

# The Bulletin

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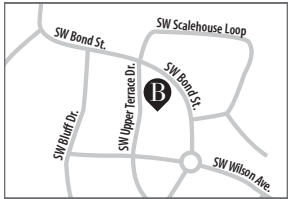
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### OBITUARIES

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. Phone ..... 541-385-5809 Fax ..... 541-598-3150 Email ..... obits@bendbulletin.com

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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

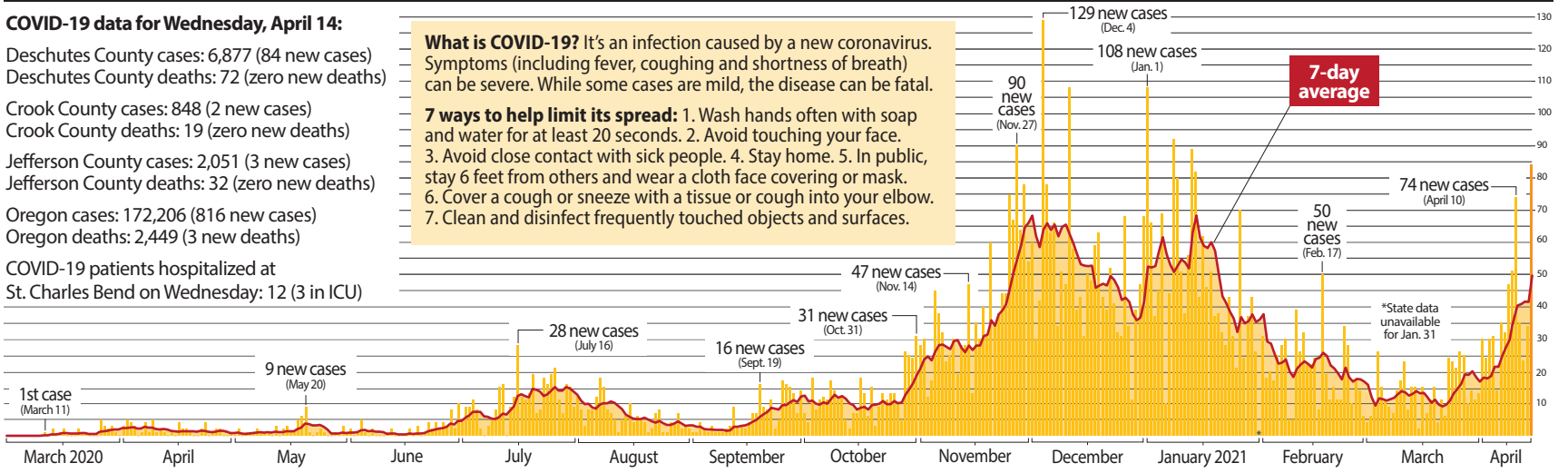
### COVID-19 data for Wednesday, April 14:

Deschutes County cases: 6,877 (84 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 72 (zero new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 848 (2 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 19 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 2,051 (3 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 172,206 (816 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,449 (3 new deaths)

COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Wednesday: 12 (3 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.



# Klamath Project will receive historically low water allocation

BY GEORGE PLAVERN

Capital Press

**KLAMATH FALLS** — The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation delivered a gut-punch to Klamath Project irrigators Wednesday, announcing a historically low water allocation as the basin struggles with extreme drought.

Farms and ranches in the project will receive an initial allocation of 33,000 acre feet — the lowest total since the shut-down of 2001 and barely 8% of historical demand. That is dramatically lower than the bureau's original estimate of 130,000 acre feet based on hydrological conditions at the beginning of March. Since then, snowpack in the Klamath Basin has dropped to 72% of normal for the water year dating back to Oct. 1, and precipitation is just 67% of normal.

The Klamath Project provides irrigation for 230,000 acres of farmland in Southern Oregon and Northern California.

Camille Touton, deputy commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation, said this water year is unlike anything the project has ever seen.

"We will continue to monitor the hydrology and look for opportunities for operational flexibility, provide assistance to Klamath Project water users and the tribes, and keep an open dialogue with our stakeholders, the states, and across the federal government to get through this water year together," Touton said.

Initial water supplies from Upper Klamath Lake will be available to recharge project canals and provide for some limited irrigation no earlier than May 15. Remaining water will be delivered no earlier than June 1.

The bureau will maintain Upper Klamath Lake at or above a minimum elevation of 4,138.3 feet, "whereby ad-



Water flows from Upper Klamath Lake into the A Canal, part of the Klamath Project. Most farmers within the project will be allocated far less water than they received last year.

ditional project water may be available," according to the bureau. Reclamation will monitor and adjust available water on at least a semi-monthly basis.

Officials also announced \$15 million in immediate aid to the Klamath Project through the Klamath Project Drought Relief Agency, which provides funding for drought relief programs including groundwater pumping and land idling.

An additional \$3 million will go to the tribes for ecosystem activities aimed at protecting endangered fish, as well as monitoring groundwater levels throughout the basin.

Under reclamation's temporary operations plan for the Klamath Project in 2021, it recognizes there is not enough water available to meet competing demands for farms and fish.

The plan provides guidelines for reclamation to adaptively manage project operations this spring to maintain certain levels of water in Upper Klamath Lake for Lost River and shortnose

suckers, as well as preserve options for flushing flows downstream for salmon in the lower Klamath River.

Reclamation says it will maintain certain river flows for salmon through September.

While the news was widely expected, it is no less devastating to the basin's agricultural community. The Klamath Water Users Association and irrigation districts held an operations meeting Wednesday morning to discuss their plans going forward with patrons who stand to see their fields run dry.

In a letter sent April 8 to patrons, the association said it is well aware of the impact such a low allocation will have on the business community.

"We will continue pursuing strategies to correct fundamental problems in the basin, advocate for common sense, and begin work with responsible parties so that we are not in this impossible and unnatural situation again in the future," the letter reads.

# Dry conditions triple number of fires in Oregon

Associated Press

**SALEM** — The Oregon Department of Forestry said Tuesday the number of small wildfires has tripled this spring partly because of dry conditions across Oregon.

The agency said Tuesday it's already doused 70 fires, almost half of which resulted from escaped backyard debris burn piles.

In a normal season, usually 24 fires occur by April 13. In response, Salem

issued a ban on all open burning within the city, including recreational fires.

The Dallas Fire Department was called to a grass fire Tuesday threatening homes in an area where a resident had been burning over a couple days, Dallas Fire Department officials said. With the high winds and dry conditions, the fire grew beyond the control of the property owner, officials said. No homes were burned and no one was injured, fire officials said.

With limited rain since March and dry conditions expected for the next week, fire danger is only expected to increase, officials said.

In many places, the spring window to burn may have already passed, Oregon Department of Forestry Fire Prevention Coordinator Tom Fields said.

"The window of opportunity to clean up around homes and dispose of woody debris in a safe manner is narrowing each year," he said.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Cyclist suffers life-threatening injuries near Redmond

A 41-year-old cyclist from Washington was struck by a vehicle and severely injured near Redmond early Wednesday. At around 3:30 a.m., Jeremy James was riding south on U.S. Highway 97 near Quarry Avenue when he was hit by a vehicle driven by Lance Russ, 19, of Redmond, according to Oregon State Police.

James was in a travel lane at the time he was struck, according to Oregon State Police Capt. Tim Fox.

"This area of the highway is not lighted, and James was wearing dark colored clothing, headphones and had no visible lights," Fox said.

James was transported by helicopter to St. Charles Bend, where he was being treated for life-threatening injuries.

Russ was taken by ground ambulance to St. Charles Redmond with injuries not considered to be life threatening.

Fox said an investigation is ongoing.

### Virtual candidate forums to be hosted for May election

The City Club of Central Oregon and the League of Women Voters of Deschutes County will be hosting a series of seven virtual candidate forums for positions on the May ballot.

Forums will be held for candidates running for board seats for the Sisters, Redmond and Bend-La Pine school districts; Deschutes Public Library District; Bend Park & Recreation District; Bend Park & Recreation District; and Redmond Area Park & Recreation District.

The election will be held May 18. This year, forums will offer English to Spanish translation for the school board races in Redmond and Bend.

Organizers encourage the public to send questions for the candidates at least one week prior to the event to info@cityclubco.org or info@lwvdeschutes.org. The forums can be streamed on the League of Women Voters of Deschutes County or City Club YouTube channels.

All forums will be at 5:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- **April 15:** Sisters School District
- **April 22:** Bend-La Pine Schools
- **April 24:** Deschutes Public Library District
- **April 27:** Bend Park & Recreation District
- **May 3:** Redmond School District, board positions No. 3 and No. 4
- **May 4:** Redmond School District, board positions No. 1 and No. 2
- **May 6:** Redmond Area Park & Recreation District board

—Bulletin staff reports

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