

# The Bulletin

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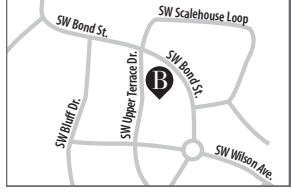
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

## LOCAL, STATE & REGION

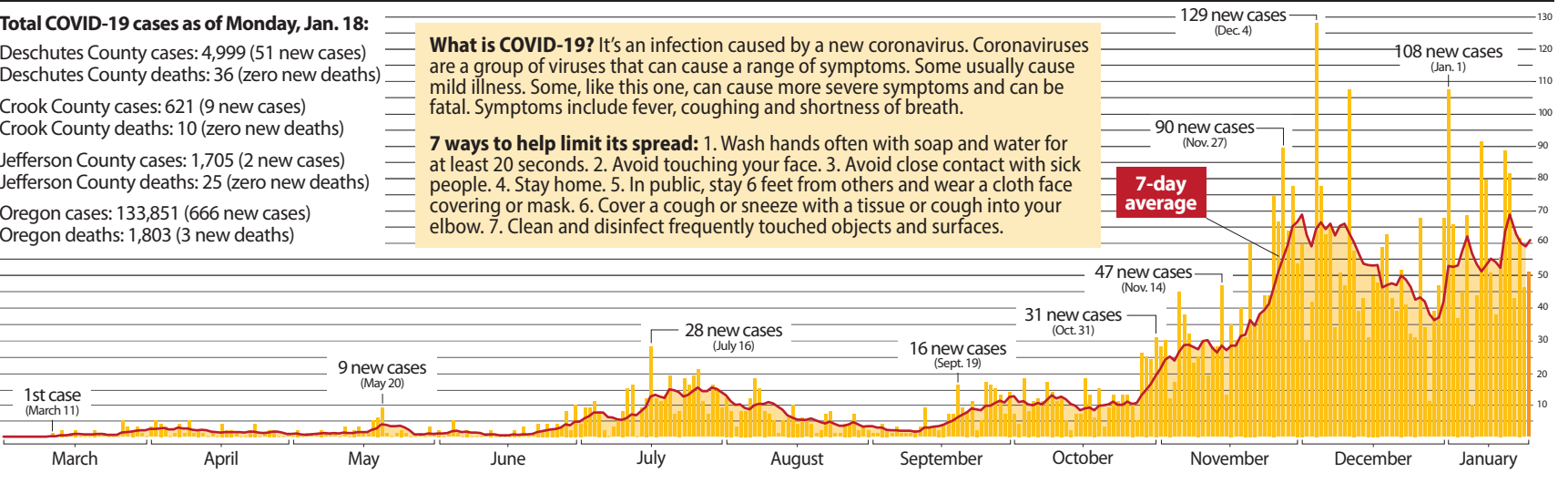
### DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

**Total COVID-19 cases as of Monday, Jan. 18:**  
Deschutes County cases: 4,999 (51 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 36 (zero new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 621 (9 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 10 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 1,705 (2 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 25 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 133,851 (666 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 1,803 (3 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.



### Two Rivers Correctional Institution

# Three more inmates die over the weekend

East Oregonian  
UMATILLA — Three inmates who tested positive for COVID-19 in the ongoing outbreak at Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla died over the weekend, according to press releases from the Oregon Department of Corrections, bringing the death toll among adults in custody at the prison to seven since the new year began.

More than 500 inmates and 74 staff at TRCI have tested positive for COVID-19 since infection began to spread rapidly through the prison in December. The institution is suffering the largest outbreak among prisons in Oregon, with 268 active cases among inmates as of Jan. 14, according to data from the department of corrections.

The first two inmates who died over

the weekend were between 75 to 85 years old and died on Jan. 16, the press releases said. The third was between 55 and 65 and died on Jan. 17. Each died at a local hospital.

The department did not disclose the names of the inmates who died. It also did not disclose whether or not they had underlying health conditions.

Two Rivers has reported more COVID-19 cases among inmates than any other prison in Oregon since the pandemic began, with 599 cases, and the third most among staff, with 107 cases, according to corrections department data.

Since the pandemic began, 32 inmates in Oregon prisons have died after testing positive for COVID-19. In all, nearly 2,994 inmates and 744 staff have tested positive.

### Governor moves forward with closing 3 prisons in Oregon

Gov. Kate Brown is closing three Oregon prisons, a decision authorities say would save the state more than \$44 million.

The governor said she believes the money could be better invested elsewhere, such as early childhood education. The prison closure plan was included in the budget proposal the Democrat released last month. On Friday, Brown said she took unilateral action and has directed the Department of Corrections to move forward with closing the three facilities without waiting for legislative adoption of a budget.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the

closure of three of the state's 14 prisons will be staggered: First will be Mill Creek Correctional Facility in Salem, which is scheduled to be closed by July of this year, next Shutter Creek Correctional Institution in North Bend by January 2022, and last will be Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview, to be closed by July 2022.

All of the prisons are minimum-security facilities and inmates are within four years of release.

The three prisons combined employ 237 people and house 749 inmates.

The state is developing a plan for relocating all the inmates, according to Department of Corrections spokeswoman Jen Black.

— The Associated Press

### EARTHQUAKES IN OREGON

# Wallowa County resident startled by 'sonic boom'



High winds whip snow off the western peaks of Mount Hood as seen from Government Camp in 2009. Oregon's highest peak witnessed a swarm of earthquakes Sunday — none of them all that large.

**BY RONALD BOND**  
Wallowa County Chieftain  
**AND TOM HALLMAN JR.**  
The Oregonian

WALLOWA COUNTY — Gay Behnke was up reading late Jan. 4, when she heard what she first thought was a sonic boom.

"I just happened to be up, about 11:30 at night (and heard) this loud boom, and I mean a boom," she said. "I have since learned that that does accompany an earthquake. I did not realize that."

Her home about 7 miles south of Lostine started shaking shortly after.

"I have a real old antique lamp, and it started swaying," she said.

Behnke and her neighbors — two of whom were awake at the time and six others who were awakened — had felt the shaking from a small tremor, a magnitude 2.4 on the Richter scale. The quake shook about 9.3 miles southwest of Lostine, and just under 7 miles west of Behnke and her neighbors, at 11:30 p.m., according to data on the U.S. Geological Survey website.

It's not the first time Behnke has been in an earthquake.

"I was over in the Willamette Valley when the big earthquake hit and did damage in Sublim-

**"I just thought I was done with earthquakes."**  
— Gay Behnke

ity," she said, referring to a 5.6 magnitude quake east of Salem in 1993.

This quake, though, had an element she hadn't heard in Sublimity — the loud boom.

"I was thinking sonic boom, meteor. But I also (thought) it was an earthquake," she said. "This was new to me."

The quake early this month was actually one of two that hit in the same region that night. A second quake was recorded at 1:24 a.m. Jan. 5. The quake was smaller at magnitude 1.7 but about 1.9 miles closer to Lostine.

The first quake that night typically would not be felt, but it was relatively shallow at just over a mile deep. The second quake, which was not felt, was registered at a depth of 6.2 miles.

The earthquakes are the third and fourth in Wallowa County reported by the USGS in the past month — all of them in the same region. A magnitude 2.2 quake was reported at 4:31 a.m. Dec. 18 — about 7 miles deep

— and a week earlier, on Dec. 11, a quake of 1.5 magnitude just after 5 a.m. hit at a depth of 6.9 miles.

Behnke, a retired educator, said she didn't expect to be feeling any quakes — even small ones — after moving to rural Wallowa County.

"I just thought I was done with earthquakes," she said.

Indeed, quakes happen frequently in Oregon — and seismologists have long urged people to get ready for "the big one" — when the Cascadia Subduction Zone inevitably rips, likely causing widespread damage and tsunamis.

Most quakes, though, are small. Several dozen of those were detected Sunday near Mount Hood by the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network. Experts there were not concerned over "an impending volcanic eruption because similar swarms of small tectonic, not volcanic, earthquakes have happened in the past in this area."

Sunday's swarm, which began

about 3 p.m., was "off-summit" — not centered under the volcano, but within a few miles of it, close to the Twin Lakes Fault. In 2019 there was a similar small swarm there, mostly on July 9. The quakes did not cause any damage. But a woman working in Government Camp said she felt the jolt, which hit at about 3:40 p.m. and texted her boyfriend.

### LOCAL BRIEFING

#### Boy, 8, injured while skiing at Mt. Bachelor

An 8-year-old boy was critically injured in a skiing accident at Mt. Bachelor over the weekend, the resort has confirmed.

Around 2:20 p.m. Saturday, medics with Mt. Bachelor Ski Patrol responded to the injured boy near the summit. They "immediately" requested an AirLink helicopter for a medical transport. The child was first taken to the mountain's first aid clinic, where an onsite doctor provided care. The boy was then flown to St. Charles Bend.

A spokeswoman for Mt. Bachelor declined to answer further questions.

Skiers and snowboarders on social media reported unusually icy conditions at the ski area Saturday.

The mountain was closed for business Sunday.

Four people have died at Mt. Bachelor since 2018, including two in one day that year.

Around 40 people per year die at U.S. ski areas. Forty-two people died during the 2019-2020 season, according to the National Ski Area Association.

— Bulletin staff report

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