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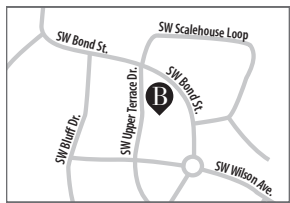
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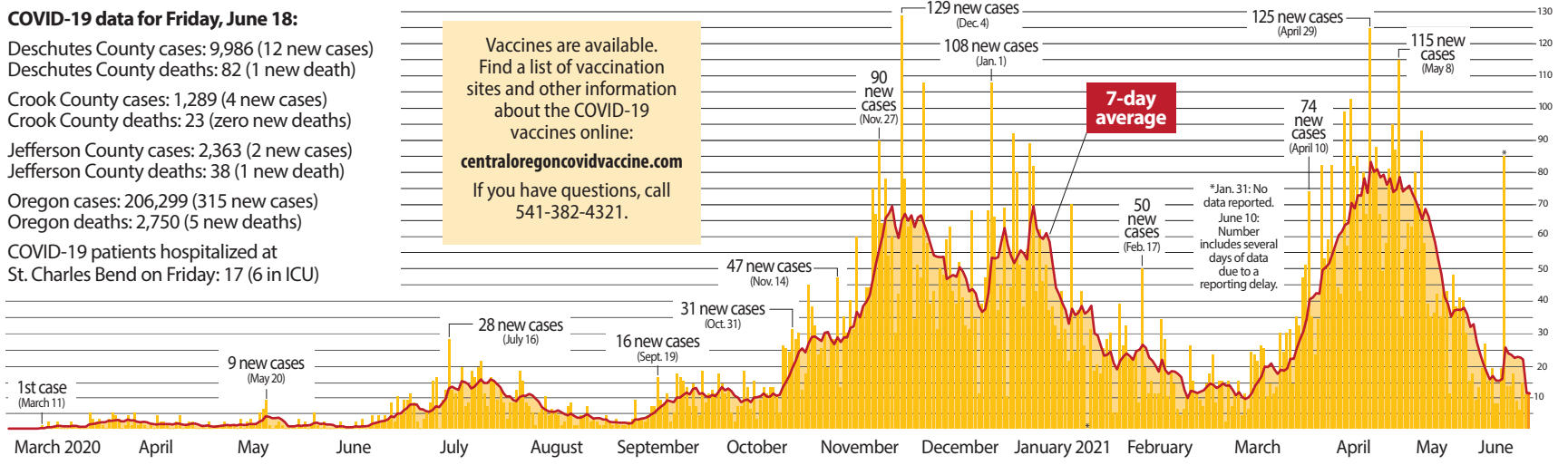
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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



PORTLAND

Anti-vaccine pediatrician agrees to license restrictions

BY DOUGLAS PERRY

The Oregonian
Portland pediatrician Paul Norman Thomas has agreed to significant restrictions on his medical practice that prevents him from discussing vaccinations with patients, according to an “interim order” issued June 3 by the Oregon Medical Board.

The board had suspended

Thomas’ license in December, saying he had failed to adequately vaccinate patients and had repeatedly misled patients about vaccinations. It cited a case where a nonimmunized 6-year-old boy contracted tetanus, requiring a harrowing two-month stay at Oregon Health & Science University Hospital.

Such severe tetanus cases are

extremely rare because there’s a vaccine to prevent the bacterial disease.

The medical board stated that Thomas had published an “alternative vaccination schedule” that “fraudulently asserts that following his vaccine schedule will prevent or decrease the incidence of autism and other developmental disorders.”

This schedule, the board wrote, exposed children to “multiple potentially debilitating and life-threatening illnesses.”

The medical board this month withdrew Thomas’ license suspension, replacing it with the interim order as it continues its investigation. The board said Thomas will “voluntarily limit his prac-

lice to acute care; refrain from engaging in consultations or directing clinic staff with respect to vaccination protocols questions, issues or recommendations; and refrain from performing any research involving patient care pending the completion of the Board’s investigation into his ability to safely and competently practice medicine.”



Oregon State University

The U.S. Senate confirmed Rick Spinrad, a professor at Oregon State University, as head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on June 17.

OSU professor named head of U.S. agency

BY JASON SAMENOW AND JULIET EILPERIN

The Washington Post
WASHINGTON — The Senate confirmed on Thursday a professor of oceanography at Oregon State University as the next leader of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Rick Spinrad nominated on April 24 by President Joe Biden, becomes the 11th administrator in the agency’s history.

“I am thrilled to be back and am ready to hit the ground running,” Spinrad said in a NOAA news release. “I am humbled to lead NOAA’s exceptional workforce on a mission so relevant to the daily lives of people across America and to the future health of our planet. And I will ensure that trust and scientific integrity will continue to be the foundation for all of our work.”

The NOAA release lists Spinrad’s top three priorities as he takes the helm at the agency: 1) developing products and services to support climate change work inside the agency and with its federal and nonfederal partners, 2) building programs and policies that enhance environmental sustainability and foster economic development and 3) creating a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

Spinrad, who was confirmed Thursday, becomes the agency’s first Senate-confirmed administrator since Kathryn Sullivan, who served under President Barack Obama into 2017.

Spinrad, served as chief scientist at NOAA under Obama

“I am thrilled to be back and am ready to hit the ground running. I am humbled to lead NOAA’s exceptional workforce on a mission so relevant to the daily lives of people across America and to the future health of our planet. And I will ensure that trust and scientific integrity will continue to be the foundation for all of our work.”

— Rick Spinrad, the next leader of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

and before that led the agency’s research arm and ocean service. He has also held ocean leadership positions in the Navy.

Named on Earth Day to lead the agency, Spinrad has been a champion of funding research to advance the understanding of climate change, a top priority of the Biden White House.

The agency, whose budget has stagnated for the past decade, has a diverse, complex and demanding portfolio. It oversees the National Weather Service, conducts and funds weather and climate research, and operates a constellation of weather satellites as well as a climate data center. It also has responsibilities in monitoring and protecting the nation’s coasts, oceans and fisheries.

Leading an organization the size of NOAA, with about 11,000 employees, will be a first for Spinrad, as will be overseeing a budget of around \$5 billion, which may swell to \$6.9 billion if Biden’s request to increase spending is approved by Congress.

Spinrad will face numerous challenges that include improving the agency’s flagship weather prediction system, which lags behind its coun-

terparts in Europe, launching a new generation of weather satellites, and upgrading the National Weather Service’s aging and declining information technology infrastructure.

His work also probably will involve addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, marine litter and ocean plastics, the health of corals, and keeping fisheries sustainable, while advancing the nation’s “blue economy” of goods and services the oceans provide to coastal communities.

LOCAL & STATE BRIEFING

Police seek help ID’ing suspect in burglaries

Police agencies in Central Oregon are asking for the public’s assistance in identifying the person involved in multiple burglaries to businesses in Sisters and Redmond.

The Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office and the Redmond Police Department sent a release to media Friday morning.

The burglaries took place overnight between June 17 and 18.

Deschutes County to form hemp panel

The Deschutes County Planning Commission is forming a panel to discuss the county’s hemp industry, following a request from rural residents.

The panel will feature representatives from the Deschutes County Farm Bureau, Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Water Resources Department and hemp farmers who will share their expertise related to hemp production, processing and land use.

The panel will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Deschutes Services Center, located at 1300 NW Wall St. in Bend. The public is invited to attend in-person or virtually. Instructions for virtual participation will be posted online at www.deschutes.org/meetings in the Planning Commission meeting agenda for June 24.

The panel plans to discuss a variety of topics, including the hemp growing seasons, seasonal variations of hemp production, why hemp production can be controversial, how hemp production differs from other farm crops and if there are any legal issues with hemp production.

— Bulletin staff reports



A surveillance photo shows the person wanted by Central Oregon law enforcement agencies.

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