

The Bulletin

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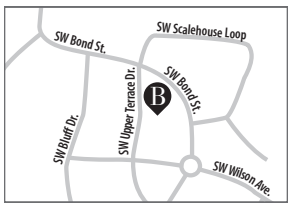
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OUR ADDRESS

Street 320 SW Upper Terrace Drive
Suite 200
Bend, OR 97702
Mailing P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708



ADMINISTRATION

Publisher
Heidi Wright 541-383-0341
Editor
Gerry O'Brien 541-633-2166

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Advertising
Brian Naplachowski 541-383-0370
Circulation/Operations
Jeremy Feldman 541-617-7830
Finance
Anthony Georger 541-383-0324
Human Resources 541-383-0340

TALK TO AN EDITOR

City Julie Johnson 541-383-0367
Business, Features, GO! Magazine
Jody Lawrence-Turner 541-383-0308
Editorials Richard Coe 541-383-0353
News Tim Doran 541-383-0360
Photos 541-383-0366
Sports 541-383-0359

TALK TO A REPORTER

Bend/Deschutes Government
Brenna Visser 541-633-2160
Business
Suzanne Roig 541-633-2117
Calendar 541-383-0304
Crook County 541-617-7829
Deschutes County 541-617-7818
Education 541-617-7854
Fine Arts/Features
David Jasper 541-383-0349
General Assignment
Kyle Spurr 541-617-7820
Health
Suzanne Roig 541-633-2117
Jefferson County 541-617-7829
La Pine 541-383-0367
Public Lands/Environment
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Mailing address P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708
Phone 541-617-7829

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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.
Phone 541-385-5809
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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 Wednesday, June 16:

Deschutes County cases: 9,963 (15 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 81 (zero new deaths)

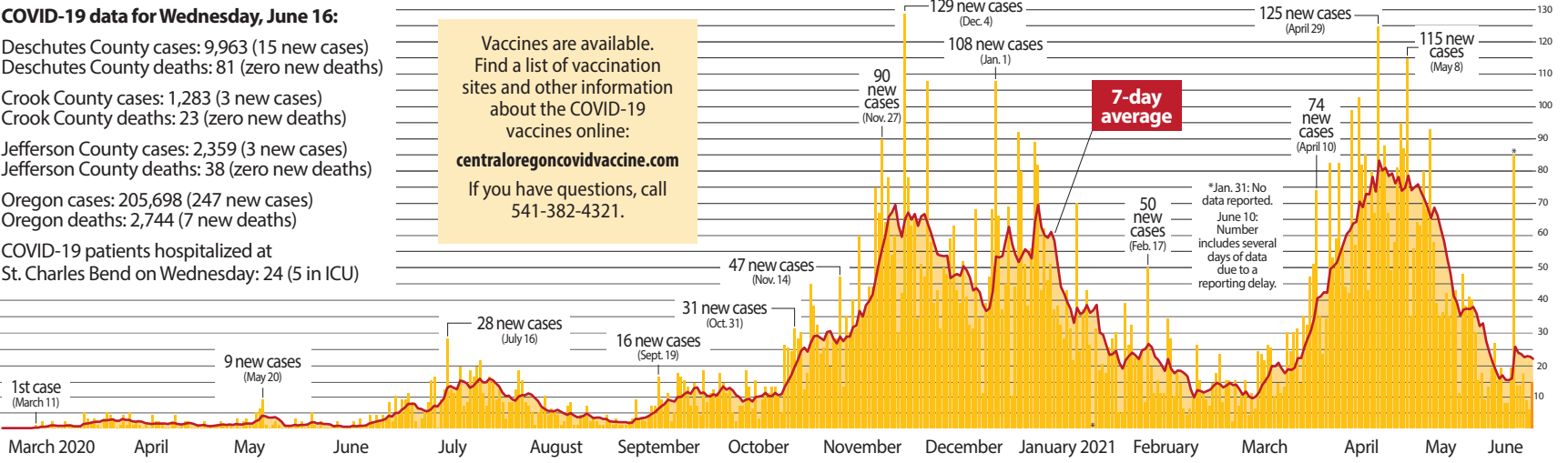
Crook County cases: 1,283 (3 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 23 (zero new deaths)

Jefferson County cases: 2,359 (3 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 38 (zero new deaths)

Oregon cases: 205,698 (247 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,744 (7 new deaths)

COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Wednesday: 24 (5 in ICU)

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



LOCAL & STATE BRIEFING

La Pine man arrested after police chase

A La Pine man was arrested early Wednesday morning after eluding law enforcement officers and fleeing from his vehicle following an attempted traffic stop, according to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

Brackery Lester, 27, was driving a red Honda Civic on Burgess Road near Meadow Lane in La Pine when a sheriff's deputy attempted to pull him over for driving without tail lights about 11:43 p.m.

Lester refused to pull over and led the deputy west on Burgess Road, then north on Forest Road 4330, according to the sheriff's office.

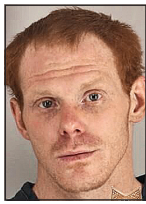
Lester continued on the forest road for about 1½ miles before stopping and running from his car.

Additional deputies and officers from Bend and Sunriver police departments responded and made a perimeter. Bend Police used a drone and police dog to track Lester.

Shortly after 1 a.m., the drone operator notified officers that Lester appeared to be hiding under a log. The police dog and officer then found Lester about a half a mile away from his car.

Lester was arrested and booked into the Deschutes County jail on charges of attempting to elude, driving while suspended and a parole violation.

Lester has a lengthy criminal history of drug possession and sexual assault. He was previously convicted of reckless driving after eluding police in May 2020.



Lester

residents do to limit the impact of smoke. The survey is open until July 5 and takes less than five minutes to complete. Find the survey in English or Spanish at www.centraloregonfire.org.

Central Oregon Fire Info encourages residents to sign up for text alerts that contain information on this areas active fires. To get the alerts, text COFIRE to 888-777.

COCC to require COVID-19 vaccines for residence hall, some programs

Starting in the fall term, which begins Sept. 20, Central Oregon Community College will require all Wickiup Residence Hall students to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Vaccinations will also be required for students and faculty under specific disciplines and programs.

These programs include, but are not limited to, dental assisting, early childhood education, emergency medical technician, massage therapy, medical assisting, nursing, nursing assistant, paramedicine, pharmacy technician and veterinary technician.

Per Oregon state law, individuals will be able to request an exemption. Students living at Wickiup Hall who are not vaccinated due to the exemption will be required to take a weekly COVID test.

The college is encouraging all other students to get vaccinated and is offering incentives to students who get a COVID-19 shot. Incentives are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Governor signs human composting bill

Gov. Kate Brown has signed a bill passed by the Legislature legalizing human composting. She signed House Bill 2574 on Tuesday, which will legalize what's also known as natural organic reduction. It also clarifies rules surrounding alkaline hydrolysis, known as aqua cremation. The law goes into effect July 1, 2022.

Rep. Pam Marsh, who co-sponsored the bill with Rep. Brian Clem, said the state plans to have its rules in place for natural organic reduction facilities by 2022.

The practice was first legalized in Washington state in 2020.

— Bulletin staff and wire reports

Central Oregon Fire Info seeks input

Central Oregon Fire Info, a multiagency source of information on wildfire, prescribed burns and smoke, is seeking the public's help to improve its service.

The website, run by a group of agencies including the U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, is asking the public to fill out an online survey to help guide its communication efforts.

The survey includes questions on how residents get information on fire activity, and what

Juneteenth becoming federal, state holiday

BY KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States will soon have a new federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the nation.

The House voted 415-14 Wednesday to make Juneteenth, or June 19, the 12th federal holiday. The bill now goes to President Joe Biden's desk to be signed into law.

Juneteenth commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. Confederate soldiers surrendered in April 1865, but word didn't reach the last enslaved Black people until June 19, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to Galveston, Texas. That was also about 2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in the Southern states.

It's the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was created in 1983.

"Our federal holidays are purposely few in number and recognize the most important milestones," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y. "I cannot think of a more important milestone to commemorate than the end of slavery in the United States."

The Senate passed the bill a day earlier under a unanimous consent agreement that expedites the process for considering legislation. The vast majority of states recognize Juneteenth as a holiday or have an official observance of the day, and

most states hold celebrations. Juneteenth is a paid holiday for state employees in Texas, New York, Virginia and Washington. It was made a state holiday in Oregon this year, after passing the Oregon Senate earlier this month and being signed by the governor Friday.

The federal holiday will be known as Juneteenth National Independence Day.

Rep. Clay Higgins, R-La., said he would vote for the bill and he supported the establishment of a federal holiday, but he was upset that the name of the holiday included the word independence rather than emancipation. "Why would the Democrats want to politicize this by co-opting the name of our sacred holiday of Independence Day?" Higgins said.

Hornet found in 2nd Washington county

BY DON JENKINS

Capital Press

An Asian giant hornet has been found in Snohomish County, Washington, south of where it was previously detected. It is apparently a separate introduction of the dangerous wasp to the U.S., state and federal officials said Wednesday.

A person reported finding the dead hornet near Marysville, about 35 miles north of Seattle, to the state Department of Agriculture on June 4. The department picked up the dried-out, male specimen on June 8.

Entomologists with the state and U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed the specimen was an Asian giant hornet on June 11. The find wasn't announced by the government until nearly a week later.

DNA testing and the color of the hornet suggest it was unrelated to specimens found in Whatcom County and British Columbia to the north in 2019 and 2020, entomologists said.

Given the time of year and the hornet's sex, entomologists believe the specimen was from last year and wasn't discovered until now, according to the state agriculture department. Male hornets usually don't begin emerging until July.

"This new report continues to underscore how important public reporting is for all suspected invasive species, but especially Asian giant hornet," state agriculture department entomologist Sven Spichiger



Karla Salp/WSDA

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has reported that an Asian giant hornet was found in Snohomish County, about 35 miles north of Seattle. The world's largest wasps, they are destructive to honeybee colonies and can even kill a human, though it's rare.

said in a statement. "We'll now be setting traps in the area and encouraging citizen scientists to trap in Snohomish and King counties. None of this would have happened without an alert resident taking the time to snap a photo and submit a report," he said.

Asian giant hornets, the world's largest wasps, attack honeybees and other pollinators. The Washington state agriculture department found and eradicated one nest last year in Whatcom County.

The nest was more than 70 miles north of Marysville. The state agriculture department said there was no obvious way for hornets in Whatcom County to reach Snohomish County, skipping over Skagit County.

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