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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

Updated COVID-19 risk levels in Oregon

Deschutes, Crook counties are back to 'extreme risk'

Restrictions for dining and other indoor activities return Friday

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

Fifteen Oregon counties were put back under the extreme risk category for COVID-19 spread on Tuesday as Gov. Kate Brown sought to stem the latest spike in pandemic infections.

The affected counties account for more than half of the state's 4.3 million population: Baker, Clackamas, Columbia, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk and Wasco.

The new limits will go into effect on Friday.

The extreme risk level shuts down indoor dining, limits crowd sizes, caps entertainment and exercise activities and requires most businesses to close by 11 p.m.

See **Counties** / A4

Coming restrictions bring balancing act to Central Oregon businesses

BY SUZANNE ROIG
The Bulletin

After more than a year of businesses opening and closing, one more month won't make a difference.

That's the view of Derek Sitter, Volcanic Theatre Pub owner.

"May looks shot to me to book any artists," Sitter said. "With all the protocols, it might cost more to open than to remain closed."

With the warmer weather, the governor's Tuesday decision to send Deschutes and Crook counties back to a more restrictive COVID-19 risk category might not be as severe for businesses, but could have an effect on the region's economy, said Damon Runberg, Oregon Employment Department regional economist.

The restrictions take effect Friday. Jefferson County will

remain in the high-risk category.

Fifteen counties are being moved to the more restrictive extreme risk category. The move comes at the same time when vaccine appointments go unfilled at the mass vaccination site at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center.

"I don't anticipate us seeing net job losses due to this shift," Runberg said.

See **Restrictions** / A4

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IN BEND

Village planned as 'first step out of homelessness'

BY KYLE SPURR • The Bulletin

St. Vincent de Paul in Bend is transforming an empty lot behind its food bank on Third Street into a 10-unit village for homeless people in need of a temporary shelter. Each unit will be about 100 square feet with a window, bed, small table and chair, but the structures will offer homeless people a stable location, said Gary Hewitt, Bend's St. Vincent de Paul manager.



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Gary Hewitt, manager at St. Vincent de Paul in Bend, talks Thursday about the plans to build 10-unit village in this lot behind the current facility (seen behind green fence).

"It's meant to be a first step out of homelessness," Hewitt said. "We simply want to help somebody who is unhoused for whatever reason."

The nonprofit social service agency was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to start construction on the homeless village project. The local agency hopes to raise at least another \$150,000 to fully fund the project.

Construction is expected to begin in May, and the 10 units could be completed by the fall, Hewitt said.

A house next to the empty lot will be turned into a resource center for the residents at the village. The center will offer internet access and a space to meet with advocates and get referred to various programs in the region, Hewitt said.

"If you are living in this tiny sleeping unit, you are going to need a place to get online and look for jobs or sign up for Social Security and disability," Hewitt said.

Each resident will stay no longer than 18 to 24 months. The goal is for them to build a rental history and use the time at the village to find permanent housing, Hewitt said.

Hewitt is looking for volunteers to become coaches for the residents and help them navigate some of the hurdles of homelessness, such as finding health care, getting a driver's license and finding employment.

See **Village** / A4

Bend council considers removing parking requirements

City currently requires a minimum number of parking spaces with all new developments

BY BRENN A VISSER
The Bulletin

Getting rid of parking requirements is being considered in Bend, with advocates arguing fewer requirements lead to a more sustainable and affordable future and opponents

arguing no requirements will cause more parking problems in the city.

Bend, like several other cities across the nation, requires a minimum number of parking spaces when a new house, apartment or business is built.

That number can be based on several factors, including square footage or the number of bedrooms in an apartment.

Last week, the Bend City Council showed support to look into removing those parking requirements for new developments citywide. The idea, first proposed by Councilor Melanie Kebler in February, received unanimous support.

The goal of this policy would be to move Bend toward a less car-dependent, more environmentally sustainable future in the long run, Kebler said. It could also encourage denser housing and a better transportation system that can be used by everyone — not just people who can afford a car.

"How are we prioritizing different uses of the land to make space for people? I think that's

what this policy is really about," Kebler said. "How much space do we want to require to be dedicated to cars? And I think that's the conversation we're having."

About a half dozen cities have implemented this policy in full, and hundreds at least in part, in recent years, according to Sightline Institute, a sustainability think tank. The concept of removing parking require-

ments is based on research, largely from UCLA professor Donald Shoup, who argues free off-street parking spots "increase housing costs, subsidize cars, worsen traffic congestion, pollute the air and water, damage the economy, degrade urban design, encourage sprawl, reduce walkability, exclude poor people, and accelerate global warming."

See **Parking** / A13

