

The Bulletin

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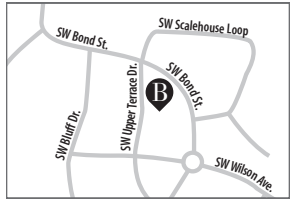
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

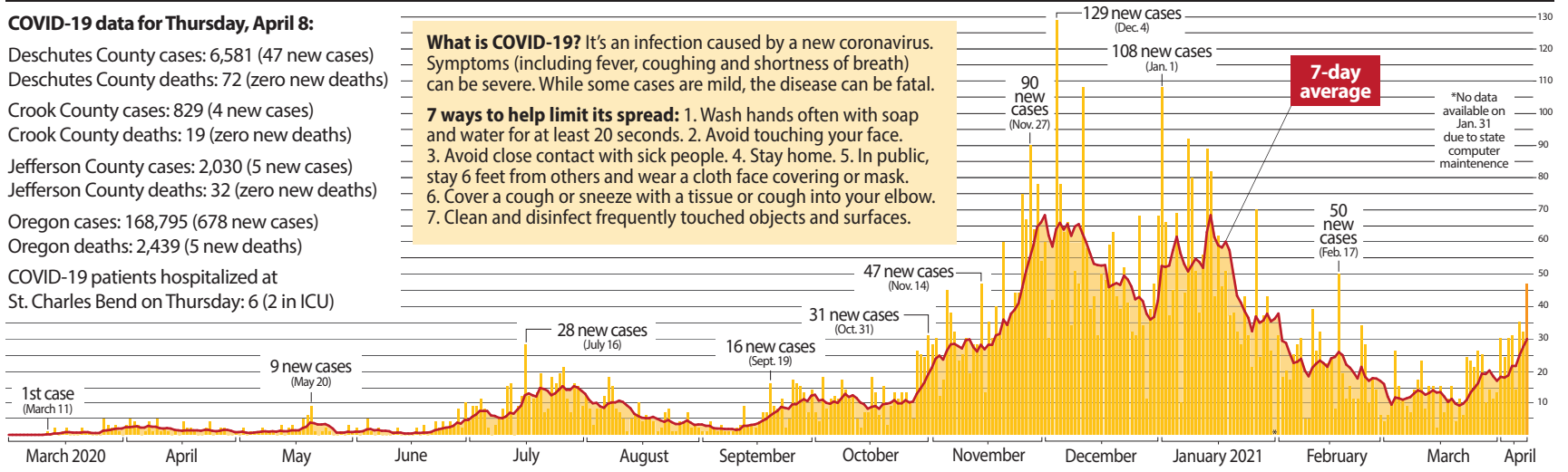
DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

COVID-19 data for Thursday, April 8:
Deschutes County cases: 6,581 (47 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 72 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 829 (4 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 19 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 2,030 (5 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 168,795 (678 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,439 (5 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Thursday: 6 (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

Valentina: New swan at Sunriver Nature Center

The new female trumpeter swan at the Sunriver Nature Center has been named Valentina, or Val for short, since she was brought to the center just before Valentine's Day. The nature center received several name suggestions after the swan was introduced Feb. 10 to Gus, the resident trumpeter swan who was alone since last fall when his mate, Gracie, was found dead from a likely coyote attack. Gracie was a beloved resident of the nature center and helped repopulate the threatened species in Oregon. The nature center bought Val from a waterfowl breeder in Indiana. Since being introduced, Val and Gus have spent the past two months exploring the nature center's Lake Aspen. Nature center staff hope the pair nest this spring and produce young that will help boost the state's trumpeter swan breeding program.

More neighborhood safety projects funded

Four more neighborhood safety projects are scheduled to begin construction this summer in Bend. On Wednesday, the Bend City Council approved about \$312,000 for the four projects.

- Curb ramps, a median safety island, street lighting and a signed crosswalk will be added at Brookwood Boulevard and Hollygrape Street.
- A median safety island, a marked and signed crosswalk and street lighting will be added at Parrell Road and Reed Lane.
- At NW Sisemore Street between NW Colorado and NW Florida Avenues, sidewalks and driveways will be improved.
- Street lighting will be installed at NE Wells Acres Road at Mountain View High School's north entrance at a crossing that was built last year.

These projects are some of the first to be funded by the \$190 million transportation bond passed by voters in November. In 2019, the Bend City Council created the Neighborhood Street Safety Program, which is aimed at addressing safety concerns. Neighborhoods can propose projects and apply for money to fund them. Four of these projects were already built in 2020.

Man arrested in stabbing following argument

A man was arrested early Thursday for allegedly stabbing one man and attempting to stab another man following an argument in northeast Bend. Around 4:40 a.m., Vincent Jay Jermain, 63, was found by police at a house on NE Alpenview Lane, where he used to live, being restrained by the occupants, Bend Police Lt. Brian Beekman said in a press release. The 53-year-old male stabbing victim suffered injuries not considered to be life threatening and was transported to St. Charles Bend. Beekman said Jermain had earlier tried to stab a 55-year-old man in a parking lot in the 62800 block of Boyd Acres Road. The man was known to him and the two had been in an argument, Beekman said. Jermain then allegedly went to the residence on Alpenview Lane and stabbed the 53-year-old man. Police say Jermain is in custody but he was not listed as a jail inmate. "There is no threat to the community, and Bend Police Detectives are continuing the investigation," Beekman said.

Portland leaders hope to bring back anti-gun violence unit

PORTLAND — The mayor of Portland and city commissioners have reached a deal on proposals intended to stem a spike in gun violence over the past year. The compromise, approved Wednesday, would re-establish a proactive team of uniformed police officers tasked with preventing shootings. The team would operate with greater civilian oversight than its disbanded predecessor. The move represents an about-face after city leaders in June voted to cut nearly \$16 million from the police budget, reductions that included the elimination of the gun violence unit. The cuts came amid racial justice protests following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Under the \$6 million deal, the council would also provide millions of dollars to community organizations for anti-violence work and authorize the hiring of two dozen unarmed park rangers, as a trio of commissioners proposed last week, according to the proposals. "We agree that the im-

mediate spike in gun violence is a public health threat that requires a public health response that invests in community-based organizations working to change the conditions and environments that foster violence," Mayor Ted Wheeler and all four commissioners said in a statement Tuesday evening. Police Chief Chuck Lovell said Wednesday it was a "complex issue" and he welcomed any plans that would successfully reduce gun violence in Portland — but he added that staffing issues have hit a crisis point in the police force. There have been at least 284 shootings this year that have left 91 people injured, Lt. Greg Pashley, a Portland police spokesperson, said Tuesday. Firearms have caused 18 of the city's 25 homicides since Jan. 1. Statistically, the city is on track to experience 100 homicides if the pace does not slow in the remainder of the year. Portland recorded 55 homicides in 2020, the highest number in 26 years. Forty-one were fatal shootings, with people of color representing more than half of victims, police statistics show.

Western Oregon University to cut programs, faculty

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University, in the small Willamette Valley city of Monmouth, will cut multiple programs and the equivalent of over a dozen full-time faculty, hoping to get ahead of falling enrollment that became worse during the pandemic. Administrators say the cuts are necessary to protect the university's financial health, and are a way to keep the 165-year-old institution affordable, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported. But employees, current students and alumni say they're worried about a change in campus culture and community — especially with eliminations of programs like philosophy, which teach broadly beneficial skills, such as critical thinking, analysis and writing. "To cut philosophy is to cut out the soul of the university," Philosophy Department Chair Mark Perlman said. Perlman has been teaching at the university for 23 years, and is



Courtesy of WOU
People walk near the Werner University Center on the grounds at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

among four tenured professors being laid off. The equivalent of 11 non-tenured faculty are also affected, either through layoff, or a significant reduction in the classes they're teaching. Late last year, a task force including University President Rex Fuller, released a plan laying out cuts including philosophy, anthropology and geography, master's programs in information systems and in

music, as well as other certificates and minors. That task force deemed the cuts necessary because of low or declining enrollment in those programs. From 2011 to 2020, Western's enrollment has decreased more than 25%, according to the university. The university also announced last year that more than 50 staff members were either to be laid off or not have their contracts renewed.

Idaho governor bans state agencies participation in 'vaccine passports'

BY HAYAT NORIMINE
The Idaho Statesman
Idaho Gov. Brad Little on Wednesday signed an executive order banning "vaccine passports," barring any state agency from requiring proof of vaccination to receive public services or access facilities. In a virtual broadcast Wednesday, Little said the proof of vaccines would "create a different class of citizens" and threaten personal freedom at a time "life and the economy are returning to

normal." The executive order bars any department, agency, board, commission or other executive branch entity from requiring proof of a COVID-19 vaccine to access state services or facilities. They are also not allowed to "produce and issue a COVID-19 vaccine passport" or provide information about someone's vaccine status to anyone else. Idaho joins a growing list of states that have banned pub-

lic agencies from requiring proof of a COVID-19 vaccine — at least 18 other states have passed similar laws. Texas banned state agencies and state-run organizations from such a mandate Tuesday. Republicans across the U.S. have been increasingly concerned about a requirement to present proof of a COVID-19 vaccine to receive services. Businesses and schools have suggested them as a way to re-open economies or return to in-person classes.

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