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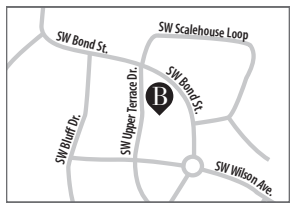
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

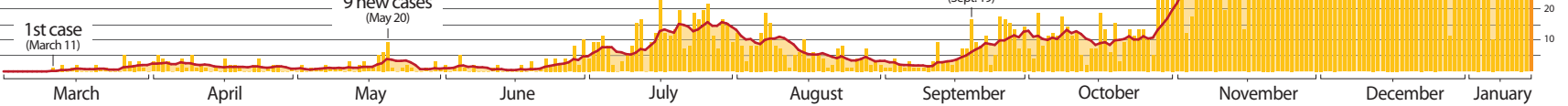
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC

Total COVID-19 cases as of Thursday, Jan. 14:

Deschutes County cases: 4,805 (82 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 32 (1 new death)
Crook County cases: 581 (12 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 9 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,661 (12 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 25 (1 new death)
Oregon cases: 130,246 (1,152 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 1,737 (29 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Thursday: 39 (9 in ICvU).
Vaccines distributed: 5,456 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccinations given through St. Charles.

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.



Why did the pigeon cross the Pacific? Maybe it didn't.

BY ROD MCGUIRK

The Associated Press
CANBERRA, Australia — A pigeon that Australia declared a biosecurity risk may get a reprieve after a U.S. bird organization declared its identifying leg band was fake.

The band suggested the bird found in a Melbourne backyard on Dec. 26 was a racing pigeon that had left the Oregon, 8,000 miles away, two months earlier.

On that basis, Australian authorities said on Thursday they considered the bird a disease risk and planned to kill it.

But Deone Roberts, sport development manager for the Oklahoma-based American Racing Pigeon Union, said the band was fake.

The band number belongs to a blue bar pigeon in the United States and that is not the bird pictured in Australia, she said.

“The bird band in Australia is counterfeit and not traceable,” Roberts said. “It definitely has a home in Australia and not the U.S.”

“Somebody needs to look at that band and then understand that the bird is not from the U.S. They do not need to kill him,” she added.

Counterfeiting bird bands is “happening more and more,” Roberts said. “People coming into the hobby unknowingly buy that.”

Pigeon racing has seen a resurgence in popularity, and some birds have become quite valuable.

A Chinese pigeon racing fan put down a record price of \$1.9 million in November for a Belgian-bred pigeon.

Australia's Agriculture De-



Channel 9 via AP

This pigeon was thought to be a racing pigeon that made an 8,000-mile Pacific Ocean crossing from the United States to Melbourne, Australia. But its identifying leg band turned out to be fake.

partment did not immediately say Friday whether the fake leg band changed its plans to kill the bird.

The department said on Thursday the pigeon was “not permitted to remain in Australia” because it “could compromise Australia's food security and our wild bird populations.”

“It poses a direct biosecurity risk to Australian bird life and our poultry industry,” a department statement said.

Melbourne resident Kevin Celli-Bird, who found the emaciated bird in his backyard, was surprised by the development and pleased that the bird he had named Joe, after the U.S. president-elect, might not be destroyed.

“Yeah, I'm happy about that,” Celli-Bird said, referring to news that Joe probably is not a biosecurity threat.

Celli-Bird had contacted the American Racing Pigeon Union to find the bird's owner based on the number on the

leg band.

The bands have both a number and a symbol, but Celli-Bird didn't remember the symbol and said he can no longer catch the bird since it has recovered from its initial weakness.

The bird spends every day in the backyard, sometimes with a native dove on a pergola.

Celli-Bird has been feeding it pigeon food from within days of its arrival.

“I think that he just decided that since I've given him some food and he's got a spot to drink, that's home,” he said.

Australian quarantine authorities are notoriously strict.

In 2015, the government threatened to euthanize two Yorkshire terriers, Pistol and Boo, after they were smuggled into the country by Hollywood star Johnny Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard.

Faced with a 50-hour deadline to leave Australia, the dogs made it out in a chartered jet.



Brooke Herbert/The Oregonian via AP

Search and rescue crews continue to look for a missing woman on Thursday whose car was swept away by a mudslide on Wednesday in the Dodson area of the Columbia River Gorge

Search continues for Oregon woman swept away in mudslide

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Searchers used inflatable yellow rafts and drove metal poles into deep mud Thursday as they searched for a woman who was swept away by a landslide in Oregon during a powerful winter storm.

Authorities said in social media posts that they have found part of the SUV that 50-year-old Jennifer Camus Moore, of Warrendale, was driving when she was swept away Wednesday but have not located her.

Moore, a registered nurse, was caught up in a landslide in the Columbia River

Gorge that was triggered by heavy rain and high winds that pounded the Pacific Northwest on Tuesday and Wednesday. The cliffs around the search area near the small community of Dodson remain unstable.

On Wednesday, searchers used thermal imaging to try to locate Moore without success, but it was too dangerous to send teams into the mudflow. On Thursday, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office tweeted out video of searchers using yellow inflatable rafts to navigate the dangerous terrain in mud up to 10 feet deep.

Groups ask court to restore U.S. gray wolves protection

BY MATTHEW BROWN

The Associated Press
BILLINGS, Mont. — Wildlife advocates on Thursday asked a federal court to overturn a U.S. government decision that stripped Endangered Species Act protections for wolves across most of the nation.

Two coalitions of advocacy groups filed lawsuits in U.S. District Court in Northern California seeking to restore safeguards for a predator that is revered by wildlife watchers but feared by many livestock producers.

The Trump administration announced just days ahead of the Nov. 3 election that wolves were considered recovered.

More than 2,000 occupy six states in the Northern Rockies and Pacific North-

west after wolves from Canada were reintroduced in Idaho and Yellowstone National Park starting in 1995. Protections for wolves in the Rockies were lifted over the last decade and hunting of them is allowed.

But wolves remain absent across most of their historical range, and the groups that filed Thursday's lawsuits said continued protections are needed so wolf populations can continue to expand in Colorado, California and other states.

In response to the lawsuits, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Vanessa Kauffman said in a statement that the gray wolf “has exceeded all conservation goals for recovery” and is no longer threatened or endangered under federal law.

Environmentalists move toward a lawsuit over wildfire fuel break plan

BY SCOTT SONNER

The Associated Press
RENO, Nev. — Environmentalists have filed a notice of intent to sue the U.S. government to block plans to build up to 11,000 miles of fuel breaks they contend would violate the Endangered Species Act in a misguided effort to slow the advance of wildfires in six Western states.

Leaders of four conservation groups say the Bureau of Land Management's project would be shielded from legitimate environmental review under last-minute moves by the outgoing Trump administration.

They say the fuel breaks in conjunction with proposed widespread clearcutting, herbicide spraying, grazing and prescribed fire could threaten the survival of more than 100 rare wildlife species across potentially more than 340,000 square miles of federal land — an area twice as big as New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio combined.

Fuel breaks involve clearing stretches of vegetation to slow the progress of fires.

As wide as 500 feet, the breaks are planned along roads and federal rights-of-way in Washington, Oregon, Califor-

nia, Nevada, Idaho and Utah. If all 11,000 miles are finished, the breaks cumulatively would stretch the equivalent distance between Seattle and South Africa.

“The Trump administration's reckless, 11th-hour decision authorizes the bureau to use highly destructive methods to remove millions of acres of native trees and shrubs,” said Scott Lake, legal advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity in Nevada. “It's a clear violation of the Endangered Species Act, and we won't allow these plans to become reality.”

Lawyers for the center, Sierra Club, Western Watersheds Project and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance provided 60-day notice of the intent to

sue the bureau in a letter Tuesday. It challenged exclusions the administration included in environmental impact statements issued in February for the fuel breaks and in November for fuels reduction and rangeland restoration.

The groups say the bureau and its parent Interior Department failed to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding impacts to threatened and endangered aquatic species as required by the act. They say the department acknowledged more than 130 protected species are found across the area, including the greater sage grouse, and acknowledged many of the proposed methods, such as targeted grazing, are unproven.



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