

The Bulletin

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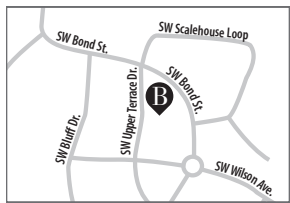
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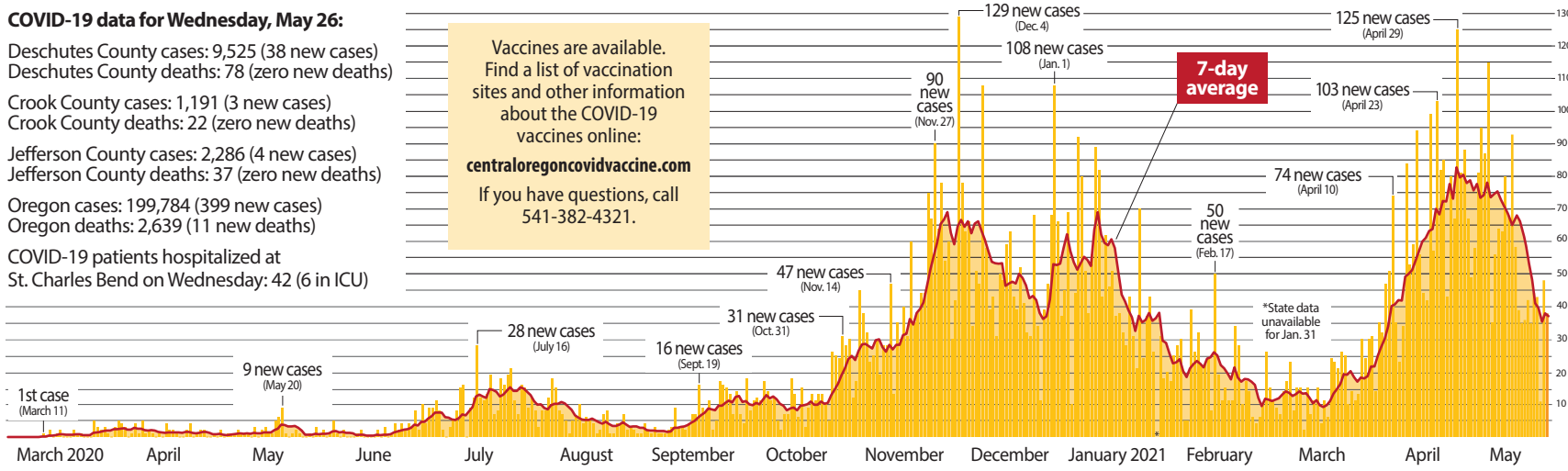
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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



KLAMATH IRRIGATION DISPUTE

Bundy-linked farmers buy land for camp near shut canal

Associated Press
KLAMATH FALLS — Two farmers with ties to anti-government activist Ammon Bundy have purchased land by a shut-off irrigation canal in Oregon that would normally deliver water to a massive federal irrigation project along the California-Oregon border and have set up a protest encampment there.

The move comes after federal regulators shut off all water deliveries from the project's main "A Canal" due to extreme drought and the need to balance the water demands of farmers with threatened and endangered fish species in the Upper Klamath Lake and Klamath River.

The last time water was substantially cut off to farm-

ers, in 2001, demonstrators forced open the canal's head gates three times before federal marshals arrived and stayed all summer. They also held a "bucket brigade" that attracted national media attention and stirred calls by some in the Republican Party for a reexamination of the Endangered Species Act.

The two men who purchased the land near the canal, Dan Nielsen and Grant Knoll, have set up an information center at the site along with local members of the Oregon chapter of People's Rights Network, a group founded by Bundy last year.

The group first organized in Idaho in response to COVID-19 mask rules and other government-mandated

safety regulations and has grown in its scope. Bundy, who was acquitted for his role in a 42-day armed standoff with the U.S. government in 2016 at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Oregon, is also running for Idaho governor in 2022.

Nielsen and Knoll are both landowners who receive irrigation water from the project. Knoll is also a member of the Klamath Irrigation District board of directors, which oversees a majority of Klamath Project land.

Nielsen said he and Knoll decided to buy the property so they have a place to gather where they can't be "run off" by the federal government.

A demonstration is planned for Thursday.

LOCAL BRIEFING



The Bulletin file

A U.S. Forest Service equipment operator checks the blades on a mower attachment hooked to a tractor.

Forest Service plans mowing operations

Hikers, bikers and others in the Deschutes National Forest west of Bend will need to be mindful of heavy equipment operating in the area as the U.S. Forest Service conducts mowing operations.

The mowing will occur on approximately 740 acres of land east of Forest Road 41 from behind the Seventh Mountain Resort property, continuing along areas adjacent to the Deschutes River.

Mowing reduces brush that can ignite the forest canopy in areas where wildfire occurs. Mowed areas help firefighters to contain wildfire and may reduce fire intensity.

The mowing will take place into much of the summer unless fire safety concerns arise, according to a release from the Forest Service.

The Forest Service advises visitors to the area that mowing can result in objects flying from the equipment. Visitors are encouraged to keep distance from mowing equipment to avoid possible injury.

Former Deschutes County man sentenced for abuse

A former Deschutes County resident will serve more than 14 years in prison for sexually abusing a girl.

Daniel Uribe Sanchez, 34, declined to speak at his sentencing hearing Wednesday in Deschutes County Circuit Court. But his victim, now 22, spoke at length and described a young life derailed by often-daily abuse.

"It's not easy to open these

wounds because all these years have been about silence — hiding these scars while smiling," she said. "As you all may know, I was raped when I was a little girl. I felt like I didn't have a voice to speak up for me, all because of the simple fear that no one would believe me."

Judge Alison Emerson thanked the victim for her statement before issuing the sentence. She said Uribe Sanchez's conduct was compounded by the close family connection he shared with the victim.

"Her pain is palpable," she told the defendant. "You can see it in her body language and hear it in her words."

The judge agreed with the conditions of the plea deal negotiated with the state. Upon release from prison, Uribe Sanchez must serve five years post-prison supervision, register as a sex offender and have no contact with the victim or her family.

The criminal case began in October 2019, 10 years after the first charged instance of abuse. Uribe Sanchez was initially charged with 14 felony sex crimes, including several Measure 11 offenses punishable by lengthy automatic prison terms. The maximum penalty he could have received was 25 years in prison.

In April, he pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree sodomy and one of attempted second-degree sodomy.

—Bulletin staff report

Oregon discloses huge surge in wasted COVID-19 vaccines

The Oregonian

More than half of all Oregonians are now at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19. But demand has slowed in recent weeks, and that's apparently playing a role in the growing number of wasted doses reported by state health officials.

On Tuesday, the Oregon Health Authority reported 9,090 vaccine doses have now been wasted, spoiled or expired since December. That's more than double the total disclosed last week, which stood at 4,418, and it's more than quadruple the 1,922 reported three weeks ago.

For context, Oregon through May 4 had reported administering nearly 3.1 million doses of vaccine, meaning just 0.06% of doses had been wasted, spoiled or expired.

But since then, Oregon has reported administering 719,665 doses against 7,168 that have been wasted, according to calculations of state data by The Oregonian.

That means that for every 100 doses recently administered, one dose has been wasted — a far higher rate

than during the first five months of vaccinations.

Tim Heider, a spokesman for OHA, said in an email that wastage "may increase as the vaccine rollout continues." He said that's because vial sizes for some vaccines have increased, those vials may be opened without every dose being used, and more providers, including smaller sites, are now receiving vaccines.

Heider's response matches wording from a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention document written last week, which he did not attribute to the CDC.

"CDC and our partners are doing everything possible to minimize the amount of vaccine that goes unused," the federal document reads.

"We recognize that as we continue to create more opportunities to vaccinate more people, it may increase the likelihood of leaving unused doses in a vial," the CDC document also said. "While we want to continue to follow best practices to use every dose possible, we do not want that to be at the expense of missing an opportunity to vaccinate every eligible per-

son when they are ready to get vaccinated."

OHA began regularly disclosing wasted doses in early April, when only 656 doses had been wasted compared to more than 2 million administered.

"We believe that our health system partners are managing their vaccine responsibly and doing everything that they can to minimize waste," the agency's chief financial officer, Dave Baden, said in an April 7 statement.

"At this point, considering the logistical complexity of operating large-scale vaccination programs, the small amount of wasted vaccine in Oregon is expected and not surprising," he added. "This amount is a small fraction of the more than 2 million doses that have been safely delivered, managed and injected in the arms of Oregonians."

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