

The Bulletin

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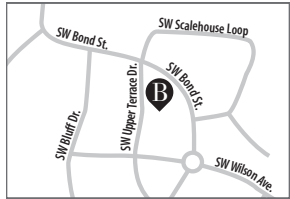
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No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

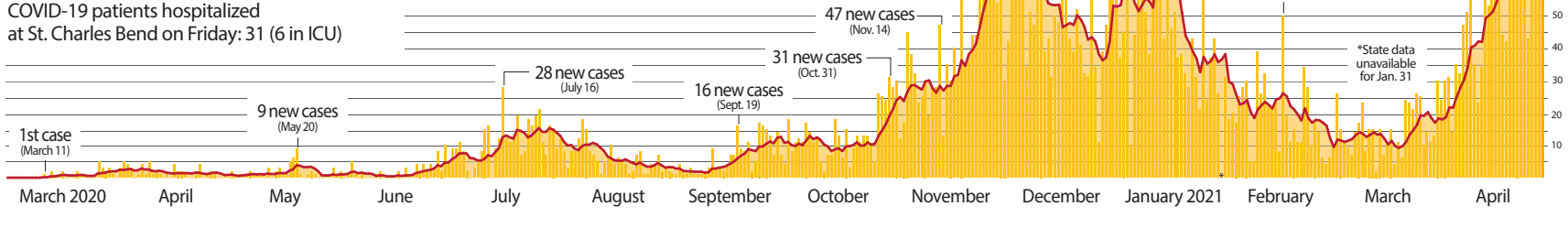
LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

COVID-19 data for Friday, April 30:
Deschutes County cases: 8,029 (81 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 73 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 988 (11 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 20 (1 new death)
Jefferson County cases: 2,130 (12 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 184, 812 (990 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,495 (4 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Friday: 31 (6 in ICU)

What is COVID-19? A disease caused by a coronavirus. Symptoms (including fever and shortness of breath) can be severe, even fatal, though some cases are mild.
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 6 feet from others and wear a face covering or mask. 5. Cover a sneeze with a tissue or cough into your elbow. 6. Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Tom Kogut/USFS

A northern spotted owl in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest of Washington state. The species is at the center of ongoing lawsuits.

U.S. will look to overturn spotted owl habitat rollbacks

BY GEORGE PLAVEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Biden administration announced Thursday it intends to revise or withdraw a Trump-era rule that would roll back 3.4 million acres of federally protected “critical habitat” for the northern spotted owl.

It is the latest twist in the battle over the small, forest-dwelling owl, with environmental and timber interests lobbying lawsuits on both sides.

Days before leaving office in January, Trump’s Interior Department reduced critical habitat for the spotted owl by roughly one-third in Oregon, Washington and California. The rule was supposed to be implemented in March, but was delayed by the new administration until April 30 pending further review. Now, the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service says it will block the rule until Dec. 15 while it prepares a revision or withdrawal.

The northern spotted owl was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1990. Initially, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services set aside 6.9 million acres of critical habitat where the birds nest.

A new management plan for the species in 2012 increased protected habitat to 9.5 million acres. The American Forest Resource Council, a regional timber trade group, led a lawsuit against the expansion, arguing it wrongfully restricted logging in more than 1 million acres of land where the owls do not live.

Nick Smith, resource council spokesman, said the group strongly supports the January 2021 rule “because it provides an opportunity for agencies to address the real threats to the

species,” including large wild-fires and the barred owl.

The American Forest Resource Council and Association of O&C Counties is already suing the government over delaying habitat rollbacks.

The effort to overturn the rule has also drawn condemnation from several Western Republicans, including Oregon Rep. Cliff Bentz.

“It is shameful that the Biden administration would rather kowtow to radical environmental groups than follow the science and the law,” Bentz said in a statement.

Nine environmental groups filed their own lawsuit in March seeking to overturn the Trump administration’s spotted owl rule. Ryan Shannon, staff attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the plaintiffs, described the habitat reduction as “inaccurate, sloppy and illegal.”

COVID-19 outbreak leads to closure of Wallowa High School

Wallowa County Chieftain Wallowa High School closed Thursday after several COVID-19 cases were confirmed at the school, and the superintendent expects it to remain closed for two weeks.

In a Facebook post Thursday morning, Superintendent Tammy Jones said six individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 — two Wednesday night, and four others earlier in the week. In a post Tuesday evening that first outlined the outbreak, the district said that it did not plan to close.

That plan changed Thursday morning.

“We are working closely with our local and state health authority to respond to this news and protect the health of our community,” Jones wrote in the Thursday morning post.

“We are rapidly putting the contact tracing logs together and providing them

to local health officials for contact tracing. Given the timing and the numbers of contacts that local health officials will need to contact, we are immediately

closing our high school.”

The Facebook post Tuesday evening linked the outbreak to a community prom, which the post said was not a school-sponsored activity.

CORVALLIS

Memory care outbreak grows to 15 cases

BY BENNETT HALL

The Albany Democrat-Herald

A COVID-19 outbreak at a Corvallis care facility for dementia patients continues to grow, according to the latest information from the Oregon Health Authority.

As of Sunday, there were 15 cases associated with Willamette Springs Memory Care, according to a weekly update released on Wednesday by OHA. That number was up two from the previous week.

Outbreaks at congregate care facilities can involve residents, staff, members of their households or other close contacts.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, congregate care facilities have accounted for 1,318 COVID-related deaths, more than half the state’s fatalities from the disease, and a total of 14,071 cases.

The area’s largest current workplace outbreak, connected with the Target Distribution Center in Albany, grew by one case to a total of 23, OHA reported in its weekly update.

Workplace outbreaks can include employees of a particular company, members of their households and other close contacts. At present, the two largest workplace outbreaks in Oregon are at state prisons: Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla, with 767 cases, and Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario, which has 633 infections.

To date, 20,811 cases of COVID-19 and 111 deaths from the disease have been connected with workplace outbreaks. OHA does not list COVID-related deaths by specific workplace, saying that information would violate patient privacy.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Police set forum to discuss body cams with the public

The Bend Police Department will host an online public forum to discuss the issue of body cameras Thursday evening.

The Zoom webinar will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. Register at bit.ly/bbcamerazoom.

The event will be livestreamed on YouTube.

The Bend City Council recently approved a \$1 million expenditure to equip all officers with body-worn cameras. At the forum, members of the Bend Police command staff will field questions about the new technology and how it will affect operations, according to Bend Lt. Juli McConkey.

A Spanish-speaking department employee will interpret on a separate channel.

City of Bend offices to close their doors to public

The city of Bend will close its doors again to the public, canceling in-person customer services.

Because of an increase in COVID-19 cases in Deschutes County, several departments, including utility billing, municipal court, the permit center and the police department lobby will be closed for at least three weeks.

The earliest the city offices could open is May 24.

— Bulletin staff reports

Central Oregon’s source for events, arts & entertainment

Pick up Thursday’s Bulletin for weekly event coverage and calendars

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