

# The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

## Oregon's public defense office out of money

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The head of the state public defense office said his office is out of money with nearly a month to go until new budget funds would be available. Lane Borg, outgoing director of the Oregon Office of Public Defense Services, did not provide a specific amount Tuesday morning while discussing the shortfall during a regular conference call to managers of Oregon public defense providers.

Borg attributed the shortfall in part to the pandemic and said his office, which is responsible for paying attorneys who represent criminal defendants who cannot afford their own attorneys, will soon ask the Legislature for additional money.

"The agency is presently working on a plan to avoid delay of any kind of payment for the vast majority of providers while the rebalance request is pending," Borg wrote in a letter dated Friday. "And we expect to have more information to share with you early next week."

According to several people on Tuesday's call, an expected impact of the shortfall is delayed payment for people providing "downstream" public defense work, such as private investigators, foreign language interpreters, social workers, psychologists and forensic scientists. These professionals, who typically receive payment in 30 to 60 days, could have to wait up to three months for compensation.

Following the call, Jennifer Kimble, administrator of 22nd Circuit Defenders, a legal aid consortium for Crook and Jefferson counties, started writing an email to members, urging them to hold aside some extra money this month.

See **Public defense** / A4

## Nonprofit puts kids to bed

Bend chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace distributes bedding



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

BY SUZANNE ROIG • The Bulletin

Robyn and Bob Mickelsen knew that retirement included helping their community, but not how they wanted to do it.

While visiting friends in Grants Pass, the Mickelsens discovered their calling: Building beds for children of families in need. In January 2020, right before the pandemic began, the couple started a chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit with 250 branches across the United States that uses donations of lumber, mattresses and new bedding to provide a bed for every child.

The nonprofit estimates that, nationwide,

▲ Robyn Mickelsen talks about how to load pieces of a bunk bed into a trailer before heading out with fellow volunteers Tony Wahlberg, from left, Jeff Jones, Rick Scherbert and Bob Mickelsen to deliver beds Friday.

about 3% of the families in any given community don't have a bed for every child.

"We thought it was a great idea and thought about bringing it up here," said Robyn Mickelsen, 68. "We didn't want to sit around, and we wanted to give back to the community."

They started their chapter in January 2020 and built a few beds, but then the pandemic shut them down. They began to accept requests in June the same year and

delivered 105 beds, pillows and blankets to families by year's end.

And their volunteer effort is still going strong.

On Friday, the Mickelsens delivered two bunk beds to Kara Anderson's Redmond apartment. Anderson, who has four kids, saw a post on Facebook of someone else who had received free beds and reached out to the Mickelsens.

See **Nonprofit** / A4

### COVID-19 county risk levels

## Rankings show little change as state nears goal for 65% vaccination rate

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau  
Most Oregonians will see no change this week to local COVID-19 risk level restrictions as 30 counties retained their current tiers, Gov. Kate Brown said Tuesday.

But if nearly 100,000 more residents get vaccinated, the whole system of do's and don'ts would go away.

"If you have been waiting to get vaccinated, go get your shot today," Brown said. "It's

never been easier to get an appointment."

The new weekly COVID-19 risk rankings released Tuesday showed five counties moving down a level, with just one rising.

Deschutes County retains its lower-risk level, while Crook and Jefferson counties remain in the high-risk tier.

Lane, Coos, and Wasco counties dropped to lower risk, the least restrictive category. Yamhill and Josephine counties

will drop to moderate level.

The changes in the five counties will go into effect Wednesday, sooner than in some previous risk-level announcements in prior weeks. Harney was the only county to move into a more restrictive level. It will be at moderate risk effective Friday.

All other counties remain at their current levels until at least Thursday, June 17. There will be 21 counties at the lower-risk level, four at moderate risk and 11 at the high-risk level. The

higher the risk level, the more restrictions meant to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Brown has shifted the emphasis on risk-level assignments to include how well a county is doing in vaccinating residents. Counties that can show they had administered at least one shot to 65% of eligible adult residents are allowed to drop to the lower risk level regardless of infection rates in their county.

See **COVID-19** / A12

## Bend's Skyline magnet school to close and combine with Realms

BY KYLE SPURR

The Bulletin

Skyline High School, a small experimental school in Bend, will close this fall and combine with Realms High School. The two magnet schools opened four years ago and already share a warehouse on Brinson Boulevard.

"We have decided to unify the two schools under one high school at the Brinson campus," said Katie Legace, executive director of high school programs for Bend-La Pine Schools.

The main reason for Skyline's closure was significant staff turnover, with 50% of the teachers, the principal and office manager deciding to leave, according to a recent newsletter from Realms High School. In addition, the newsletter said enrollment was lower than expected next year, with fewer than 25 freshmen confirmed to attend, and there were some questions about how to expand the school in the future.

See **Skyline** / A12

TODAY'S WEATHER Thunderstorm High 58, Low 38 Page A12

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2021 EXHIBITOR & CONTEST Guidebook

## 2021 Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo Exhibitor & Contest Guidebook

The Exhibitor & Contest Guidebook includes all of the rules and regulations pertaining to the fair and details of each of the exhibit categories.

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