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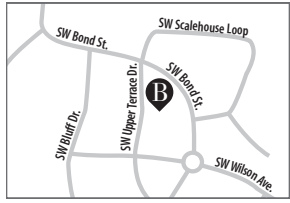
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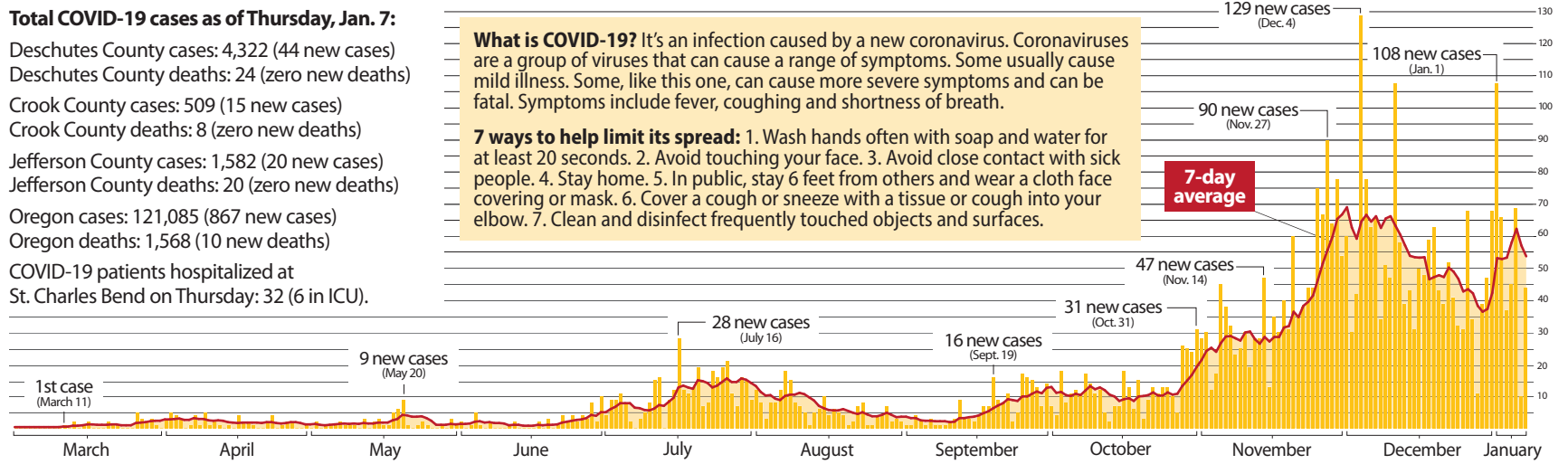
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC



Sisters schools to reopen later this month

BY JACKSON HOGAN

The Bulletin Secondary students in the Sisters School District will return to classrooms for the first time since March in a hybrid style, starting Jan. 25.

The two youngest grades at Sisters Middle School and Sisters High School will return first, according to a letter Superintendent Curt Scholl sent to families Wednesday morning. Seventh, eighth, 11th and 12th graders will wait an extra week, returning to in-person classes on Feb. 1, he wrote.

The Sisters Elementary students, comprising grades K-4, will return to in-person classes Monday after learning online this week. They were the only public school in the district, and Deschutes County as a whole, to be open for in-person learning this fall.

Two days before Christmas, Gov. Kate Brown ceded control of school reopenings to local school districts after setting strict reopening standards for months during the pandemic.

There are two main reasons for splitting the middle and high schoolers' return in half, Scholl told The Bulletin on Wednesday.

One reason is that fifth and ninth graders have never attended regular in-person classes at the middle and high school, respectively.

"We figured we could transition and get them back earlier before the other students arrive," Scholl said. Only having half of the schools' students back during the first week of in-person learning will help staff work out any kinks with



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin file

In this December 2020 file photo, students at Sisters Elementary School walk apart, guided by pictures of horseshoes on the floor.

COVID-19 distancing and mask-wearing rules, Scholl said.

"It gives those buildings a chance to test the protocol with less kids," Scholl said. "If we get

a bottleneck (in the hallway) somewhere, we can see it with a couple hundred kids, rather than 400."

All K-12 students will return in a hybrid fashion. That means

from Monday through Thursday, half the students will be in classrooms, and the other half will learn online from home. All students will learn online Fridays, giving teachers a day to prepare simultaneous work for students working at home and in-person, Scholl said.

The district chose the hybrid model in order to maintain 6 square feet of distance between each student, as is mandated by the state, Scholl said.

Scholl expressed excitement about having staff and students return to classrooms for the first time in months.

"It'll have benefits for everybody," he said. "Reestablishing relationships, being in-person, that's the best way to do this work."

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Redmond couple sentenced for sexual relationship with teen

Morses asked girl to become 'second wife'

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin A Redmond couple was sentenced for sexually abusing a teenage girl whom they tried to add to their marriage.

Zachary Andrew Morse and Jessette Nicole Morse pled a 15-year-old girl with alcohol and abused her numerous times in 2016. He was 29 at the time, and his wife was 21.

"What you did to me was wrong," the victim, now 19, said in a statement read aloud Thursday at Zach Morse's sentencing in Deschutes County Circuit Court, where he was sentenced to three years and eight months in prison. "The relationship was rough and confusing. The manipulation was constant."

The Morses met the girl through their church and soon began a sexual relationship with her, said prosecutor Rosalie Beaumont.

"The couple frequently provided the girl with alcohol and marijuana and would have sex with her while she was intoxicated," Beaumont said.

After the girl moved with her family out of state, the couple sent her a ring and asked her to

be a "second wife." Zach Morse told the girl he wanted her to have his child, Beaumont said.

The girl handed over the ring and a card to police, and detectives soon learned that in 2015 Zach Morse had supplied alcohol to a different 15-year-old girl and had sex with her.

Morse pleaded guilty to first-degree sexual abuse, second-degree sexual abuse, sodomy and furnishing alcohol to a minor.

"This is a pattern of predatory behavior," Beaumont said. "From our perspective, it doesn't seem like he has any remorse or sympathy for his victims."

The couple is raising four young children.

Jessette Morse was sentenced Dec. 8. For pleading guilty to two counts of second-degree sexual abuse, one of sodomy and one of furnishing alcohol to a minor, Jessette Morse received 30 days jail and three years probation.

Zach Morse's attorney, Valerie Wright, noted the wide difference in court.

"Jessette received a short amount of time, and that was great. We were in support of that. We wanted you to know that," Wright told the judge.

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Salem-Keizer board member criticized for violating state rules with maskless party

BY RACHEL ALEXANDER

Salem Reporter SALEM — A Salem-Keizer School Board director is facing criticism after attending a maskless New Year's party with about a dozen friends.

Jesse Lippold posted photos on his Instagram page over the weekend showing him, his girlfriend and other friends at a party.

Gov. Kate Brown and public health officials have frowned upon these types of gatherings and said that holding them would delay the reopening of schools and local businesses.

Since November, social gatherings of more than six peo-

ple who do not live together have been prohibited in Marion County under the state's COVID-19 restrictions.

Lippold's post described the event as a "modern speak-easy" and said the group didn't social distance but "were still less packed than every mall, Walmart or Costco."

Screenshots of the post have been shared by Salem parents and teachers on Facebook, with many criticizing Lippold's choice to ignore state rules.

Health officials in Marion County and at Oregon Health Authority have said for months that informal social gatherings are a driver of the virus' spread.

"It's unacceptable that a public schools official is doing this while the rest of us are desperately abiding by rules in an effort to try and get our kids an opportunity to attend school," wrote Stephanie Koski, a parent with an eighth grader in the district and who has advocated for school reopening.

"While so many cry out for leadership, this isn't it. Our kids are literally suffering, our community is hurting, and businesses are closing. You have officially lost my respect and vote," wrote Reid Sund, a former candidate for Salem City Council, on his Facebook page.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Police: Father shoots son near Prineville

A Prineville man was arrested for allegedly shooting his adult son Wednesday afternoon, triggering a manhunt for the victim when he fled.

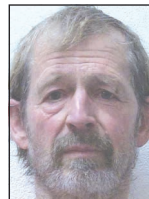
A police drone ultimately located a critically injured Jonathan Sharp, 35, and took him to a nearby hospital.

Sharp's father, Peter Wylie Sharp, 77, was arrested on suspicion of six criminal counts, including attempted murder

and first-degree assault constituting domestic violence, according to the Crook County Sheriff's Office. He was taken to the Crook County jail, where he's being held on \$425,000 bail.

Around 1:40 p.m., sheriff's deputies were called to a report of a trespassing in progress in the 12400 block of U.S. Highway 26 north of Prineville.

Responding officers learned a shooting had just occurred and that the victim had fled into the nearby woods, according to the sheriff's office. Peter Sharp was ar-



Peter Sharp

rested and deputies attempted to find the victim so medics could treat him. Jonathan Sharp was reportedly armed and officers used caution and called in support from the Central Oregon Emergency Response Team, which assisted in the search and a 10-mile closure of Highway 26 between Prineville and Madras.

Jonathan Sharp was found and taken by ambulance to St. Charles Prineville and airlifted to St. Charles Bend. He remains in critical condition, Crook County Sheriff John Gautney said in a statement.

— Bulletin staff report

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