

The Bulletin

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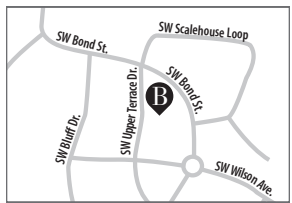
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CORRECTIONS

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 Saturday, April 17:
Deschutes County cases: 7,082 (94 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 72 (zero new deaths)

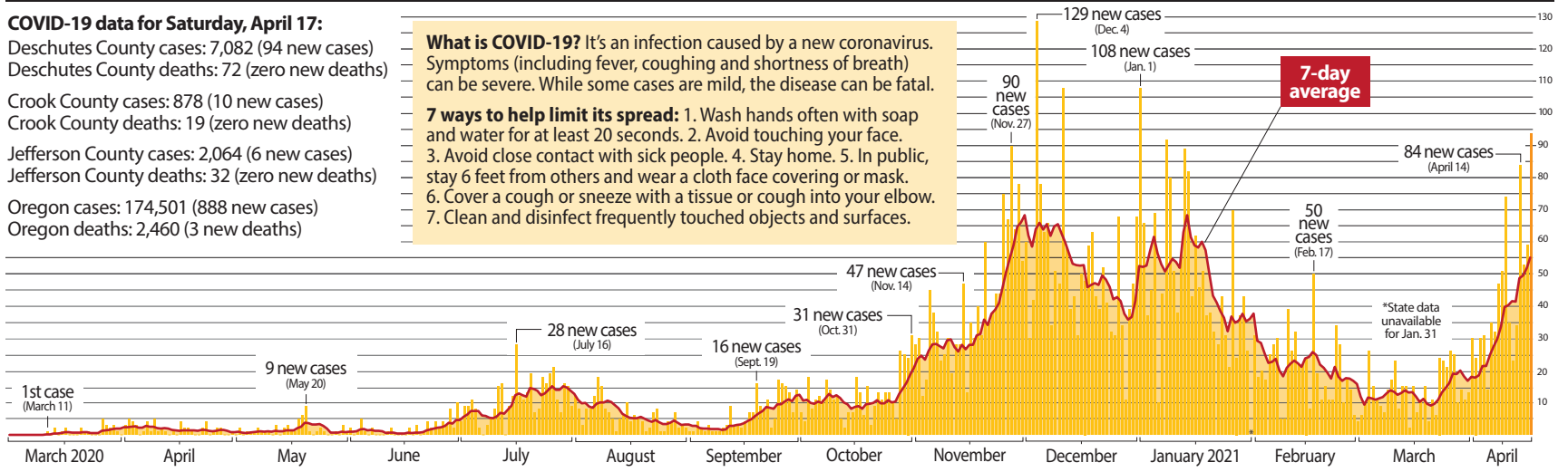
Crook County cases: 878 (10 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 19 (zero new deaths)

Jefferson County cases: 2,064 (6 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (zero new deaths)

Oregon cases: 174,501 (888 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,460 (3 new deaths)

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

Upper Deschutes Basin Study released

A study that will help irrigators, politicians, biologists and others who study and utilize water in the Upper Deschutes Basin has been released and is expected to help guide how water is used and conserved in Central Oregon.

The Upper Deschutes River Basin Study, jointly funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Oregon Water Resources Department, is built on two decades of investigations, planning, and the implementation of projects to address water shortages.

The \$1.5 million study provides analytical tools that will help basin stakeholders develop plans to meet seasonal water needs of rivers, farms, and cities.

The study lays out various pathways to improve water management, including market incentives to change how people use water, canal piping to eliminate seepage losses, and improving watering methods on farms.

Tod Heisler, director of the Rivers Conservation Program at Central Oregon LandWatch, said the Deschutes Basin Study will help authorities identify water supply problems and create a range of innovative solutions.

"It examines restoring significant flows to our rivers and creeks and the effects of doing so on agricultural water supply," said Heisler. "It also identifies the future water demand of Central Oregon's growing cities and how that water supply might be secured."

The 79-page study can be found in PDF form (www.usbr.gov/pn/studies/deschutes/finalstudy.pdf)

4 injured after crash on Highway 97 in Bend

A two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 97 in Bend on Friday night left four people injured, according to Oregon State Police.

Troopers arrived at the crash near milepost 141 at about 11 p.m. and found a Subaru Legacy, driven by Tomas Fraley, 25, of Bend, had traveled south when it crashed into a Jeep Grand Cherokee that was also traveling southbound, OSP said.

The Jeep was driven by Jamie Carson-Clarkson, 45, of Bend, who had two passengers, Deanna Black, 58, of California, and Brett Cold, 43, of Meridian, Idaho, OSP said.

All four people involved in the crash were injured and transported to St. Charles Bend, OSP said.

OSP is looking to talk with the occupants of a black pickup that was in the area at the time of the crash. The pickup stopped at the crash scene but continued south on the highway before emergency personnel arrived.

Any witnesses are asked to call Oregon State Police at 800-442-0776 and ask for Sgt. Caleb Ratliff and reference case #SP21-099724.



Artists relief fund hits halfway mark

The Central Oregon Creative Artist Relief Effort (CO CAREs) fund has reached \$20,000 of its \$40,000 fundraising goal in just under two months.

The fund — created by The Bulletin and Scalehouse Collaborative for the Arts — puts money directly into the hands of artists, performers and musicians in Central Oregon to help them through the coronavirus pandemic.

The effort offers grants and a platform to bring attention to the talent that needs help to continue thriving in the Bend community.

With the assistance of local sponsors and help from The Tower Theatre and KPOV community radio, CO CAREs is recognizing a different artist each week with a video on The Bulletin's website and a prominent feature story in GO! Magazine.

The House Concert videos feature the music of several local artists. The videos are similar to National Public Radio's Tiny Desk Concerts or GO! Magazine's Anatomy of a Song series.

People can give tax-deductible donations to the charity GoFundMe CO CAREs account or to the featured artists' independent accounts. Links with opportunities to donate or apply for a grant are available at the top of the webpage beside the launch video describing the effort.

Other sponsors in the effort include Brooks Resources, Robberson Ford, KPOV, the Tower Theatre, Amy Tykeson and Dr. John Teller.

— Bulletin staff reports

As U.S. mask mandates end, Oregon bucks trend with an indefinite rule

BY SARA CLINE

Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND — As states around the country lift COVID-19 restrictions, Oregon is poised to go the opposite direction — and many residents are fuming about it.

A top health official is considering indefinitely extending rules requiring masks and social distancing in all businesses in the state.

The proposal would keep the rules in place until they are "no longer necessary to address the effects of the pandemic in the workplace."

Michael Wood, administrator of the state's division of Occupational Safety and Health, said the move is necessary to address a technicality in state law that requires a "permanent" rule to keep current restrictions from expiring.

"We are not out of the woods yet," he said. But the idea has prompted a flood of angry responses, with everyone from parents to teachers to business owners and employees crying government overreach.

Wood's agency received a record number of public comments, mostly critical, and nearly 60,000 residents signed a petition against the proposal.

'When will masks be unnecessary?'

Opponents also are upset government officials won't say how low Oregon's COVID-19 case numbers must go, or how many people would have to be vaccinated, to get the requirements lifted in a state that's already had some of the nation's strictest safety measures.

"When will masks be unnecessary? What scientific studies do these mandates rely on, particularly now that the vaccine is days away from being available to everyone?" said state Sen. Kim Thatcher, a Republican from Keizer, near the state's capital. "Businesses have had to play 'mask cop' for the better part of a year now. They deserve some certainty on when they will no longer be threatened with fines."



Jaime Valdez/PMG file

Gov. Kate Brown wears her mask in public at a press event last year as the coronavirus raged.

Wood said he is reviewing all the feedback to see if changes are needed before he makes a final decision by May 4, when the current rules lapse.

Where mandates are being lifted

Oregon has been among those with the country's most stringent COVID-19 restrictions and now stands in contrast with much of the rest of the nation as vaccines become more widely available.

At least six states — Alabama, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota and Texas — have lifted mask mandates, and some never implemented them. In Texas, businesses reopened at 100% capacity last month.

In January, Virginia became the first in the nation to enact permanent COVID-19 workplace safety and health rules.

"While the end of this pandemic is finally in sight, the virus is still spreading — and now is not the time to let up on preventative measures," Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam said following the announcement.

Besides mask and distancing requirements, Oregon's proposal includes workplace rules regarding air flow, ventilation, employee notification in case of an outbreak, and sanitation protocols.

JEFF AND HEATHER THOMPSON

Red Chair gallery

"Art is not what you see but what you make others see."
- Edgar Degas

103 NW Oregon Ave. • Downtown Bend
541-306-3176 • redchairgallerybend.com

Attention Parents of 2021 Grads!

Help make some memories!

The Bulletin is publishing a special Class of 2021 Graduation section on May 30 to celebrate graduating Central Oregon high school students.

Enter a congratulatory message or a short biography along with a photo for just \$25. Your messages will be grouped together by school and published in full color.

Call The Bulletin Advertising Dept. for more information.
541-385-5809
Advertising deadline: Monday, May 17

The Bulletin | EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY