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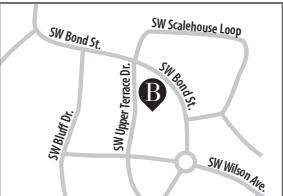
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

2022 May Primary Election

Republican governor's forum in Bend to air Thursday night

Bulletin staff report

The Bulletin and Central Oregon Daily News are hosting a political forum in Bend with the top four Republican gubernatorial candidates Thursday.

The four of 19 Republican candidates were selected for the forum as they met several strict criteria regarding their campaigning and fundraising efforts.

The four are: Christine Drazan, Stan Pulliam, Bud Pierce and Bob Tiernan.

The recorded forum will air at 7 p.m.

on CBS (KBNZ) in Bend. It will post online at approximately the same time at bendbulletin.com and at centraloregondaily.com.

The remaining Republican candidates have been asked to participate in an online forum Thursday, April 28, which also will be posted on the websites of The Bulletin and CO Daily.

"Due to the large field of primary candidates, it became clear that to host a live debate with all the candidates

would be nearly impossible and a bit chaotic," said Bulletin Editor Gerry O'Brien. "Instead, we chose to partner with CO Daily, Pamplin Media Group and KOIN-TV in Portland to establish criteria for the top fundraisers and front-runners from a recent poll and host two forums with the top four candidates and a secondary, online forum with the remaining ones." The second forum will be held in Portland and hosted by Pamplin and KOIN-TV.

21 Oregon wolves killed last year by poison, cars, wildlife officials

Deaths have slowed the growth of state wolf population

Associated Press

PORTLAND — The growth of Oregon's wolf population slowed significantly last year because 21 animals were poisoned by poachers, hit by cars or were killed by wildlife officials after they attacked livestock, state wildlife authorities said Wednesday.

The 2021 census counted 175 wolves, up just two animals from the previous year, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said. The number of documented packs decreased to 21 from 22 after eight wolves in Eastern Oregon were illegally poisoned, wiping out an entire pack. The number of breeding pairs of wolves was down to 16, from 17 in 2020.

It was the slowest rate of wolf growth since 2016, although agency officials did add that wolves expanded their range into four new areas of activity in rural areas in Jefferson, Klamath, Grant and Union counties.

The count only captures wolves observed through visual observations, tracks and remote camera photographs and the actual number of wolves in Oregon is higher, officials stressed. Just 13% of



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife via AP, file

This photo taken in August 2019 by a trail camera shows a wolf pack that had at least four pups in the Umpqua National Forest. State officials said Wednesday that the growth of Oregon's wolf population slowed last year because 21 wolves were killed.

the wolves in Oregon are in the western part of the state.

The number of wolf attacks on livestock was up in 2021, including 49 confirmed incidents last year versus 31 in 2020, the department said.

Wildlife officials said they killed eight members of the Lookout Mountain Pack because the animals chronically attacked nearby livestock.

A conservation group, Cascadia Wildlands, said Wednesday the high number of wolf deaths at the hands of humans was unacceptable.

"Oregon's wolf population simply cannot sustain such high levels of human-caused wolf mortality," said Nick Cady, Cascadia Wildlands' legal director. "The state needs to both seriously prosecute poachers and stop killing wolves to subsidize commercial livestock operations."

Wolves once ranged most of the U.S. But they were wiped out in most places by the 1930s under government-sponsored poisoning and trapping campaigns.

More than 2,000 wolves occupy six states in the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest after the animals from Canada were

reintroduced in Idaho and Yellowstone National Park starting in 1995.

However, wolves remain absent across most of their historical range. Wildlife advocates argue that continued protections are needed so they can continue to expand in California, Colorado, Oregon and other states.

Wolves in Oregon no longer have state protection and were without federal Endangered Species Act protection for 2021 after the Trump administration removed those protections. In February, federal protection was restored to wolves in the western two-thirds of the state.

COVID-19 community levels for Central Oregon counties

The Bulletin is no longer publishing COVID-19 daily case counts by county.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention monitors community levels of COVID-19 to help communities

decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

The CDC listed the following levels

for Central Oregon:

Deschutes County: Low
Crook County: Low
Jefferson County: Low

Precautions the CDC recommends for communities with low levels: Stay up to date on vaccines and get tested if you have symptoms.

Tuesday is deadline to register with major party

BETSY HAMMOND
The Oregonian

Oregon makes it easy to vote – fill out your ballot at home, then pop it in the mail, no stamp needed.

But Oregon voters don't get a say in which Democratic or Republican candidates get nominated for governor, Congress or the Legislature unless they're a registered member of one of those parties. And right now, a huge chunk of Oregon voters – about 41%, or nearly 1.3 million – are not. About 34% of registered voters are Democrats, and 24% are Republicans. Registering without a party affiliation has become much more common since Oregon adopted automatic voter registration tied to getting or renewing an Oregon driver's license or state ID.

You might be among the 1.3 million who are not registered with a major party – and it's easy to check. Simply go to oregonvotes.gov/myvote. Enter your first and last names and birthday and you'll see whether your registration is current and which party, if any, you belong to.

Many unaffiliated voters are perfectly content with that status. They get to vote in the May 17 primary for state labor commissioner, county commissioners, city council members and other nonpartisan positions, such as auditor.

But elections officials say the top complaint about perceived election unfairness in spring primaries comes from voters who are certain they registered as members of the Republican or Democratic parties and are outraged someone changed their registration and took away their ability to vote for or against a major party candidate.

State and county elections officials looked into many such complaints in 2020 and found no cases where a voter's party registration was changed by anyone but the voter.

The upshot: If you want to vote for or against Tina Kotek, Bud Pierce or any other Republican or Democrat next month, you should act now. <http://oregonvotes.gov/myvote> and consider changing your party registration if you're not satisfied with the current one. All you need to switch your party membership online is your birthdate and Oregon driver license or state ID number to verify your identity. But you must do it by Tuesday's deadline to affect which ballot you'll receive later this month.

RUG CLEANING & REPAIR

Atiyeh Bros. PICK UP & DELIVERY

PDX BEND

We'll be in the Bend area May 5th & 6th to pick up your rugs, clean them in our state-of-the-art facility and deliver them back to your home. If you are ready for a new rug, our experts will assist you in the perfect selection for your home.

For more information visit atiyehbros.com/Bend

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WE'RE ALL EARS

Take our brief online survey and you could win a \$100 Old Mill District gift card!

Your answers will help us learn about our community's concerns so we can better serve your needs.

BendBulletin.us/survey

The Bulletin

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY