

# The Bulletin

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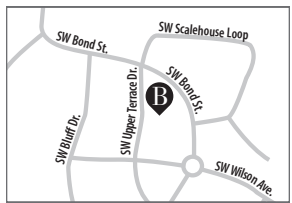
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# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

## COVID-19 data for Wednesday, Oct. 20

**Deschutes County cases:** 20,066 (111 new cases)  
**Deschutes County deaths:** 125 (zero new deaths)  
**Crook County cases:** 2,835 (17 new cases)  
**Crook County deaths:** 46 (zero new deaths)

**Jefferson County cases:** 3,707 (30 new cases)  
**Jefferson County deaths:** 52 (zero new deaths)  
**Oregon cases:** 354,681 (1,343 new cases)  
**Oregon deaths:** 4,235 (9 new deaths)  
**COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Monday:** 76 (17 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.

# Study: 270 Native students died at Oregon boarding schools

BY DILLON MULLAN  
Oregon Capital Bureau

A new database sheds light on the dark history of federal boarding schools for Native American students in Oregon.

Pacific University archivist and associate professor Eva Guggemos and volunteer historian SuAnn Reddick collaborated to document at least 270 students who died in custody at boarding schools in Forest Grove and Salem between 1880 and 1945. Their new website, published Oct. 11, on Indigenous Peoples' Day and hosted by Pacific University, includes names and burial locations, a timeline of the schools and a bibliography with a spreadsheet of detailed notes on each student, who came from a wide range of tribes and nations.

"Sometimes they would write on the school roster and annotate it and say they died on this date. Other times it wasn't so simple and there would be no official school record at all of some students," Guggemos said. "Some information was only in contemporary newspaper articles. There were hospital records, cemetery records, occasional bits from letters and diaries."

The school first opened as the Forest Grove Indian Industrial Training School in 1880, then moved to its current location as the Chemawa Indian School in Salem in 1885.

Guggemos started looking through school rosters shortly after arriving in Forest Grove in 2011, and she and Reddick sourced the National Archives & Records in Seattle along with Pacific University and state library archives. According to the research, four years after the founding of the school in Forest Grove in 1884, about 175 students were present on campus from Puyallup, Warm Springs, Alaska, Chehalis, Spokane, Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakima, Sound and Grand Ronde reservations or villages.

Reddick started researching the school's history in the 1990s.



Students stand in front of the Chemawa Indian School in 1905.

Eva Guggemos/Submitted

"Back in the day when I was initiating this research I went to the Oregon State Library and spent many hours scrolling through these terrible microfilm machines taking those little sheets of film, laying them on a plate and printing them," Reddick said. "I had a friend who was a page. We took this rickety old elevator down into the stacks and would look for books. Sometimes you just go fishing."

Across the American West, federal boarding schools like Chemawa took children as young as 6 away from their families and aimed to eradicate their native culture by punishing them for speaking their own languages or practicing their own traditions. The most common causes of death found by Guggemos and Reddick were infectious diseases like tuberculosis, meningitis or influenza. The researchers traced around 175 students at the Chemawa School Cemetery and two students at

Forest View Cemetery in Forest Grove.

In June, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a "comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies."

While the researchers found 270 deaths of indigenous students in Oregon, they also found around 40 remains were never returned home. The locations of around 50 students are still unaccounted for.

Reddick said she hopes the database can help family members and historians with their own research.

"This is only the beginning for many people who may want to find missing family members. These are aunts and uncles who didn't have children who people might still be searching for," Reddick said. "Our hope is that we will be contacted by families and tribes who recognize the names."

# Environmental groups sue over post-wildfire tree removal

BY GEORGE PLAVEN  
Capital Press

Three environmental groups are suing the Umpqua National Forest in southwest Oregon seeking to block a roadside logging project removing dead and burned trees from the massive Archie Creek Fire in 2020.

North Umpqua District Ranger Sherri Chambers signed off on the Archie Creek Fire Roadside Danger Tree Project on Aug. 18, logging approximately 2,642 acres of fire-damaged trees along 65 miles of Forest Service roads. In her decision memorandum, Chambers said the project is critically important for public safety along the routes, which provide access for fire-fighting and recreation.

"Although I am aware there are tradeoffs associated with this and every action, I believe I have an obligation to prioritize the health and safety of employees, partners, stakeholders, and the public who will be working, visiting, and recreating in the area accessed by these roads and road segments," Chambers wrote.

Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild and Umpqua Watersheds filed a lawsuit on Thursday asking a federal judge to halt the project, arguing it was approved without the necessary review under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Nick Cady, legal director for Cascadia Wildlands, said the Forest Service is disguising commercial logging as safety-driven hazard tree removal. "The vast majority of this logging is simply not necessary for public safety reasons," Cady said. "If the Forest Service were to take the time to analyze on the ground where logging was needed, this project would be much smaller in scale and non-controversial."

Conservationists have also challenged post-fire logging along 404 miles of roads in Oregon's Willamette National Forest, where the Beachie Creek, Lionshead and Holiday Farm fires wreaked devastation in 2020.

Under NEPA, the Forest Service is normally required to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts of its management actions.

However, the Umpqua National Forest approved the Archie Creek Fire project as a "categorical exclusion," allowing it to sidestep the review process, according to the lawsuit.

A categorical exclusion as defined by NEPA may issued if the agency's actions "do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment."

While Chambers acknowledged potential environmental impacts — including the presence of threatened and environmental species, such

as the northern spotted owl — she determined there were no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant conducting a full environmental impact statement.

"My conclusion is that it is possible and appropriate to reduce roadside danger trees and associated fuels on these 65 miles of forest roads while still maintaining current and future habitat function on the landscape," Chambers wrote in her decision memo.

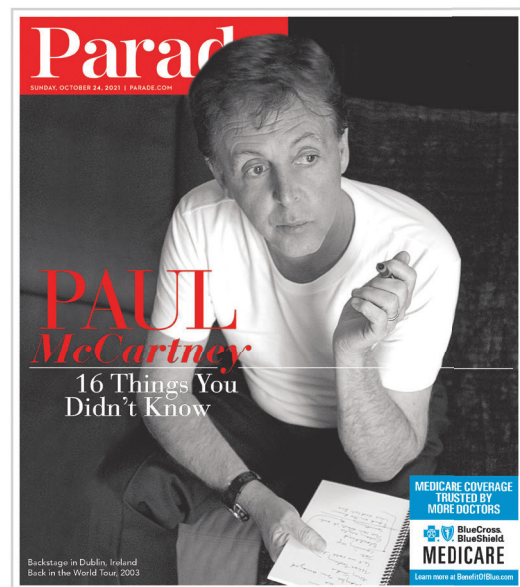
The lawsuit says logging would negatively impact old-growth forest, riparian areas

and critical spotted owl habitat within the project area, which should require additional review and public comment.

It also states that most trees targeted for cutting pose no immediate public danger since the identified roads are not maintained for passenger cars, and receive little traffic.

The Forest Service had planned to implement the project immediately, though the plaintiffs are asking for a preliminary injunction and to remand the decision back to the Forest Service for additional NEPA review.

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