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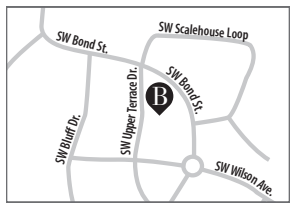
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

COVID-19 data for Thursday, Aug. 12

Deschutes County cases: 11,398 (108 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 88 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 1,529 (10 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 26 (zero new deaths)

Jefferson County cases: 2,604 (20 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 42 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 236,698 (2,387 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,928 (9 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Thursday: 36 (8 in ICU)

The Bulletin had been tracking the seven-day average case count based on state data since local coronavirus cases were first reported in March of last year. Starting with the July Fourth weekend, the state stopped providing county-level data for weekends or holidays. When data is available, The Bulletin will continue to publish information about the pandemic.

LOCAL BRIEFING

High temps and smoke in Central Oregon could last through the weekend

Hot weather and smoky skies have settled on Central Oregon, and it could get worse before it gets better.

Temperatures reached triple digits across Central Oregon on Thursday, and air quality was listed as "unhealthy" in Bend and La Pine and "unhealthy for sensitive groups" in Sisters and Redmond by the Department of Environmental Quality in the morning and afternoon.

According to Joe Solomon, meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Pendleton, high temperatures and poor air quality will likely last through the weekend.

Temperatures are expected to dip down into the 80s next week, and westerly winds should blow the smoke away.

"High heat is not directly correlated to air quality," Solomon said. "High pressure causes heat and high winds that then blow smoke into Central Oregon, where it usually settles. And high heat usually correlates with increased fire activity, leading to lower air quality."

According to Deschutes National Forest spokesperson Jean Nelson-Dean, the ongoing heat wave could increase fire activity substantially.

"We expect thunderstorms and lightning on Friday, leading to the worst possible combination of high temperatures drying things out, lightning and then gusty winds," Nelson-Dean said. "We anticipate

new fire starts and growth on fires already in place."

Smoke in Central Oregon on Thursday morning blew over from the other side of the Cascade Mountain Range, where many small fires are currently burning, according to Department of Environmental Quality spokesperson Peter Brewer.

With minimal fire activity, smoke should lighten up early next week as temperatures cool, Brewer said, but air quality will likely remain poor until then.

Redmond man held for allegedly detonating a bomb in a city street

Redmond police are investigating a man they say detonated a homemade bomb in a city street early Thursday and who may have more explosive

devices at his home in the 3300 block of SW Juniper Avenue.

Police said at midday they told area neighbors to stay inside their homes

during the initial search by the Oregon State Police bomb squad and Redmond officers.

Patrol officers said they heard an explosion early Thursday morning on the west side of Redmond, Lt. Curtis Chambers said in a press release.

"Responding officers located a male adult near the intersection of SW Highland Avenue

and SW 35th Street, Redmond, with a fire starter, and black soot on his body and clothing," Chambers said.

Officers arrested Andrew McLaughlin, 30, of Redmond, who is alleged to have "detonated a homemade destructive device at the intersection in front of an oncoming vehicle, and near the Bonneville Power Station," Chambers said.

McLaughlin is being held at the Deschutes County jail for investigation of unlawful possession of a destructive device, unlawful manufacture of destructive device, unlawful use of a weapon, and recklessly endangering another person, Chambers said.

Chambers told The Bulletin later that officers were finished searching the home but would say what was found inside.

Bend-La Pine Schools hosts bus safety event

Students and their families at Bend-La Pine Schools are invited to ride a school bus and learn about bus safety during a Winnie the Pooh School Bus Safety program at the transportation department's bus center.

Families can participate in one-hour sessions at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Aug. 19- Aug. 20.

Students will learn how to cross the street safely, line up to wait for the bus and proper behavior while riding the bus.

For more information on the program, call 541-355-5702. A Spanish-speaking staffer will be available during all sessions.

—Bulletin staff reports

Prosecutors want weapons banned for Capitol riot suspect

BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

The Oregonian

Federal prosecutors on Tuesday asked a judge to ban a Battle Ground, Washington, man suspected of storming the U.S. Capitol in January from having firearms or other weapons after he was spotted at a pair of Portland demonstrations over the weekend.

Acting U.S. Attorney Chaning Phillips requested that District Judge Randolph Moss no longer allow Jeffrey Grace to possess firearms, weapons or destructive devices after Grace was seen in photos carrying weapons and confronting left-wing counterprotesters at Portland religious gatherings over the weekend.

Phillips suggested in court documents that the modification to Grace's pretrial release conditions is necessary "in light of Grace's escalating behavior and his willingness to bring his firearm and other weapons to engage in pre-planned conflicts."

Grace was one of several people contracted as security for Artur Pawlowski, a pastor who has publicly expressed anti-LGBT and anti-mask views, who was speaking downtown Saturday.

Videos and photos from the event show Grace appearing to carry a gun and a baton. Some photos also captured Grace confronting or shoving people during the event, court documents said.

Photos taken Sunday also

showed Grace carrying a baton and a can of chemical spray.

Grace, a member of the right-wing extremist group the Proud Boys, was arrested Jan. 28 and charged with entering the U.S. Capitol earlier that month. In April, he received four additional misdemeanor charges, including one for disorderly conduct in a Capitol building.

Grace initially denied to authorities that his son, Jeremy Grace, was with him at the Capitol, but investigators later found videos on the elder Grace's phone of the two men in the Capitol Rotunda and outside the building.

Grace was released after his initial arrest, and a judge ordered that he should not possess any illegal firearms.

STATE BRIEFING

Oregon lawmakers start the redistricting process

Oregon lawmakers are starting the once-a-decade process of redrawing electoral maps that will determine how voters pick state representatives, state senators and members of Congress for the next five election cycles.

In a normal redistricting year, the weekslong task would

already be underway, if not completed. But the coronavirus pandemic caused delays in the release of U.S. Census Bureau data required to draw new maps. The redistricting data, culled from the 2020 census, was released Thursday — four months later than expected.

The redistricting numbers that states use for redrawing congressional and legislative

districts show where white, Asian, Black and Hispanic communities grew over the past decade. They also show which areas have gotten older or younger and the number of people living in dorms, prisons and nursing homes.

An earlier set of data released in April provided state population counts.

—Associated Press

Newberg school board votes to ban Black Lives Matter and pride flags

Members of Oregon Legislature condemn school board action

Associated Press

NEWBERG — The school board in Newberg has voted to ban pride flags, flags reading Black Lives Matter and any broadly "political" signs, clothing and other items.

The school board voted Tuesday, four to three, to enact the ban, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported. The board's three-member policy committee is set to outline what constitutes "political."

The action goes against recent state efforts to highlight support for students, including the Oregon Department of Education's Black Lives Matter October 2020 resolution and recent efforts to help LGBTQ+ students.

Supporters of the flags said they made students feel seen and help students who are being bullied, while supporters of the ban said the signs were "divisive," and that signs don't make people feel safe.

Discussion and votes on drafting "replacement language" on the district's new anti-racism policy and rescinding the district's "Every Student Belongs" policy, was moved to the district's next board meeting. If the board votes to roll back "Every Student Belongs," the district would be in violation of state standards.

According to board Secre-

tary Jenn Nelson, there were over 90 public comments, of which 31 were heard, and board Chair Dave Brown said the board received over 500 emails ahead of the meeting.

In the weeks since the board's last meeting, some state lawmakers have asked members of the school board to rethink their actions.

On Thursday, the Oregon Legislature's Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BI-POC) caucus condemned the board's action, saying the caucus is watching closely and will consider all Legislative avenues to protect students, promote student success and economic opportunity.

"We want to recognize Newberg School Board Directors (Ines) Peña, (Brandy) Penner, and (Rebecca) Piro for their leadership and commitment on behalf of all students and the communities they serve, with the call to delay the vote until all public comment could be heard. Rushing through these decisions to restrict the symbols educators can display in classrooms weeks before the school year begins is divisive and wrong."

Joshua Reid, a Newberg school counselor, said the district's 16 counselors signed a letter asking the board to vote "no" on Tuesday's agenda items.

Newberg Superintendent Joe Morelock said he won't be able to enforce the ban as is until it's reviewed by the district's lawyers.

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