

# The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

## With hot days ahead, reinforcements arrive



A crew from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue unloads gear Tuesday at the Super 8 Hotel in Redmond. Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

## District managers assess irrigation season

Wickiup Reservoir water level at 22%, one-third of normal

BY MICHAEL KOHN  
The Bulletin

Mike Britton has seen his fair share of irrigation seasons. He has been in charge of North Unit Irrigation District since 2008, guiding water use on farms in Jefferson County, Central Oregon's most productive farmland. But this year has been particularly challenging.

As of Monday, Wickiup Reservoir, which holds most of North Unit's stored water, was just 22% full. In a normal year, the reservoir would contain three times the current amount of water.

That matters because when the reservoir reaches extremely low levels, which is expected to happen by mid-August, water may not be available for farmers to irrigate their crops until the end of the season. It leaves crops vulnerable and puts livelihoods on the line.

"We are doing the best we can with the supplies we have. Granted it's not a good year by any means," said Britton, who is retiring in March. "I have been doing this for 20 years and this is the most difficult year I have experienced so far, so that tells you how bad things really are."

See Irrigation / A4

## Fire risk prompts officials to move extra firefighters to Central Oregon

BY MICHAEL KOHN • The Bulletin

High fire risk in Central Oregon prompted the Office of State Fire Marshal to send fire crews and vehicles to the High Desert to serve as a backup in case wildfires flare up this week. Two task forces from Washington and Marion counties will be based in Redmond for 72 hours, starting Tuesday morning.

The backup includes eight fire engines, two water tenders, two command vehicles and 28 firefighters. Roger Johnson, fire

chief for Sisters-Camp Sherman, said the reinforcements will help take pressure off local crews if fires grow in size.

"Our goal regionally and statewide is to respond with as much force as we can, as quickly as we can and keep fires as small as possible," said Johnson. "So this is part of that effort to pre-position resources in areas that are experiencing higher risk due to the weather that we have and the fuel conditions."

See Fire / A13

"We are anticipating record temperatures, 100 degrees plus over the weekend, so obviously it's concerning for us based on our fuel conditions."

— Christie Shaw,  
Oregon Department of  
Forestry spokesperson

## Brothers get 2 years for motel hammer attack

BY GARRETT ANDREWS  
The Bulletin

A pair of local brothers will head to prison for 2½ years for robbing and attacking their drug dealer with a hammer in a Bend motel.

Damon Cole Hall, 22, and Levi Austin Hall, 27, were sentenced Tuesday in Deschutes County Circuit Court for the April 23 attack.

Around 7:30 p.m. the brothers used a room key to enter Room 113 of the Motel 6 on NE Third Street. They had arranged a swap of methamphetamine for heroin with the 21-year-old man staying inside, according to prosecutor Matthew Nelson.

Levi Hall, who had been introduced to heroin only four months prior to the incident, was armed with a hammer, according to his lawyer, TJ Spear.

See Brothers / A4

## Brown issues final COVID-19 county risk levels

BY GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday announced what she said would be the last adjustments in the state's county COVID-19 infection risk levels.

Brown said she was confident the state would soon reach her benchmark of 70% of eligible adults statewide who have been given

at least one shot of vaccine. At that point, Brown has said she would lift nearly all COVID-19 health, safety, business and event restrictions.

"Fewer than 45,000 more Oregonians need to receive a first dose to achieve a 70% statewide adult vaccination rate," Brown said.

The Oregon Health Authority on Tuesday reported

that as of noon, about 68.7% of eligible adults had received one shot of vaccine. Another 41,094 vaccinations were needed to reach the goal.

Demand for vaccination has dropped sharply in recent weeks, with fewer than 5,000 new vaccinations per day recently. At the peak of demand in April, the state surpassed 50,000 vaccinations on its busiest days.

Brown had originally said in early May that she thought the goal could be reached by mid-June. The forecast slid to June 21, then June 25. At current rates, the number will be reached around July 1. But any additional slowing could push that date further away.

In the latest — and officially last — risk level report, several counties moved lower

in risk ratings.

Jefferson, Klamath and Marion counties moved from high risk to moderate risk in the level ratings issued Tuesday. The new ratings go into effect Friday.

Six counties remain in the high-risk level, currently the state's most restrictive: Columbia, Crook, Douglas, Linn, Malheur and Umatilla.

See COVID-19 / A13

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly sunny  
High 86, Low 57  
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