appointment.

Adkins started at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in 1986 as a deputy assigned to boat patrol. He also worked as a corrections deputy, patrol deputy, supervisor of the patrol division and, for four years, undersheriff. He was ap-

pointed sheriff in 2010, then won election later that year.

Redmond man killed in two-vehicle crash

A 79-year-old Redmond man was killed Monday in a two-vehicle crash south of NW Sixth Street and NW Quince Avenue in Redmond.

Redmond Police and fire and rescue agencies responded at 8:17 a.m. to the crash, which involved two pickup trucks, according to a release from Redmond Police.

An investigation found Archie Carrol was driving a black 2000 Toyota Tundra north on NW Sixth Street when he crossed the road and collided

head-on with a blue 2004 Ford F-150, which was driven by Mario Ortiz Lopez, 38, of Prineville, Redmond Police said.

Carrol died at the scene. Fire crews freed Lopez from the Ford, and he was flown by Life Flight to St. Charles Bend with serious injuries. His passenger, Rodolfo Ortiz Lopez, 41, of Prineville, was transported to St. Charles Bend for an evaluation.

NW Sixth Street between NW Oak Tree Lane and NW Quince Avenue was closed for about six hours.

The case remains under investigation. Any witnesses are asked to contact Redmond Police at (541) 693-6911.

— Bulletin staff reports

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Partners In Care

Community Education— A Virtual Presentation

An Intro to Equity and Inclusion in a Diverse Healthcare Setting

In this one-hour session, participants will explore the various ways our identities – from race to gender to immigration status – shape how we interact with our community. Presented by Kerani Mitchell, co-founder Allyship in Action, and Jamie Bowman, co-founder Central Oregon Transgender Health Coalition.

April 16
Friday
noon-1pm

Open to the community at no cost!
RSVP at communityevents@partnersbend.org and a Zoom registration will be emailed to you.
Limited registration in order to promote group interaction.

(541) 382-5882 PartnersBend.org

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