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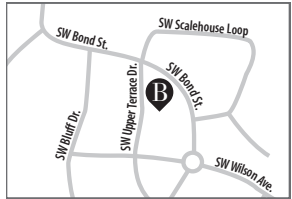
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

## DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

**COVID-19 data for Monday, Jan. 25:**  
Deschutes County cases: 5,212 (21 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 40 (zero new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 662 (1 new case)  
Crook County deaths: 13 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 1,738 (zero new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 25 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 138,587 (435 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 1,882 (2 new deaths)  
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Monday: 24 (1 in ICU)

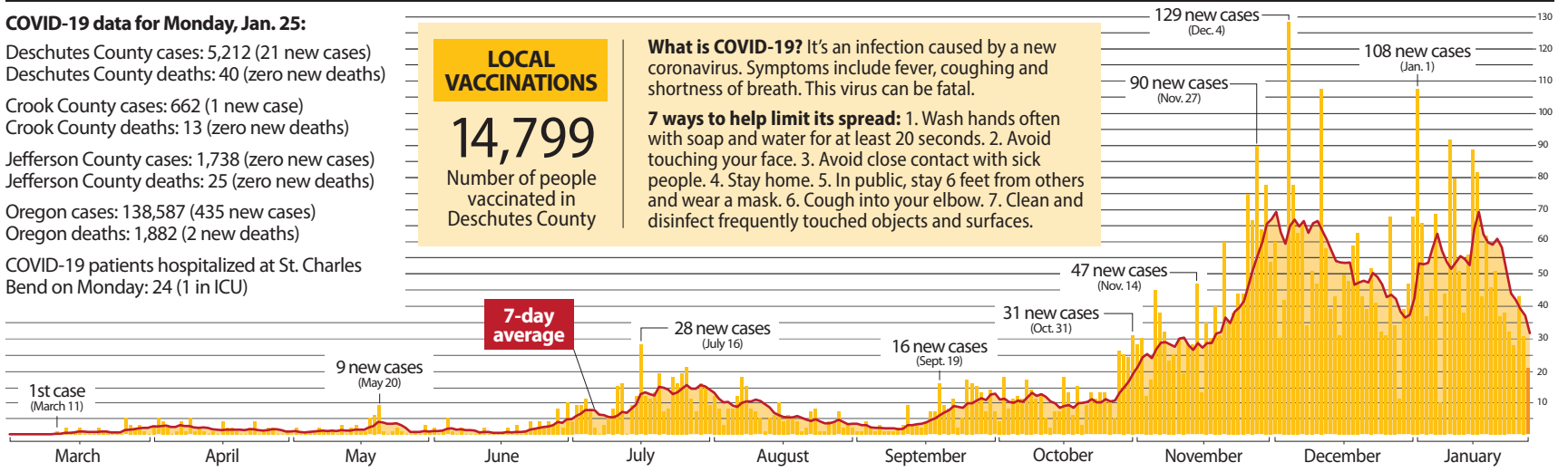
**LOCAL VACCINATIONS**

**14,799**

Number of people vaccinated in Deschutes County

**What is COVID-19?** It's an infection caused by a new coronavirus. Symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath. This virus can be fatal.

**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 mask. 6. Cough into your elbow. 7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



### COVID-19 vaccines

## Shots now available for area residents 75 and up

Bulletin staff report  
Residents of Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties age 75 and older can now make appointments to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, starting Tuesday.

Health officials announced the surprise availability Monday evening. According to state vaccine eligibility guidelines, individuals in this group were expected to be eligible for vaccines starting Feb. 14.

People in vaccine phases 1A and 1B — Group 1, can now schedule an appointment at [www.stcharleshealthcare.org](http://www.stcharleshealthcare.org) or by calling 541-699-5020. Expect to leave a message and receive a call back, health officials said.

"The community vaccination clinic at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center is incredibly successful," said Dr. Jeff Absalon, St. Charles' chief physician executive, in a statement Monday night. "Since Wednesday, St. Charles and De-

schutes County have vaccinated 4,600 individuals in 1A and 1B — Group 1 Phases. We've been able to move through these two groups so quickly that we are able to expand eligibility to residents 75 and older ahead of the state's vaccination schedule."

Between Tuesday and Saturday this week, St. Charles and Deschutes County plan to administer about 10,000 more doses, with the help of the Oregon National Guard, according to a release from St. Charles Health System and county health departments.

"Our most recent allotment of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines is going to allow us to make a significant push to vaccinate residents who are 75 and older, and thus at a higher risk for hospitalization and complications if they acquire COVID-19, as well as to continue vaccinating Phase 1A and 1B — Group 1," Dr. George Conway, Deschutes County Health Services director, said in a statement.

## Feds reassess Klamath water obligations

BY GEORGE PLAVEN

Capital Press  
KLAMATH FALLS — The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has no legal right to curtail water deliveries contracted for irrigators in the Klamath Project to protect endangered fish, according to an analysis spearheaded by outgoing Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.

The findings, outlined in a 41-page "reassessment" of Klamath Project operations under the Endangered Species Act, could prove to be a game-changer for basin farmers, said Paul Simmons, executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association.

"When this is carried out on the ground and incorporated into actual operations, it should translate into a situation where the bureau is not imposing the same severe (water) shortages as it has in the past under the ESA," Simmons said. "It is a pretty basic, fundamental and I think important change in that way."

2020 was a painful year for the Klamath Project, as irrigators saw their water allotment reduced to less than half of normal demand.

Bernhardt, the Interior secretary under former President Donald Trump, visited the basin in July to discuss long-term water solutions after more than 2,000 people attended a tractor convoy and rally, voicing farmers' frustrations.

"He understood what the issue was," Simmons

remembers of the meeting. "I'll say that we had been pushing the need for this kind of reevaluation for a while."

The bureau operates the Klamath Project, which provides water for more than 200,000 acres of irrigated farmland in Southern Oregon and Northern California — powering a \$1.3 billion agricultural economy in Klamath, Siskiyou and Modoc counties.

The ESA requires the bureau to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure operations do not harm endangered fish, namely shortnose and Lost River suckers in Upper Klamath Lake and coho salmon in the lower Klamath River.

The bureau's allocation is still subject to state and federal water law, including senior rights of tribes in the Klamath Basin.

Nor does the guidance exempt the Klamath Project from the ESA entirely. "Reclamation has found that it still has duties for species protection, but those duties do not include imposing harmful shortages on irrigation as we have seen in the past," Simmons said.

Simmons said he anticipates there could be political blowback with the transition to President Joe Biden and his administration.

A spokeswoman for the Bureau of Reclamation office in Sacramento, California, said the agency was not prepared to comment.

### COVID-19 testing

## OSU's community sampling program comes to Redmond

Bulletin staff report  
An Oregon State University project to determine the prevalence of COVID-19 through testing will come to Redmond for three days this week.

Between Friday and Sunday, the university will do TRACE community COVID-19 sampling in Redmond by sending out two- or three-person field teams to 30 neighborhoods to invite up to 600 residents to take a nasal swab test.

A similar testing project happened in Bend in the spring.

Deschutes County has so far reported 40 COVID-19 deaths and 5,212 cases, including more than 2,200 people who have recovered.

Currently there are 2,849 active cases in the county, or one per every 69 residents, according to the university.

Redmond public works staff will also gather multiple sewage samples, which researchers

will analyze for genetic material from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Infected people pass detectable genetic components of the virus into the sewer system, which gives an indication as to how extensive COVID-19 is in a community, according to the university.

"This combined approach of increased testing of asymptomatic individuals and wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 continues to provide very helpful insights for our local management of this epidemic," Dr. George Conway, the Deschutes County health director, said in a statement.

Since the project began in April, TRACE Community sampling has happened in Corvallis five times, in Newport twice, and in Bend, Hermiston and Eugene once each.

For more information about TRACE, visit [trace.oregonstate.edu](http://trace.oregonstate.edu).

### LOCAL & STATE BRIEFING

#### Deschutes sheriff's office seeks fine who shot truck

The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help identifying the person who shot at a vehicle at a campsite outside Sisters earlier this month.

The unoccupied green mid-1990s Chevrolet Tahoe was hit multiple times while parked at a long-term camp off Forest Road 1510 about five miles west of Sisters. A person reported the incident to the sheriff's office around 3:40 p.m. Jan. 17.

Anyone with information is asked to call 541-693-6911.

#### State gives grants to protect livestock from wolves

Two Oregon ranching operations received more than \$17,000 total for nonlethal means to protect their livestock from wolves.

Krebs Livestock, a company in Morrow County that uses Union County to raise some of its sheep, will use its money to pay for secure night pens, four fox lights, Bluetooth speakers, spotlights, additional herders and the removal of dead livestock. And Eric Harlow, a Union County rancher, will pay for two additional herders. The Oregon Department of Agriculture provides the funds for the grants, and county commissioners award them.

— Bulletin staff and wire reports

## Progressive groups, unions call for Nearman's expulsion

BY HILLARY BORRUD

The Oregonian  
Leaders and representatives of various Oregon progressive groups, the Eugene/Springfield NAACP and public employee unions on Monday publicly

investigation by the Oregon State Police for the incident. Surveillance video showed that after Nearman opened a side door to demonstrators, state troopers and Salem police were able to push people back outside until one of the demonstrators deployed some type of spray against police.

It's unlikely the private groups calling for lawmakers to expel Nearman will have much success. Even if all House Democrats

voted to expel him, they would still need three Republicans to join them. The Oregon Constitution allows lawmakers to expel a colleague only with a two-thirds vote, which means 40 votes in the 60-member House. Democrats hold 37 seats, after they lost a net of one House seat in the November election.



Nearman

Legislature to expel a Republican representative who let violent far-right extremists into the state Capitol during a Dec. 21 special session.  
Rep. Mike Nearman, a Republican from outside Independence, opened a door to armed demonstrators who entered a Capitol vestibule and clashed with police. A handful of Democratic lawmakers, including House Speaker Tina Kotek, of Portland, have already called on Nearman to resign. He is among the subjects under in-

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