

# The Bulletin

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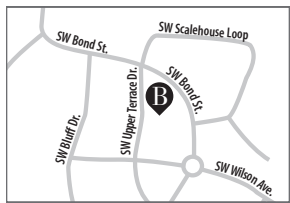
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Phone ..... 541-385-5809  
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

# 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 Tuesday, June 15:

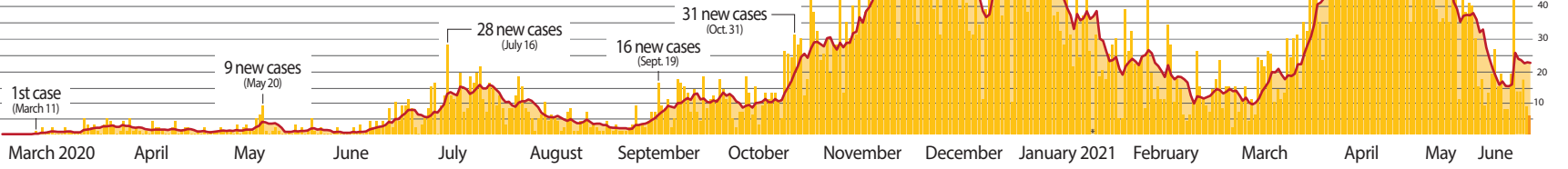
Deschutes County cases: 9,948 (6 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 81 (1 new death)

Crook County cases: 1,280 (4 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 23 (zero new deaths)

Jefferson County cases: 2,357 (2 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 38 (zero new deaths)

Oregon cases: 205,459 (314 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,737 (7 new deaths)

COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Tuesday: 28 (7 in ICU)



Vaccines are available. Find a list of vaccination sites and other information about the COVID-19 vaccines online: [centraloregoncovidvaccine.com](http://centraloregoncovidvaccine.com)  
If you have questions, call 541-382-4321.

# State may ease liability laws for prescribed fire

*Landowners would be more likely to reduce underbrush with lower standards for liability*

### BY SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Monday signed into law House Bill 2571, which could potentially lead to a change in liability standards for prescribed fire.

The new law may help expand the use of prescribed fire in Oregon.

Prescribed fire, also known as prescribed burn, is a fire set intentionally to reduce underbrush, dead trees and other woody material that can fuel small fires, turning them into

catastrophic blazes.

House Bill 2571 directs agencies and forest industry leaders to study liability options for prescribed fires. This is important because landowners nationwide cite liability concerns as one of the top reasons they're reluctant to use prescribed fire.

"Stricter liability standards deter people from doing prescribed burns because they're afraid of getting sued if there's an escape," said Lenya Quinn-Davidson, who directs the Northern California Pre-

scribed Fire Council. "As a burn boss, you take on a lot of personal responsibility."

The U.S. has three main liability standards for prescribed burning: strict liability, which holds a person responsible for harm even if he wasn't negligent; simple negligence, which holds a person responsible if he didn't take reasonable care; and gross negligence, which holds someone responsible only if he showed reckless disregard for safety.

Most states, including Oregon, have simple negligence standards. Eight use a gross negligence standard.

In states with lower liability standards, people conduct

more prescribed burns. Oregon, for example, a simple negligence state, burned only 200,629 acres in 2019, while Florida, a gross negligence state, burned more than 1 million acres the same year.

To provide an incentive for more prescribed burning on private lands, Oregon is exploring shifting from simple to gross negligence.

But the law passed Monday won't automatically change Oregon's liability standard. Instead, it'll open the conversation and prompt a study — first steps.

"It's not 100% clear yet if changing the standard will enable more prescribed fire,

but we do want to have that conversation," said Jenna Knobloch, administrative coordinator at the Oregon Prescribed Fire Council.

The new law directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services to consult with the state Forestry Department, Oregon Forest and Industries Council, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon State University, the Oregon Prescribed Fire Council and a representative of the insurance industry to study liability and insurance coverage options for prescribed fires.

The study's results will be used to craft future prescribed fire policies and incentives.

## LOCAL AND STATE BRIEFING

### Deschutes County Clerk Nancy Blankenship to retire

Nancy Blankenship, Deschutes County clerk, will retire at the end of July after nearly 20 years of service.

"I'm at a point in life where I'm ready to spend time with family and friends," Blankenship said in a written statement. "It's time to start working on the bucket list I've been accumulating over the years."

Blankenship, who oversees the county's elections and property recording records, was appointed in 2003 and has been reelected four times. She previously served for 15 years as the city of Redmond's recorder, according to Deschutes County.

In a written statement, County Administrator Tom Anderson thanked Blankenship for her 18 years of service.

"She has been an incredibly knowledgeable resource for both staff and our community. We thank her for her immense contributions to our organization," Anderson wrote.

The Deschutes County Commission will consider Wednesday appointing Election Supervisor Steve Dennison as the interim county clerk. If he is appointed and wants to continue in the job, Dennison would have to run for office in the fall of 2022.



Bulletin file photo

In this November 2018 file photo, Deschutes County Clerk Nancy Blankenship checks for voter signatures while collecting ballots at the drop-off site in downtown Bend.

lice Department, a swim center employee called 911 around 8:30 p.m. Monday to report a sexual assault in the parking lot.

The alleged victim, 16, told officers a stranger had approached her from behind as she walked to her car.

The girl said he started talking to her and sharing personal information, and tried to hug her, according to police. The girl attempted to push

him away and he allegedly touched the victim inappropriately and kissed her, according to police. In total, Maguire is alleged to have touched the girl four specific times, according to Bend Police Sgt. Wes Murphy.

Police arrested Maguire at a nearby home. He remains an inmate of the Deschutes County jail.

An attack of a sexual nature in daylight in a public place

is exceedingly rare in Bend, Murphy said.

"I can't think of another example of that occurring since I've been a police officer here," said Murphy, who was hired in 2008. "I think Bend is still generally a pretty safe place."

In response to the incident, the Bend Park & Recreation District, which operates the swim facility, will increase security at Juniper Park in the evenings, district executive director Don Horton wrote in a statement to The Bulletin.

"This is an unfortunate incident that does not reflect the typical experience in our parks or recreation facilities," Horton wrote. "All of my thoughts are with the young person who was assaulted last evening."

Maguire has more than 25 prior criminal cases in Oregon, though he's never before been charged with a sex crime.

### Cities, and counties could triple their marijuana tax

Cities and counties in Oregon could more than triple the sales tax they charge on recreational marijuana sold within their borders under a bill scheduled for a vote Wednesday in a Senate committee.

If Senate Bill 864 is signed into law, local governments

would still need local voter approval to increase the tax from its current maximum of 3% up to the 10% allowed by the bill.

According to the Oregon Department of Revenue, 95 cities and 11 counties currently tax recreational marijuana. The local tax is in addition to the 17% tax charged by the state, which would not change under the measure before lawmakers.

One of the bill's biggest supporters is Riley Hill, the mayor of Ontario, which sits on the border with Idaho and which charges a 3% tax on marijuana. Hill said the city racks up more than 1,500 out-of-state marijuana sales each day, leading to congestion on city streets and more demand for city services.

Other support for the tax hike stems from Measure 110, approved by Oregon voters last year. While the initiative decriminalized the possession of small amounts of some types of drugs, including meth and heroin, it also directed some existing marijuana taxes toward expansion of addiction recovery programs.

According to the League of Oregon Cities, the change in the formula will collectively cost cities and counties about \$25 million this year.

— Bulletin staff and wire reports

### Man charged with sexual assault outside Bend pool

A Bend man faces felony charges for allegedly sexually assaulting a teenager outside the Juniper Swim & Fitness Center on Monday night.

John Thomas "Bud" Maguire Jr. was arrested after the alleged assault at the facility on NE Sixth Street.



Maguire

Maguire, 56, was arraigned Tuesday afternoon in Deschutes County Circuit Court on three criminal charges: first-degree sex abuse, third-degree sex abuse and harassment.

According to the Bend Po-

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