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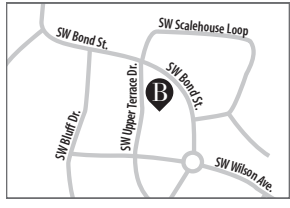
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

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, Feb. 15:

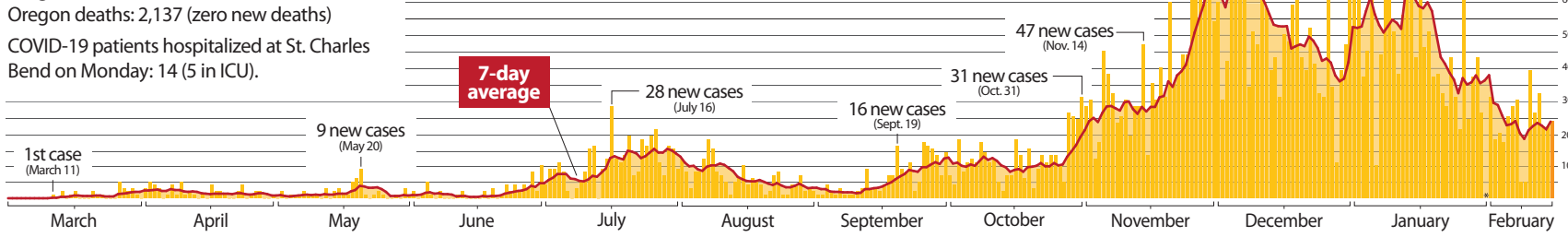
Deschutes County cases: 5,738 (24 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 56 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 747 (1 new case)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,888 (4 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 27 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 150,464 (184 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,137 (zero new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles
Bend on Monday: 14 (5 in ICU).

LOCAL VACCINATIONS

23,066
Number of vaccinations given by St. Charles Health System

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.



Groups oppose plan to remove dams

Republican lawmaker suggested removing four Snake River hydroelectric dams

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
The Associated Press

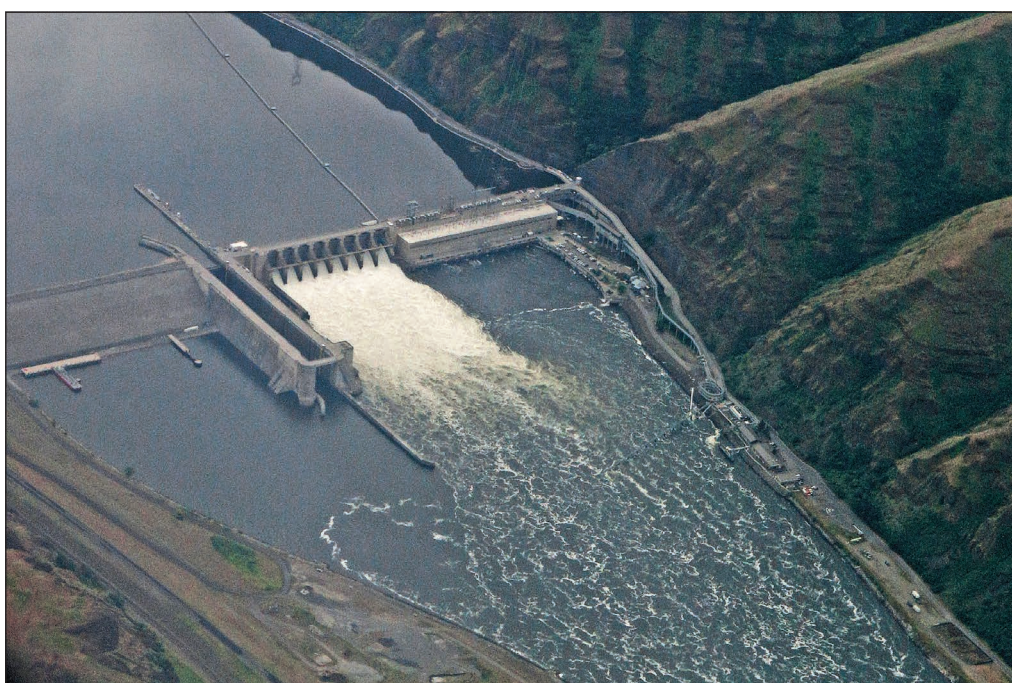
SPOKANE, Wash. — Nearly two decades ago, Republican President George W. Bush stood on a bank of the Snake River near Pasco, Washington, and declared that four hydroelectric dams would not be torn down on his watch, though many blamed them for killing endangered salmon.

This month, Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho issued a bold plan that called for removing those same dams to save the salmon. In between those two acts were decades of litigation that show no sign of ending and \$17 billion worth of improvements to the dams that did little to help fish.

Now the question is: Can Simpson's plan win approval from Congress and the Biden administration and help save an iconic Pacific Northwest species from extinction?

Other Republicans are vowing to save the dams. Democrats have come out in support of Simpson's plan, which calls for spending \$33 billion to breach four dams, replace the lost hydroelectric energy with other sources and ensure that irrigation, river navigation and flood control will continue as before.

The issue of what to do with the Snake River dams has long divided the Pacific Northwest, with Democrats generally siding with saving the salmon and Republicans saying it's



Ted S. Warren/AP file

The Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River is seen in 2019 from the air near Colfax, Washington. A Republican congressman has proposed removing four hydroelectric dams in the Northwest, including the Lower Granite Dam, as part of a sweeping plan to save salmon populations and provide aid to farmers and others.

foolish to remove hydropower resources in the era of climate change.

But Lindsay Slater, Simpson's chief of staff, said the political winds are blowing in favor of a solution to this decades-long controversy.

For one thing, the Biden administration is preparing a massive economic relief package for the nation, and Simpson wants the Northwest to designate this solution to the salmon issues for the region's share of the package, Slater said. For another, Democratic control of the Senate has propelled numerous longtime senators from the Northwest into committee leadership positions for the first time in years, he said.

"There is all this seniority in the Northwest," Slater said,

pointing to Washington Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden.

"This is lightning in a bottle. It really is," Slater said. "We are telling stakeholders this is a once-in-30-years opportunity. Do we want to grab it?"

Simpson was motivated by the prospect of continued litigation even as salmon die off, Slater said.

Simpson unveiled the plan in a video posted to his website Feb. 6, saying, "The current system is clearly not working."

Four Republican House members — Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Dan Newhouse and Jaime Herrera Beutler, all from Washington, and Rep. Russ Fulcher of Idaho — opposed Simpson's plan.

"The hydropower devel-

oped in the Pacific Northwest benefits every resident, family, and business in our region," they said in a joint statement. "Without it, life as we know it in our region would cease to exist."

McMorris Rodgers, whose district has several of the dams, has long fought to preserve the structures.

"Spending more than \$33 billion to breach them — with no guarantee that doing so will restore salmon populations — is a drastic, fiscally irresponsible leap to take," she said.

Conservation and tribal groups issued statements supporting Simpson's proposal.

The plan calls for the removal of the Lower Granite Dam near Colfax in 2030, with removal of three other dams — Ice Harbor, Little Goose

and Lower Monumental — in 2031. The dams were built in the 1950s and 1960s to provide power, flood control, irrigation and to make navigable a portion of the Snake River from Lewiston, Idaho, to the Tri-Cities of Richland, Kennewick and Pasco in Washington, and downriver to Pacific Ocean ports.

Simpson's proposal includes removing the earthen berms adjacent to all four Lower Snake River hydroelectric dams to let the river run free, while spending billions to replace the benefits of the dams for agriculture, energy and transportation.

Glen Squires, head of the Washington Grain Commission, said Simpson should look to his own backyard if he wants to help fish.

"If the representative is so interested in dams and getting fish back to Idaho, I'd suggest he look at those within his state that were built without fish passage, cutting fish off from pristine habitat," Squires said.

Nez Perce tribal Chairman Shannon Wheeler, whose ancestors kept Lewis and Clark alive with salmon from Idaho's rivers when the starving explorers stumbled into Nez Perce territory in 1805, said the tribe strongly supports Simpson's plan.

Simpson is not the only one seeking a comprehensive solution to helping conserve the salmon population while providing for the region's power needs. The governors of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana have formed the Columbia Basin Collaborative, which must be involved in any solution, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said recently.

OBITUARY • JOYCE NELSON

Influential Oregon Native American activist dies at 86

BY DOUGLAS PERRY

The Oregonian
Joyce Nelson, a prominent local Native American activist who helped found the pioneering Native American Rehabilitation Association, died Feb. 4. She was 86.

Joyce received numerous honors through the years for her community service, including a Spirit of Portland Award in 2006 for being "a consistent source for collaboration and advocacy in the Native American community in Portland for over 50 years."

Delores Joyce (Culbertson) Nelson was born on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in

Montana. She and her family moved to Oregon in 1944.

After graduating from Haskell Institute, now Haskell Indian National University, in Lawrence, Kansas, Joyce worked as a secretary at the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs in North Dakota. In 1956, she met John "Buzz" Nelson, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a great-grandson of Chief Red Cloud. They married the next year and moved to



Nelson

Portland. Joyce, a Sioux, and Buzz soon became leaders among the small band of Native Americans in the area.

Portland's Native community began to grow during World War II, when the promise of shipyard jobs brought people to the city from all over the country. In the 1950s, more Native Americans settled in Portland after the federal government terminated the official status of

dozens of tribes and relocated members.

Recognizing that Native Americans were falling through the cracks of local schools and social-service organizations, Nelson and other activists launched programs to support those who were struggling financially or feeling isolated in the city.

"There was a lot of discrimination in the '50s," Joyce said in

2004. "We still face that today. It's important that our young people feel like they belong somewhere."

Joyce focused on providing that sense of belonging, especially for Native American youth. She and fellow volunteers in groups like the Bow and Arrow Club often ended up taking on the roles for Native children that extended families would have assumed on reservations.

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