

The Bulletin

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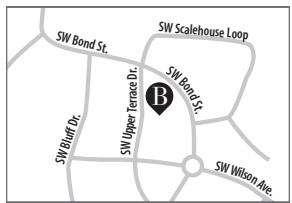
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

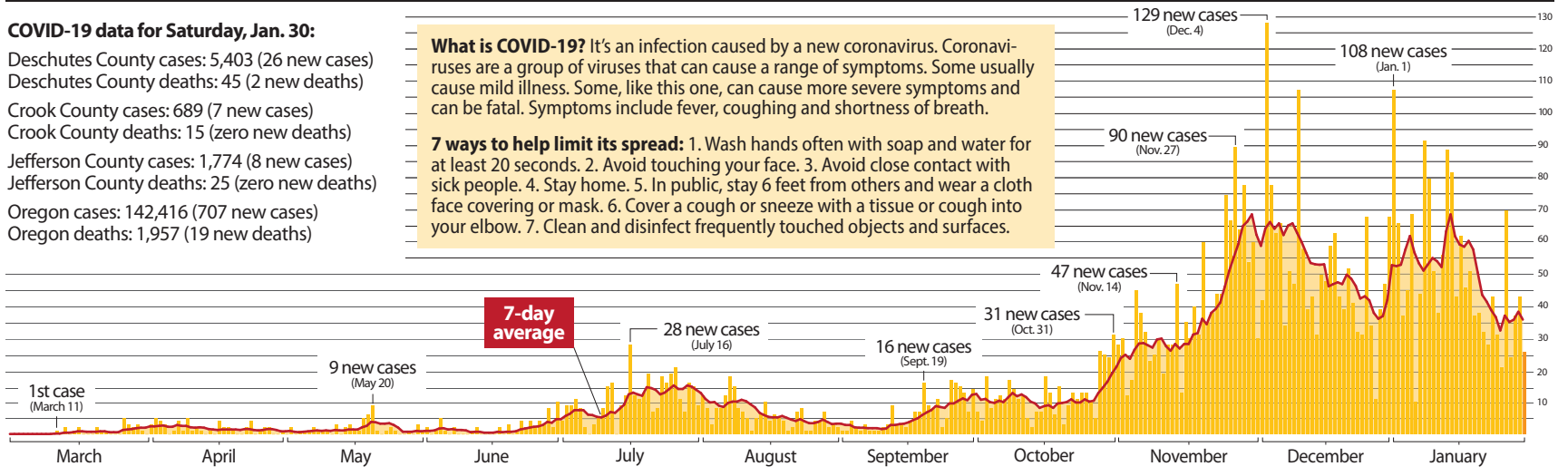
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN GRAPHIC

COVID-19 data for Saturday, Jan. 30:

Deschutes County cases: 5,403 (26 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 45 (2 new deaths)
Crook County cases: 689 (7 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 15 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,774 (8 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 25 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 142,416 (707 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 1,957 (19 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.



MOUNT ST. HELENS

Climbing permits will be reduced

JAMIE HALE

The Oregonian

The slopes of Mount St. Helens will be a little less crowded this year.

The U.S. Forest Service announced Friday that fewer climbing permits will be issued during the peak season in 2021, in an effort to reduce crowds and parking issues during the coronavirus pandemic.

From April 1 to May 14, the Forest Service will reduce the number of available permits from 500 to 300 per day, the agency announced in a news release. The Forest Service will also increase the number of permits issued between May 15 and Oct. 31, from 100 to 110 per day, though it will not be enough to offset the reduction.

In total, nearly 7,000 fewer permits will be issued this year. "These changes will help to reduce congestion and user conflicts at parking areas, facilities, and on the mountain



Bryce Ely/The Oregonian/

Views from the south summit of Mount St. Helens, looking towards Mt. Adams.

during the COVID-19 pandemic," the Forest Service said in the news release. Outdoor recreation areas

around the Pacific Northwest have been extremely crowded during the pandemic. Last summer, the Forest Service

and county sheriff's offices began towing cars parked illegally near trailheads on Mount Hood, at Oregon state

parks and other day-use areas around the region.

Search and rescue missions were also up in Oregon in 2020, as outdoor areas saw an influx of first-time and beginner hikers.

The reduction in permits won't be the only change to Mount St. Helens climbing permits this year. Forest officials also announced Friday that 2021 permits will be issued on a monthly basis, rather than all at once, as has been the usual practice.

Climbing permits for April will be available March 1 starting at 7 a.m. Following months' permits will be issued the same way, made available on the first day of the preceding month. All climbing permits are sold online at Recreation.gov.

During the winter climbing season, from Nov. 1 to March 31, climbing permits are free and self-issued at the Marble Mountain Sno-park.

COVID-19 | Deaths

In reversal, governor orders Oregon to publish details

BRAD SCHMIDT

The Oregonian

Gov. Kate Brown reversed course Friday under political pressure and ordered state officials to resume publishing full details of each Oregonian who dies with COVID-19.

Brown's turnaround came less than 48 hours after the Oregon Health Authority discontinued sharing specifics of each death and less than 24 hours after Brown's spokesman defended the agency's decision.

Her order came with one change, however: the Oregon Health Authority has been instructed to publish full death details once a week rather than daily, as the agency had done for 10 months.

"In a pandemic, Oregonians must have access to timely info to keep themselves & their families safe," Brown wrote via Twitter. She directed the Oregon Health Authority to "disclose all data on COVID-19 deaths weekly, including the date the individual tested positive, their age, location & underlying health conditions."

Oregon has been one of few states, if not the only, to disclose a wide assortment of detailed information about each person who dies with COVID-19. As an example, the state's 1,888th fatality was an 82-year-old Douglas County man with underlying medical conditions who tested positive Jan. 14 and died Jan. 23 at Mercy Medical Center.

Officials at the Oregon Health Authority said providing that level of detail every day became too burden-

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some, particularly as deaths reached record highs in December. The agency abruptly announced Wednesday it would stop providing that information and instead would disclose only the number of new deaths and associated age ranges for Oregonians who died.

Brown's office initially defended the decision to stop reporting broad details, asserting that a new online data page would "continue to give Oregonians a full picture of COVID-19 deaths in the state."

But lawmakers on both sides of the aisle disliked the change. Senate and House Republicans excoriated Oregon's Democratic governor, questioning if it was a cover-up linked to Brown's decision to prioritize vaccinations for teachers ahead of vulnerable seniors, whose deaths would no longer be as simple to track.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Bend woman arrested after police chase

A 46-year-old woman was arrested for harassing Bend Police officers and eluding them on a chase through the city.

A Bend officer responded at 1:45 a.m. Friday to a report of a suspicious vehicle at the entrance of Pilot Butte State Park. The officer contacted Buffy Thomasson, who was in a 1998 GMC Sierra pickup truck, Bend Police Lt. Clint Burleigh said in a written statement.

Thomasson allegedly spit on the officer and refused to step out of her truck. Thomasson drove her vehicle toward the officer in a threatening manner, Burleigh said.

Thomasson then left the scene and was pursued at slow speeds by Bend Police and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office deputies.

A Bend officer put down spike strips that caused one of the tires on Thomasson's truck to deflate.

Officers kept pursuing Thomasson through the downtown area, but stopped when Thomasson turned north on Wall Street.

At 2:30 a.m., another Bend officer found Thomasson's truck on the Newport Bridge, where it was blocking the road. Officers had to break out the driver side window of Thomasson's truck and place her in full-body restraints due to her erratic behavior, Burleigh said.

Thomasson was arrested and booked in Deschutes County jail on charges of aggravated harassment, interfering with police, reckless driving, menacing, assault of an officer and eluding police.

—Bulletin staff report



Thomasson