



Second Quarter 2021
(April, May June)
Issues and Programs
Compiler: Sam Scholl

April 1: Volunteer Central Oregon's 9th Annual Board Fair Wednesday April 14 4-6pm on Zoom
More than 35 Central Oregon Nonprofits are looking for board members. Meet with the organizations for this free on-line event. Info: www.volunteercentralorgon.org/need

April 5: Wonder Wednesdays at High Desert Museum - \$5 admission. Every Wednesday through the 2021 school year. Sponsored by Mid Oregon Credit Union. Students, parents & caregivers with pre-kindergarten to 12th grade children get in for \$5. INFO: www.highdesertmuseum.org

April 7: COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Oregonians 16 and older starting April 19th. Oregon Governor Kate Brown says the state will also continue work to make sure the vaccine is distributed to people of color. The Governor says the virus is spreading fast in many communities, and says it's important to get Oregonians vaccinated as quickly as possible.

April 9: Community colleges in the state are in the throes of accepting applications for the fall, and the initiative known as "Oregon goes to college" is teaming up with potential students to host a "spring into action" effort from April 19th through the end of the month. The goal of the initiative is to help students make a plan to continue their education in the fall - especially students with financial needs - and the colleges will be offering virtual activities to help students explore their options. In Oregon, state education officials say 14 percent fewer students have submitted FAFSA forms to obtain financial aid this year than in the past

April 12: Pronghorn Resort in Bend is growing, and is now hiring to fill jobs in multiple departments. You can secure an in-person interview appointment on their website that they've set up a by department throughout this month. You can also apply directly online. Jobs are open in Food and Beverage, Guest Services, Banquets, their Spa and Golf Shop, Landscaping, Housekeeping, Facilities, and Shuttle Driving.

April 14: Group facilities at some state parks in Oregon will be opening up to reservations tomorrow for stays beginning on May first and beyond. You can see the list of them on the Oregon State Parks website. Group size limits will be reduced temporarily to 25 visitors for each open area, down from the normal 50 to 200 visitor limit to help prevent the spread of Covid. The group facilities are reopening after being closed for more than a year in the wake of revenue shortfalls and reduced staffing levels tied to the pandemic.

April 16: Bend Park and Rec is opening registration for summer recreation programs this Tuesday, April 20th. You can register beginning at 8 am, and you can see their program offerings online which include summer camp, childcare, art, swimming, and sports. Their summer programs run from mid-June into September and include activities for both youths and adults. Bend Park and Rec will be adhering to safety protocols in light of Covid, so expect some capacity adjustments.

April 19: Beginning today (Monday), anyone 16 years of age or older in Oregon is eligible to get a Covid vaccination. You can pre-register online at "central Oregon covid vaccine dot com". After

you pre-register, you'll get an email and a text with a link to schedule your vaccine appointment when a dose becomes available for you. Jefferson County Public Health is hosting a free vaccine clinic today (Monday) for anyone 18 or older in Madras from 9 to 4.

April 21: Starting today fuel specialists with the Deschutes National Forest will be conducting a prescribed burn 7 miles south of Sisters near Black Pine Spring Campground. They'll be underburning about 290 acres beginning at 9:30 this morning. The burn will continue on Friday. Smoke could be heavy in the area around Sisters and you might experience some traffic slowdowns at Three Creeks Road. Today (Wednesday) and tomorrow (Thursday) prescribed burns will also be conducted five miles east of La Pine involving about 600 acres along the north side of Finley Butte Road. Those ignitions will begin around 10 am, and may also involve traffic delays on Finley Butte Road.

April 23: Parents of students entering Kindergarten in the Bend-La Pine School District this fall have an early opportunity to see the elementary school and do a virtual meet and greet with their student's Kindergarten teacher between now and the end of the month. Elementary Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction Julie Walker says it's called Kindergarten Kickoff. The schedule for each virtual elementary school Kindergarten Kick-off event can be found on the district website. Online Kindergarten registration for Bend-La Pine schools started this week

April 27: The City of Redmond is holding a free drive-thru distribution events to hand out safety supplies on Thursday (April 29). Supplies being distributed include masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, thermometers, gloves, wipes, and face shields. The event's being held in the rear parking lot of City Hall on 9th Street in Redmond on Thursday from 10 am to 12:30 pm. It's part of the "Redmond Rallies" COVID response effort created over a year ago that has brought the city together with local partners to help centralize pandemic information and resources.

April 30: Sisters Middle School and Sisters High School in Deschutes County have returned to distance learning because of confirmed cases of Covid within their student body. This follows the same action taken by Culver High School in Jefferson County this week amidst a rise in Covid cases. Both school districts are working on contact tracing with their county health officials.

May 3: Today and tomorrow a prescribed burn was supposed to be conducted on forest land and private land southeast of Bend - but weather condition are forcing a one day delay. Windy conditions are in the forecast for today, so the burn is now expected to begin tomorrow. Fuel Specialists with the Deschutes National Forest will underburn 252 acres. Ignitions will begin at 9 am tomorrow, weather permitting, and may extend into Wednesday.

May 6: The Oregon Hunters Association is offering a ten thousand dollar reward for information leading to the arrest of whoever was responsible for poaching three elk west of Bend. Oregon Fish and Wildlife officials say the animals were poached at the end of last October at the beginning of the East Central Cascade elk season. The carcasses were found in the Dry Canyon area, east of Sisters. Investigators say all three animals had been shot at roughly the same time and on the same day based on their decomposition, and say one of the animals had been beheaded for a trophy.

May 11: NeighborImpact in Central Oregon will be receiving \$800 thousand dollars for its food bank warehouse expansion. Oregon State Representative Jack Zika is dedicating the money from

discretionary federal Covid relief funds. NeighborImpact's food bank serves the three Central Oregon counties, as well as the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. NeighborImpact is now in the midst of a capital campaign to raise \$5 million dollars for the warehouse expansion, which will expand its current space by 64 hundred square feet. With this donation, the food bank will have secured just over a million dollars.

May 14: The Central Oregon District of the state department of forestry is declaring the official start of fire season tomorrow (Saturday). It's the earliest declaration of fire season in the district in more than forty years. Limited rain has led to unusually dry conditions, especially in Prineville and The Dalles which fire officials say are the areas most at risk of wildfire ignition and spread.

May 18: The Oregon Senate has passed a bill that will extend the moratorium on residential foreclosures through July 1st of this year. The bill also allows the Governor to extend the moratorium for 90-day increments through the end of the year. The bill passed the Senate on a party line vote and moves to the House for concurrence before going to the Governor.

May 19: WorkSource in Redmond is hosting a drive through hiring event on Saturday with construction and manufacturing companies in Central Oregon. They have field positions, office positions, and administrative positions open. The event is being held from 11 am to 1 pm in the parking lot WorkSource shares with Central Oregon Community College on southeast College Loop in Redmond. Bring copies of your resume - you'll have about 2 minutes to present yourself to each employer.

May 24: Starting today, the city of Bend will begin a limited reopening of some of the city's public facilities for in-person services. Safety protocols will be in place, including physical distancing limits. The city is asking residents to conduct business by phone, if possible. The Permit Center at City Hall will be open from 9 to 4 to address general questions from the public to minimize the number of people moving throughout the building.

May 27: Redmond's gearing up for the summer. Tomorrow's (Friday) the day the city fires up its water spray in Centennial Park for the summer from noon to 6. The city of Redmond is joining forces with Redmond Parks & Rec to operate the kiosk at the park, which will sell snacks and sunscreen during the summer. All of the water fountains in the city's parks are expected to be operating by Memorial Day.

June 1: We can expect an earlier than normal fire season this year - and because of the extremely dry conditions, Jean Nelson-Dean with the Deschutes National Forest says it'll start this month instead of next and will be more intense sooner than August or September. She says lightening could spark wildfires even more easily than last year in the dry brush. Some safety tips she's passing on - douse your campfire three or four times with water to be sure it's completely out, don't park on dry grass to prevent the heat in your undercarriage from igniting dry brush, and make sure your trailer chains aren't dragging on the roadway to prevent sparks.

June 4: Deschutes County D-A John Hummel will be launching a new pilot program next month to provide first time young adult offenders the chance to redirect their lives onto a more positive path. It's called the "Emerging Adult Program" and officially kicks off July first. It's aimed at 18 to 24 year olds, offering them the opportunity to accept responsibility for their actions and

providing them with the resources and action steps to change the course of their life. The D-A's office is looking for volunteers from the community to serve as trained restorative justice facilitators to help create a personalized intervention plan for the young offenders. To find out more, you can register on the county website for an informational webinar this Monday at noon.

June 9: For the second year in a row, Governor Brown has declared a drought emergency for all three counties in Central Oregon. The orders direct the state Department of Agriculture to help to secure federal monies and resources to assist in agricultural recovery in Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook counties through the rest of the year. Drought declarations have also just been declared in four other Oregon counties. These seven add to the eight counties in the state where the Governor has previously issued drought declarations.

June 11: Six school sites in Central Oregon will be offering up thousands of free meals to students this summer. The "Grab N' Go" brown bag breakfast and lunch meals will be offered from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm Monday thru Friday from June 21st through August 20th, with the exception of July 5th during the holiday weekend. Any student 18 or younger can get the meals and parents can pick them up. The schools taking part are Bend Senior High, Elk Meadow Elementary, Mountain View High, Silver Rail Elementary, Westside Village, and La Pine High. Additionally, school meals will be free throughout the coming school year for students at all Bend-La Pine Schools with no applications or income requirements.

June 15: This Saturday June 19th a one day collection event is being held in Sisters through the Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste. It will be held from 9 to 1 at the Sisters Recycle Center on Sisters Park Drive. Residents can drop off hazardous waste products including lawn and gardening materials, pool and spa chemicals, paint, cleaning solutions, motor oil, used batteries and lightbulbs, and small propane tanks. This is a residential event only – no commercial products will be accepted.

June 18: The Oregon Employment Department is phasing requirements back in that were relaxed during the pandemic for anyone collecting unemployment benefits. Department Director David Gerstenfeld says that includes being registered with the iMatch Skills program. Anyone who isn't registered will lose their benefits. Anyone collecting will also have to start showing proof they're looking for work.

June 21: Bend city officials are assuring residents that the city of Bend's drinking water is safe amidst the chlorine shortage throughout the west. The shortage was caused by an equipment failure at a chlorine manufacturing facility in Washington that supplies chlorine to the west coast. City officials say Bend has dual water sources that are chlorinated – surface water and groundwater – that use chlorine gas and chlorine solution as a disinfectant, along with the city's wastewater treatment plant. Bend officials are currently working with other water utilities and state officials to acquire additional supplies of chlorine that the city may need, since the city's current supplies will only last into August. We're all being asked to conserve.

June 23: NeighborImpact is offering a helping hand for residents of Central Oregon who are struggling to pay their energy bills. NeighborImpact's Energy Assistance Program has secured additional funding to help residents of Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook counties with their electric, natural gas, propane, and oil bills in the form of a lump sum payout as long as your

income falls at or below sixty percent of the state median income level to qualify for the aid. You can apply online at neighborimpact.org.

June 25: Shepherd's House has teamed up with First Presbyterian Church of Bend to provide a cooling shelter during the upcoming expected heatwave for those experiencing homelessness. With temps expected to crest 100 degrees for most of the weekend and into next week, the cooling shelter will be a place of refuge for the vulnerable population in Bend. The shelter on 2nd street run by Shepherd's House will open Monday through Friday from noon until 5 pm. First Presbyterian Church will open the next two Saturdays and Sundays from noon until 5 pm. They also have a critical need for bottled water. Anyone wishing to donate water can drop that off at the Shepherd's House Bend Shelter from noon until 5 pm only.

June 29: Oregon won't reach a 70-percent vaccination rate by June 30th. Governor Kate Brown says the pandemic restrictions will still be dropped tomorrow even if the 70-percent vaccination rate isn't reached. Officials say 19-thousand-147 vaccinations are needed to reach the goal, but the state only added 27-hundred new vaccinations yesterday.

June 30: The excessive heat warning has been extended until 8:00 Sunday night, with dangerously hot conditions expected between now and then and temps expected to remain in the triple digits. The homeless are in an especially dire situation, and homeless advocates in Bend say the two homeless residents of the city who died over the weekend at a homeless camp on Hunnell Road succumbed to the extreme heat. Assistant City Manager Jon Skidmore says the declaration of a local state of emergency in Bend this week because of the excessive heat will help to prevent future tragedies like that by minimizing the usual protocols the city has to take before acting. Bend police have not confirmed the two weekend deaths were heat-related.