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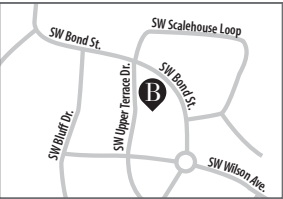
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

BEND AND THROUGHOUT OREGON

Temperatures reach triple digits

BY CLAIRE RUSH AND GILLIAN FLACCUS • Associated Press/Report for America

Temperatures at Bend Municipal Airport hit 104 degrees Thursday afternoon, at least the third straight day the airport recorded temperatures above 100 degrees, according to preliminary data from the National Weather Service.

The weather service xtended its excessive heat warning in Central and Eastern Oregon by another day — through 11 p.m. Sunday.

High temperatures could remain above 100 degrees until Sunday, when the weather service predicts it will only reach 99 degrees.

Heat wave duration records could be broken in the Pacific Northwest this week, and authorities in Portland are expanding capacity at some cooling centers as temperatures near triple digits and are forecast to extend into the weekend.

“For the next several days through Saturday, we’re going to be within a few degrees of 100 every day,” said Colby Neuman, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Portland.

Temperatures in Oregon’s largest city are forecast to soar to 101 degrees again on Friday. On Tuesday, Portland set a daily record, 102 degrees.

Seattle on Tuesday also reported a new record daily high of 94 degrees.

In the Portland area, three people are suspected to have died from heat-related illnesses since Monday, Multnomah County officials said in a statement Thursday.

The county medical examiner is investigating the deaths but did not provide additional details. The first death occurred Monday, and county



Craig Mitchell/dyer/AP

Jesse Moore cools off in the Salmon Street Springs fountain in Portland on Tuesday. The National Weather Service has extended its excessive heat warning another day for Central and Eastern Oregon. It now continues until 11 p.m. Sunday.

officials said the investigation could take “several weeks to months.” The next two deaths happened Wednesday and Thursday.

Officials have not identified the people who died.

Two additional people died this week after they were presumed to have drowned, including a man pulled out of Henry Hagg Lake while swim-

ming with his family on Tuesday and another man who was pulled from the Sandy River near Oxbow Regional Park on Wednesday. Officials have not identified either man.

Multnomah County officials continue to increase services to help people survive the heat, including increasing the capacity of overnight cooling shelters and keeping them

open through at least Saturday morning.

The county previously planned to keep cooling shelters open through Friday morning, but said on Thursday that it plans to keep services available “as long as forecasts indicate they are necessary.”

About 170 people stayed overnight at Portland’s four

cooling shelters, which can now accommodate nearly 300 people. A daytime cooling center will also stay open at least through Friday in northwest Portland’s Old Town neighborhood.

The city of Portland is operating six misting stations at public parks, along with four 24-hour water filling stations. Three county libraries have extended their hours until 9 p.m. to offer heat relief into the evening, and TriMet will not ask for fares from those seeking rides to cooling centers.

Heat-related 911 calls in Portland have tripled in recent days, from an estimated eight calls on Sunday to 28 calls on Tuesday, said Dan Douthit, a spokesperson for the city’s Bureau of Emergency Management. Most calls involved a medical response, Douthit added.

Multnomah County said more people have been visiting emergency departments for heat-related symptoms.

Emergency department visits “have remained elevated since Sunday,” the county said in a statement. “In the past three days, hospitals have treated 13 people for heat illness, when they would normally expect to see two or three.”

LOCAL BRIEFING

Redmond Police seek assistance to identify hit-and-run suspect

Redmond Police are seeking the public’s help to identify a suspect in a hit-and-run crash that occurred Wednesday afternoon.

Police responded to the crash at 2:54 p.m. in the parking area of the Redmond Skate Park, the department said in a news release Thursday.

Witnesses told police they saw a Jeep Grand Cherokee collide with a black 2003 Chevrolet Silverado occupied by two juveniles. While there were no injuries reported, the Jeep Grand Cherokee was damaged on the rear bumper, but left without exchanging information.

The driver was described as a white man in his 30s, medium build with a shaved head and wearing a black tank top. Anyone who witnessed or has information on the incident is encouraged to call the police department’s nonemergency dispatch number at 541-693-6911.

Prineville Hotshots respond to Crescent Ranger District fire

Ten smokejumpers and firefighters from the Prineville Interagency Hotshots are responding to an approximately 4-acre fire on the Crescent Ranger District.

The fire, located 3 miles north of the Mount Thielsen Wilderness, is burning in heavy fuels and timber, the U.S. Forest Service said in a Facebook post on Thursday.

Crews will use a helicopter, taking water from Crescent Lake, as part of firefighting efforts, the post added. Anyone in the area is advised to use caution.

The Prineville Interagency Hotshot Crew is a 20-person wildland firefighting crew hosted by the Ochoco Na-



Anna Kaminiski/The Bulletin

Jefferson County Fire & Emergency Services put out a fire Thursday at High Desert Golf Cars near Madras.

tional Forest and based in Prineville. Hotshots are highly trained firefighters who respond to high-priority fires across the country.

Fire destroys Madras golf cart company

MADRAS — A fire at a golf-cart rental company undergoing a heavy remodel destroyed the building Thursday afternoon and threatened neighboring businesses and homes.

Around 2:45 p.m. Thursday, Jefferson County Fire & Emergency Services received calls from neighbors of High Desert Golf Cars reporting a major fire in the two-story structure.

The same business caught fire in June. Fire Chief Jeff Blake said the owners had just left the site around 15 minutes before the building caught fire.

“We were able to make a good attack, and we were able to catch it before it got to anyone,” Blake said.

The fire was contained around 3:30 p.m., but a cause has not yet been determined.

The Madras Police Department evacuated a mobile home park located near the construction site.

With the temperature above 100 degrees, neighbors doused their lawns with garden hoses to keep the flames away.

Mike Brandenburg, who works next door at Gray’s Automotive, was working outside in the afternoon.

He went inside for several minutes and when he returned, the neighboring business was fully engulfed in flames.

“It was intense,” he said. “It burned down pretty fast. I had a hose, trying to keep it from jumping into our yard.”

Because of high temperatures, grass behind the site caught fire. Personnel with the Bureau of Land Management were on scene to prevent further spread.

Central Oregon counties drop to medium levels of COVID spread

COVID-19 community spread dropped in several Oregon counties including those in Central Oregon, where Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties all returned to medium levels, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC on Thursday ranked 11 Oregon counties at high levels of community spread, 20 at medium and five at low.

A week ago, the agency listed 19 at high — including Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties — 16 at medium and one at low.

The CDC monitors 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 agency listed the following levels for Central Oregon:

Deschutes County: Medium
Crook County: Medium
Jefferson County: Medium

Precautions the CDC recommends for communities with medium levels:

- If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your health care provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions.
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

— Bulletin staff reports

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Art
BEND • OREGON

PUBLIC NOTICE

We invite you to comment on sculptures proposed for two roundabouts:

Powers & Brookwood Roundabout Downtown Library July 25 - August 1 601 Wall Street	Empire/Butler Market 27th St. Roundabout Larkspur Community Center July 25 - August 1 1600 SE Reed Market
Larkspur Community Center August 2 - August 9 1600 SE Reed Market	Downtown Library August 2 - August 9 601 Wall Street

The design renderings will be on display for one week at each location.

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