

# The Bulletin

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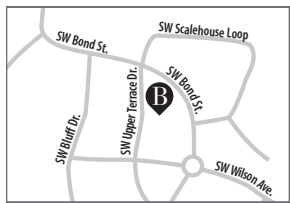
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

## DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

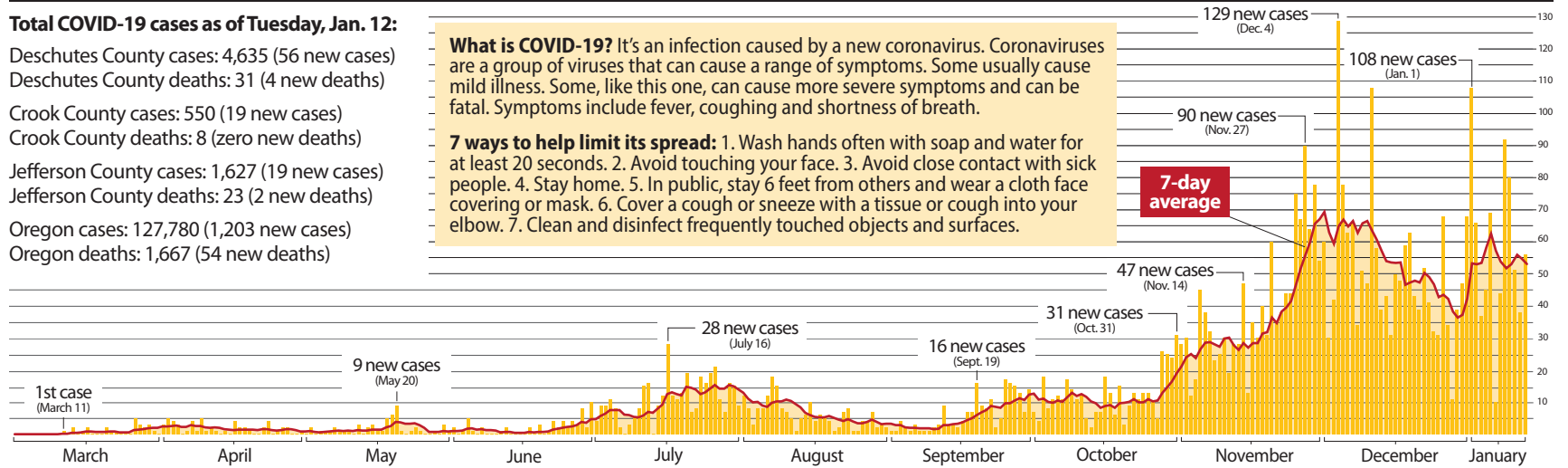
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC

**Total COVID-19 cases as of Tuesday, Jan. 12:**

Deschutes County cases: 4,635 (56 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 31 (4 new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 550 (19 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 8 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 1,627 (19 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 23 (2 new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 127,780 (1,203 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 1,667 (54 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.



# Study: Wildfires produced up to half of pollution in West



A fleet of pelicans dives for the waves on a smoky evening at Cannon Beach in September. Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian file

BY MATTHEW BROWN • Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. —

Wildfire smoke accounted for up to half of all health-damaging small particle air pollution in the Western U.S. in recent years as warming temperatures fueled more destructive blazes, according to a study released Monday.

Even as pollution emissions declined from other sources including vehicle exhaust and power plants, the amount from fires increased sharply, said researchers at Stanford University and the University of California, San Diego. The findings underscore the growing public health threat posed by climate change as it contributes to catastrophic wildfires such as those that charred huge areas of Oregon and California in 2020. Nationwide, wildfires were the source of up to 25% of small particle pollution in some years, the researchers said.

**'Many, many people will see wildfire smoke'**

"From a climate perspective, wildfires should be the first things on our minds for many of us in the U.S.," said Marshall Burke, an associate professor of earth system science at Stanford and lead author of the study. "Most people do not see sea-level rise. Most people do not ever see hurricanes. Many, many people will see wildfire smoke from climate change," Burke added. The study was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The researchers used satellite images of smoke plumes and govern-

ment air quality data to model how much pollution was generated nationwide by fires from 2016 to 2018 compared to a decade earlier. Their results were in line with previous studies of smoke emissions across earlier time periods and more limited geographic areas. Large wildfires churn out plumes of smoke thick with microscopic pollution particles that can drift hundreds or even thousands of miles. Driving the explosion in fires in recent years were warmer temperatures, drought and decades of accumulated brush, small trees and other fuels in forests.

Air pollution experts say residents of the West Coast and Northern Rockies in particular should expect major smoke events from wildfires to become more frequent. There's little doubt air quality regulations helped decrease other sources of pollution even as wildfire smoke increased, said Loretta Mickley, an atmospheric chemist at Harvard University. But it's difficult to separate how much of the in-

crease in smoke pollution is driven by climate change versus the forest fuel buildup, she added.

Mickley and researchers from Colorado State University also cautioned that fires can vary significantly from year to year because of weather changes, making it hard to identify trends over relatively short periods such as the decade examined in the new study.

**38 million breathe unhealthy air**

An AP analysis of data from government monitoring stations found that at least 38 million people in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana were exposed to unhealthy levels of wildfire smoke for at least five days in 2020. Major cities in Oregon suffered the highest pollution levels they had ever recorded.

Smoke particles from those wildfires were blamed for health problems ranging from difficulty breathing to a projected spike in premature deaths, according to health authorities and researchers.

Fires across the West emitted more than a million tons of particulate pollution in 2012, 2015 and 2017, and almost as much in 2018.

Scientists studying long-term health problems have found correlations between smoke exposure and decreased lung function, weakened immune systems and higher rates of flu.

**"From a climate perspective, wildfires should be the first things on our minds for many of us in the U.S."**

— Marshall Burke, lead author of the study

## Trump administration finishes sage grouse review

BY MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press  
BILLINGS, Mont. — The Trump administration has completed a review of plans to ease protections for a struggling bird species in seven states in the West, but there's little time to put the relaxed rules for industry into action before President-elect Joe Biden takes office.

The ground-dwelling, chicken-sized greater sage grouse has been at the center of a long-running dispute



David Zalubowski/AP file

**Sage grouse can be found in Oregon and other Western states.**

over how much of the American West's expansive public lands should be developed. A federal judge blocked

the Trump administration in 2019 from its plans to relax rules on mining, drilling and grazing across millions of acres of land because of potential harm to the sage grouse.

After releasing an environmental study in November aimed at justifying the changes, Bureau of Land Management officials said in a notice Monday they stand behind their plans.

But the ruling that blocked the changes is still in place.

And with just eight days left before Biden's inauguration, environmentalists said the Trump administration's latest move won't change anything, barring a last-minute reversal by the court.

"It's a nothing burger. It's a parting shot on the way out the door," said Greta Anderson with Western Watershed Project, one of the group's involved in the legal case. "We don't expect the Biden administration to defend these terrible plans."

**LOCAL BRIEFING**

**Angela Davis to speak for OSU's virtual MLK Day event**

Civil rights activist, educator and author Angela Davis will be the keynote speaker for Oregon State University's virtual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. Davis' hour-long keynote speech, delivered remotely, will begin at 9:30 a.m. Monday, which is also Martin Luther King Jr. Day, according to a press release from the university. After that, Erin Rook — Oregon State University-Cascades' diversity coordinator — will host a discussion about how to apply the civil rights leaders' wisdom to one's everyday life. OSU-Cascades students will also embark on various volunteer projects throughout Central Oregon for MLK Day, the release stated.

Those interested in listening to Davis' speech and participating in the following discussion can register at OSU-Cascades' website.

**COCC hosts Season of Nonviolence programs**

Central Oregon Community College is hosting its 13th annual Season of Nonviolence programming virtually this year, with two speakers and a book discussion.

The virtual book discussion will begin the week of Jan. 25 at various locations found online. The discussion will focus on the book, "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Pulitzer Prize-winner Isabel Wilkerson. The book examines the unspoken systems of hierarchy that shaped and continue to affect systems of oppression in America, according to the college.

The programming will continue Feb. 2 with a talk, "The Half-Life of Freedom: Race and Justice in America Today," by Jelani Cobb, a New Yorker staff writer and professor at Columbia University. Cobb's talk will be held at 5 p.m.

The next speaker will be Larry S. Sherman, a professor of neuroscience at Oregon Health & Science University. Sherman's talk, "Neuroscience of Prejudice: Racism and the Brain" will be held at 4 p.m. Feb. 21.

Each talk is free, but registration is required.

**Human remains found on Warm Springs reservation**

Unidentified human remains were found Tuesday on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

A man salvaging wood from an old wooden cattle chute along Tenino Road made the discovery and called police. He told them he'd noticed a round thing on the ground and thought it looked like a human skull, said Bill Elliott, chief of the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department.

Officers searched the area and collected several other bones found nearby.

Preliminary examinations from the medical examiner suggest the remains have been at the location for one to 10 years.

Warm Springs Police has requested a cadaver dog to assist the search.

People with information are asked to call 541-553-2202.

— Bulletin staff report