

The Bulletin

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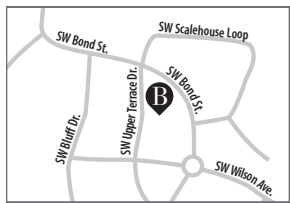
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OUR ADDRESS

Street 320 SW Upper Terrace Drive
Suite 200
Bend, OR 97702
Mailing P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708



ADMINISTRATION

Publisher
Heidi Wright 541-383-0341
Editor
Gerry O'Brien 541-633-2166

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Advertising
Steve Rosen 541-383-0370
Circulation/Operations
Vitto Kleinschmidt 541-617-7830
Finance
Anthony Georger 541-383-0324
Human Resources 541-383-0340

TALK TO AN EDITOR

City Julie Johnson 541-383-0367
Business, Features, GO! Magazine
Jody Lawrence-Turner 541-383-0308
Editorials Richard Coe 541-383-0353
News Tim Doran 541-383-0360
Photos 541-383-0366
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TALK TO A REPORTER

Bend/Deschutes Government
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Education
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Mailing address P.O. Box 6020
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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

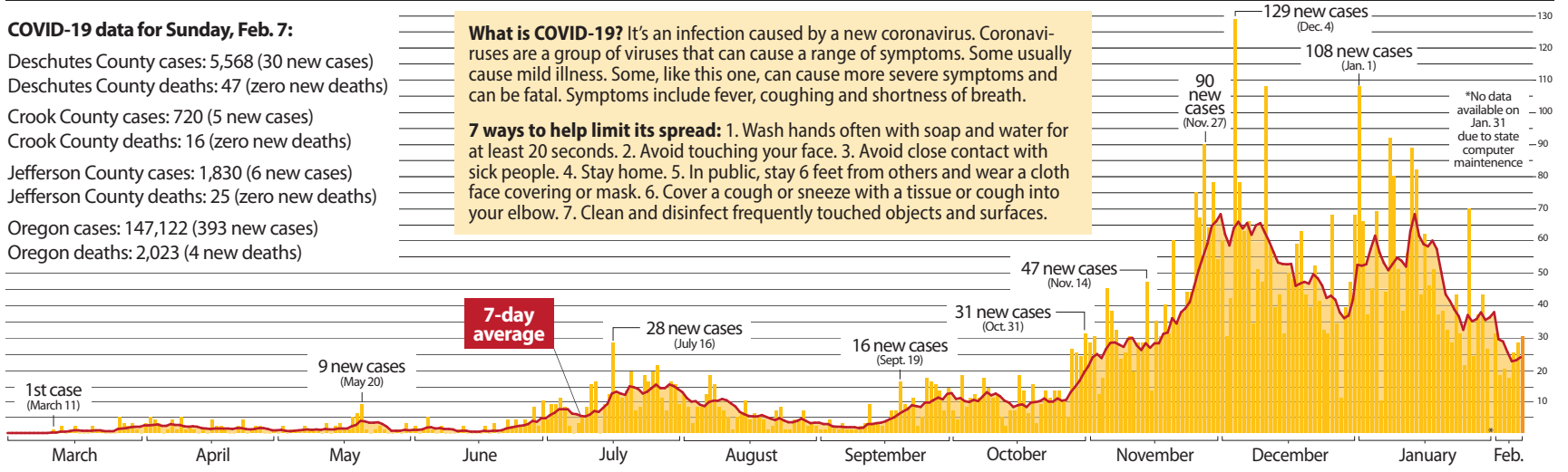
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN GRAPHIC

COVID-19 data for Sunday, Feb. 7:

Deschutes County cases: 5,568 (30 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 47 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 720 (5 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 16 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,830 (6 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 25 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 147,122 (393 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,023 (4 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.



Groups warn of salmonella killing finches in west

Associated Press

STATELINE, Nev. — An outbreak of salmonella is killing finches across the western United States, including birds in the Lake Tahoe region, wildlife officials say.

The Tahoe Institute for Natural Science and Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care issued an alert this week for the public to be on the lookout for sick or dead finches associated with bird feeders.

Dead skins have been found in recent weeks in backyards in the Carson Valley and Truckee, California.

The deaths are believed to be

related to an outbreak of salmonellosis, a common and often fatal bird disease caused by the salmonella bacteria. The problem appears to be especially bad along coastal Northern California, Oregon and Washington.

Most of the affected birds are Pine Siskins, but Lesser Goldfinch and other finch species can fall victim to salmonellosis as well.

The bacteria are spread through droppings, especially where bird seed piles up beneath feeders or in-tray feeders where the birds can simply

stand among the seeds.

Community members can help stop the spread of salmonellosis by discontinuing backyard bird feeding through February, to encourage these birds to disperse and forage naturally, officials said. Given the widespread and lethal impacts of the outbreak, tray feeders should not be used at this time, they said.

"If you continue to feed birds, please keep an eye out for signs of visibly sick or dying birds, and remove and thoroughly clean your feeders immediately, leaving them down

for several weeks," the wildlife groups said a press release.

"Pine Siskins often can be tame, but sick siskins will be exceedingly so, and appear lethargic, puffed up and often show sunken eyes."

It is possible, although quite rare, for salmonella bacteria to transfer from birds to humans through direct contact with infected birds or droppings, the groups said. When handling dead birds or bird feeders, remember to wash hands thoroughly afterward.

Tube feeders and thistle socks may have reduced risk

of transmission, but it is highly recommended that any feeders be cleaned regularly: any time the feeder is refilled, but at least once a week.

Effective feeder cleaning involves soaking feeders in a 10% bleach solution, scrubbing, rinsing, and allowing them to dry. Many bird lovers elect to maintain duplicate feeders, so that they can deploy a fresh feeder while the other is being cleaned, they said.

Anyone who observes dead or visibly sick finches should contact the LTWC at 530-577-2273 or the TINS at 775-298-0060.

Pandemic

Continued from A1

"The separation part is really rough, rough rough," said Simmons. "My daughter went to the hospital and we saw her once through the glass when they put her on the ventilator, and then we never saw her again until after she died."

Across the country, terminally ill patients — both with COVID-19 and other diseases — are making similar decisions and dying at home rather than face the terrifying scenario of saying farewell to loved ones behind glass or during video calls.

"What we are seeing with COVID is certainly patients want to stay at home," said Judi Lund Person, the vice president for regulatory compliance at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. "They don't want to go to the hospital. They don't want to go to a nursing home."

National hospice organizations are reporting that facilities are seeing double-digit percentage increases in the number of patients being cared for at home.

The phenomenon has played out Carroll Hospice in Westminster, Maryland, which has seen a 30% to 40% spike in demand for home-based care, said executive director Regina Bodnar. She said avoiding nursing homes and coronavirus risks are the biggest factor behind the increase.

Lisa Kossoudji, who supervises nurses at Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, pulled her own mother, now 95, out of assisted living and brought her home to live with her after the pandemic hit. She had gone weeks without seeing her mother and was worried that her condition was deteriorating because she was being restricted to her room as the facility sought to limit the potential for the virus to spread.

Her mother, who has a condition that causes thickening and hardening of the walls of the arteries in her brain, is now receiving hospice services. Kossoudji is seeing the families she serves make similar choices.

"Lots of people are bringing folks home that physically, they have a lot physical issues, whether it is they have a feeding tube or a trachea, things that an everyday lay person would look at and say, 'Oh my gosh, I can't do this,'" she said. "But yet they are willing to bring them home because we want to be able to be with them and see them."



Charlie Riedel/AP

Mortuary owner Brian Simmons holds a photo, on Jan. 28, of his daughter Rhonda Ketchum who died before Christmas of COVID-19 in Springfield, Missouri. Simmons has been making more trips to homes to pick up bodies to be cremated and embalmed since the pandemic hit. For many families, home is a better setting than the terrifying scenario of saying farewell to loved ones behind glass or during video calls amid the pandemic.

Before the pandemic, hospice workers cared for patients dying of heart disease, cancer, dementia and other terminal illnesses in long-term care facilities and, to a lesser extent, home settings. Many families hesitated to go the die-at-home route because of the many logistical challenges, including work schedules and complicated medical needs.

But the pandemic changed things. People were suddenly working from home and had more time, and they were more comfortable with home hospice knowing the alternative with lack of visitation at nursing homes.

"What happened with COVID is everything was on steroids so to speak. Everything happened so quickly that all of a sudden family members were prepared to care for their loved ones at home," said Carole Fisher, president of the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation.

"Everything accelerated."

"I have heard families say, 'I can care for my aged mother now very differently than I could before because I am working from home,'" she added. "And so there is more of a togetherness in the family unit because of COVID."

Dying at home isn't for everyone, however. Caring for the needs of a critically ill relative can mean sleepless nights and added stress as the pandemic rages.

Karen Rubel recalled that she didn't want to take her own 81-year-old mother to the hospital when she had a stroke in September and then pushed hard to bring her home as soon as possible.

She is president and CEO of Nathan Adelson Hospice in Las Vegas, which has designated one of its in-patient facilities for COVID-19 patients.

"I get where people are coming from," she said. "They are afraid."

Idaho congressman unveils plan to breach dams, save salmon

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A Republican congressman has proposed removing four hydroelectric dams in the Northwest as part of a sweeping new plan to address the decades-long problem of how to save salmon populations without upending a system that provides power to millions of people.

The \$33.5 billion proposal from Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho would breach four dams on the Lower Snake River by the end of the next decade, freeing up the waterway for long-ranging salmon that are also a key food source for orcas. The plan, which was unveiled late Saturday, would pay for finding ways to replace the dams' key roles in energy, agriculture and transportation.

The idea is unusual for a Republican and marks the first time a sitting senior elected official has ever asked the region to consider breaching dams that are still functioning, the Seattle Times reported.

Key to Simpson's plan would be asking for some

\$33 billion in a jobs-and-infrastructure stimulus package expected from the Biden administration this year. As Democrats take power in the nation's capital, the congressional delegations from Democratic-leaning Northwest states such as Washington and Oregon will have greater clout.

Simpson has also gotten the interest of some officials from groups such as power utilities, businesses and farmers. They're worried if they don't come to an agreement, they might see a plan handed down from a judge instead.

Environmentalists have long supported breaching the dams, and in exchange — under Simpson's plan — they would agree not use their key leverage tool: lawsuits, the Idaho Statesman reported.

The conversation comes at a key time for the fish. Eight dams along the Snake and Columbia rivers hinder their migration to the Pacific and half of the young salmon die on the trip. Idaho salmon runs have dwindled from the millions of wild fish to only a few thousand some years.

HOW HAVE YOUR PLANS CHANGED?

Help local businesses...

COVID-19 is impacting our community and local business in many ways. The business uncertainty over the next few months is one of many challenges. The economy and how we shop has changed, yet we do not know by how much or how long.

To help with some of the uncertainty, please take the time to start a survey about your current shopping needs.

This information will help local business and this newspaper get a better understanding of your needs and plans.

\$1,000 will be awarded by Pulse Research to one respondent.

Thank You!

Please start the survey here:
www.pulsepoll.com

Say **HAPPY Valentines DAY** in The Bulletin!

The Bulletin will feature your Happy Valentine's Day messages in our classified section on Sunday, Feb. 14.

TO my love, Barb

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Your's Truly, Ken

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