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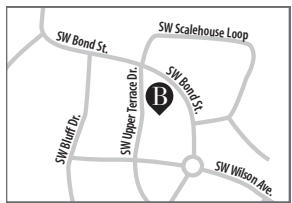
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

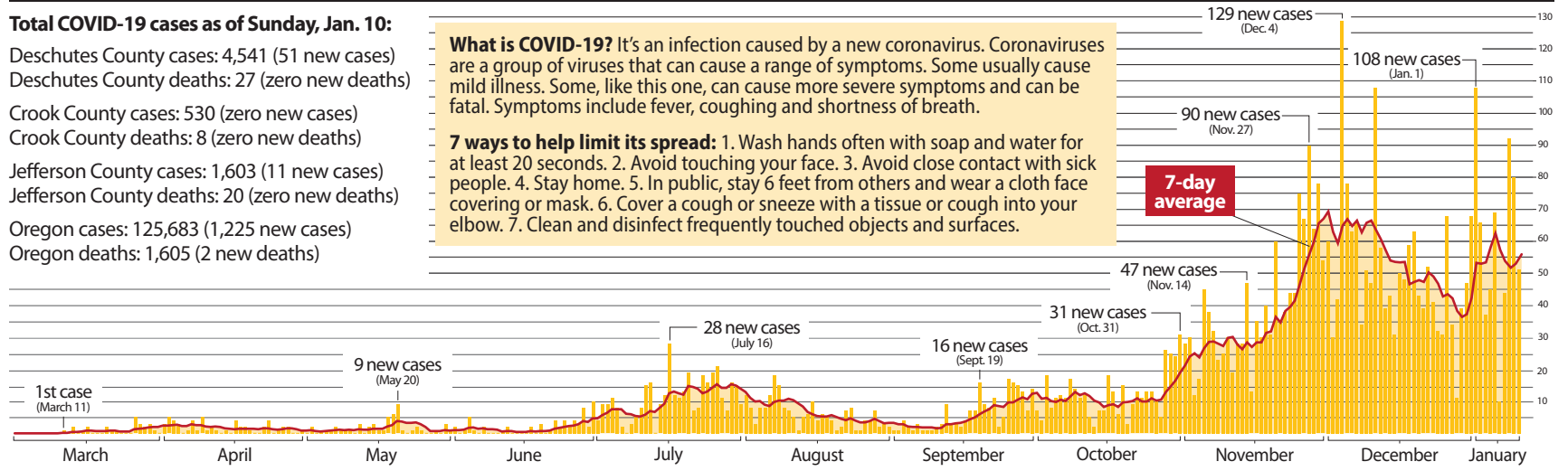
DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

Total COVID-19 cases as of Sunday, Jan. 10:
Deschutes County cases: 4,541 (51 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 27 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 530 (zero new cases)
Crook County deaths: 8 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,603 (11 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 20 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 125,683 (1,225 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 1,605 (2 new deaths)

What is COVID-19? It's an infection caused by a new coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can cause a range of symptoms. Some usually cause mild illness. Some, like this one, can cause more severe symptoms and can be fatal. Symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath.

7 ways to help limit its spread: 1. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. 2. Avoid touching your face. 3. Avoid close contact with sick people. 4. Stay home. 5. In public, stay 6 feet from others and wear a cloth face covering or mask. 6. Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue or cough into your elbow. 7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



BACK ON THE EAGLE CREEK TRAIL

Hikers return to a scenic Oregon spot after a massive fire

BY JAMIE HALE
The Oregonian

A break in the weather afforded an opportunity to get outside last week, and for many, that meant a long-awaited return to Eagle Creek.

The Eagle Creek Trail, long considered one of the best hiking trails in Oregon, reopened on New Year's Day more than three years after closing due to the devastating Eagle Creek Fire. In the week since, crowds have flocked to the hiking trail for a glimpse at the majestic waterfalls and moss-covered cliffs that made the area famous in the first place.

On Thursday, crowds flocked to the hiking area, taking advantage of a break in the rain to get outside. All parking areas around the trailhead filled before 9 a.m., and foot traffic along the trail remained steady throughout the morning and afternoon. The crowds and limited parking compound the challenges of hiking the Eagle Creek Trail, a treacherous trail that requires people to take precautions both before and during their excursion.

Anyone who has hiked through the Columbia River Gorge since the Eagle Creek Fire will be unsurprised by the scene at Eagle Creek. The wildfire burned in a mosaic pattern, with some areas badly burned while others seem untouched.

The forest around Eagle is noticeably thinner than it was before the fire, with less brush beneath the trees and many dead, blackened trunks that will eventually fall, thinning out the forest even more. While there's more severe damage on the hills across the creek, much of the forest alongside the trail has fared well. There are still healthy patches of ferns, and green moss still coats the drizzling cliffs.

Aside from a few big logjams and one massive landslide below Punch Bowl Falls, Eagle Creek itself still



Jamie Hale/The Oregonian
Hikers return to the Eagle Creek Trail in the Columbia River Gorge, more than three years after the trail closed due to the Eagle Creek Fire.

flows magnificently — especially following the winter rain.

Rain remains an environmental challenge facing the Eagle Creek Trail, often causing landslides and rockslides. Stream crossings can be another problem during the rainy season, some of which require tricky crossings across logs and slippery rocks.

U.S. Forest Service officials ask that people avoid burn areas like the Eagle Creek Trail following heavy rains or winter storms. Hikers should also show up prepared with essentials and proper clothing, like rain

jackets and waterproof hiking boots.

Face masks are also required when people are unable to keep at least 6 feet from those not in their household, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Given the extremely narrow trail and crowded conditions, it's impossible to maintain that distance while passing other hikers. On Thursday, almost all hikers wore face coverings, pulling them up while passing others or keeping them on the whole time.

Making the Eagle Creek Trail safe to reopen was a significant achievement for officials in the Columbia Gorge, following several years of collaboration between the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, with work done by the Pacific Crest Trail Association, Trailkeepers of Oregon, Washington Trails Association and Friends of the Columbia Gorge, forest officials said, allowing hikers

to once again access one of Oregon's oldest and most storied hiking trails.

The Eagle Creek Trail was constructed with the Eagle Creek Campground, the first developed campground on public lands in the United States, which opened to the public in 1916. Crews built the trail by blasting the basalt cliffs over Eagle Creek near its confluence with the Columbia River, offering easy public access to one of the most scenic waterfall corridors in the Pacific Northwest.

On Sept. 2, 2017, the trail gained fame as the ignition point of the Eagle Creek Fire. A teenager started the fire after tossing a firecracker into a canyon off the trail, igniting a blaze that burned more than 48,000 acres in the Columbia River Gorge, torching forests around popular hiking areas on the Oregon side of the river. Hundreds of people were evacuated, and 176 hikers required rescue as the blaze quickly spread.

'I tucked away my press IDs'

The Capitol siege as told from a former Oregon journalist's viewpoint

BY ANTONIO SIERRA AND JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

As a part of an insurrection, a mob of people pushed past police to breach the U.S. Capitol building on Wednesday, as lawmakers were in the process of certifying Joe Biden's victory over President Donald Trump. Legislators were escorted to safety, and although they eventually proceeded with the vote, the siege left at least five dead.

At least one former Oregon resident was at the Capitol on Wednesday not as a protester or a lawmaker, but as a journalist.

Frank E. Lockwood, a Hermiston High School graduate who covered sports for the East Oregonian during high school in the 1980s, is the Washington, D.C., correspondent for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. He said Wednesday he was rotating between listening to speeches in the House and Senate, and each time he walked past the windows facing outside the building, he could see an unruly crowd growing larger.

"I realized, 'They won't be able to keep them out,'" he said.

When he returned to the House chambers for the last time, he could hear protesters had entered the building. It was a "high-stress" situation, he said.

"You would hear snippets of information over police radio," he said. "Reports kept coming in, and they were getting more and more alarming — calls for backup, updates that things were getting out of control, reports that tear gas had been deployed."

Soon, Capitol Police down below were using heavy furniture to barricade the doors into the chamber as protesters smashed the windows around the doors. Lockwood and others looking down on the scene from above had not been able to be evacuated at the same time as lawmakers on the floor, but eventually they were evacuated as well.

Knowing that some of the crowd was caught on film physically assaulting members of the media in the past year,

including in videos of the Wednesday riot that later emerged, Lockwood said he was concerned for his safety if the crowd breached the undisclosed location they were evacuated to.

"I took off my tie. I took off my suit jacket. I tucked away my press IDs, I figured I would be more likely to blend in that way," he said.

He said he was grateful for many he encountered during the experience, including the Capitol Police and congressional staffers who led people to safety, and a lawmaker who offered him a spare mask when he realized he had lost his while donning one of the gas masks everyone was instructed to pull from under their seat in the chamber.

When the building was eventually cleared and Congress returned to work, Lockwood did too. When he finished covering the certification of the election results and left, it was 3:45 a.m. Thursday, and he realized, due to the curfew imposed by the mayor, that it wasn't possible for him to catch a taxi or Uber. So he waited until the subway reopened and returned home after

6 a.m. to be greeted by his very concerned dog.

Lockwood got his first interest in politics as a 13-year-old in Hermiston, when he had a long conversation with prominent Hermiston resident Joe Burns about the results of the 1980 election, when Ronald Reagan beat President Jimmy Carter. His father, Frank Lockwood Sr., is a former Hermiston Herald reporter, and Lockwood Jr. wrote sports stories for the East Oregonian during his high school years for his first taste of journalism.

"I helped cover the game when Hermiston beat Pendleton (at football) for the first time in living memory," he said.

Since graduating and leaving Hermiston, he said his experiences as a journalist in Washington, D.C., have often felt surreal, including attendance at inaugurations, State of the Union addresses, and an interview with Trump in the Oval Office. Second only to his experience being in D.C. on Sept. 11, 2001, he said Jan. 6, 2021, will always be a particularly memorable day.



Lockwood