

The Bulletin

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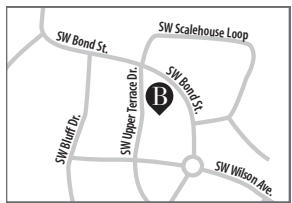
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No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

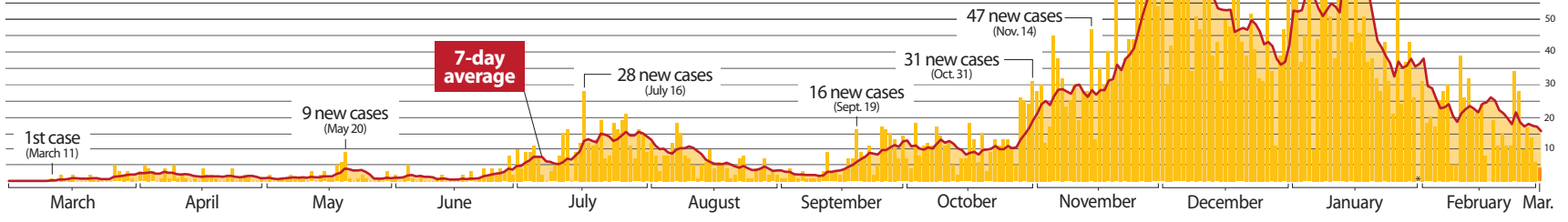
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN GRAPHIC

COVID-19 data for Monday, March 1:

Deschutes County cases: 5,956 (4 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 59 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 775 (zero new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,960 (2 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 28 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 155,794 (197 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,212 (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.



MERKLEY'S EFFORTS IN CONGRESS

Senate still a hurdle for LGBTQ protections

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

Even as the U.S. House passed legislation for the second time in two years, the Senate remains the question mark for federal efforts to shield gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people against discrimination.

The House voted 224-206 on Thursday for legislation, House Resolution 5, to bar discrimination in housing, credit and other matters. A similar bill with the same designation passed 236-173 in 2019, but died without a vote in the Republican-controlled Senate.

The Senate now has a tenuous Democratic majority — Vice President Kamala Harris holds the tie-breaker in a chamber split 50-50 — but it is uncertain at best whether advocates can muster at least 10 Republicans for a 60-vote majority to avert a filibuster.

“Today’s House passage of the Equality Act is an important step forward and a shining source of hope for every American who values freedom and equality for all,” Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley, a Democrat and one of the longtime leaders of the congressional effort, said with Senate sponsors at a news conference after the House vote.



Jaime Valdez/Pamplin file photo

“Let’s make 2021 the year that we end discrimination that remains legal in the majority of American states.”

— U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, pictured speaking in Portland in 2018.

“So let’s celebrate this major milestone, and also use this day to recommit ourselves to bringing the fight to ban LGBTQ discrimination to the Senate. Let’s make 2021 the year that we end discrimination that remains legal in the majority of American states. Let’s make 2021 the year that we ring the bells of freedom for every American.”

The latest bill won support from all four Oregon Democrats, but opposition from the lone Republican, Cliff Bentz of Ontario. Bentz’s Republi-

can predecessor, Greg Walden, voted for the 2019 version along with the Democrats.

A month after the 2019 House vote, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Civil Rights Act of 1964, “based on sex,” barred employment dis-

crimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Oregon is among 21 states with a wide range of legal protections — the 2020 State Equality Index compiled by the Human Rights Campaign says Oregon lacks a few improvements — but 27 states have no protections in their laws.

Merkley was the speaker of the Oregon House in 2007, before he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2008. Since Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy asked him to assume leadership of that cause in 2009, before Kennedy died of cancer, Merkley has been a vocal advocate of federal anti-discrimination legislation. He has teamed up

with two other Democrats, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin and Cory Booker of New Jersey, to sponsor the latest Senate effort.

The Senate passed a non-discrimination law affecting employment only by a 64-32 vote in 2013. But that bill died without a vote in the Republican-controlled House.

“In the land of the free, the doors of opportunity should not be slammed shut because of who Americans are or whom they love,” Merkley said. “It is way past time to end the dark history of discrimination and begin a new era of equality and justice for our fellow LGBTQ Americans.”

■ pwong@pamplinmedia.com

LOCAL BRIEFING

Sheriff's office investigates shooting near Alfalfa

A person was shot near Alfalfa on Saturday, and the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office is investigating.

Deputies were called to a report of a shooting in the 25000 block of Alfalfa Market Road at around 3:24 p.m. Saturday. The person was transported by air ambulance to St. Charles Bend. The person was expected to recover.

The call involved a 70-year-old man and a 55-year-old woman. “Deputies and detectives are still actively investigating this incident, so no further details can be released at this time,” Sheriff’s Office spokesman Sgt. Jayson James wrote in a news release.

There is no perceived threat to the public, James wrote.

Bend-area parent groups raise money for nonprofit

Parent groups representing various Bend-La Pine schools are fundraising for local nonprofit Family Access Network throughout the month of March.

Family Access Network, commonly referred to as FAN, has staff located at schools throughout Central Oregon who connect impoverished students with clothing, school supplies and social services.

“Parents have seen firsthand the way advocates help and inspire the Central Oregon community, which is why FAN was selected as the beneficiary of these unique fundraising efforts in this difficult year,” said a press release from

William E. Miller Elementary School’s parent organization. “Access to the essentials FAN provides is access to hope.”

Donations to Family Access Network can be made at its website, or by mailing checks to:

FAN
2125 NE Daggett Lane
Bend, OR 97701

Prescribed burns planned for south of Madras

Piles of downed juniper on 450 acres of land near Juniper Butte will be ignited Thursday, provided conditions remain favorable.

The pile burns will occur in areas parallel to U.S. Highway 97 near Culver, according to a news release from the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grasslands.

Smoke from the pile burns will be visible in areas south of Madras near Highway 97, King and Morris lanes, and Haystack Drive.

Wood to be burned is debris from a thinning project in the Willow Creek Watershed. The project removed thousands of junipers to restore range conditions and water availability.

Smoke impacts could affect areas around Madras. The public is advised to close windows at night and if smoke is on the roadway, drivers should turn on their headlights and slow down while driving through smoky areas.

The Oregon Health Authority advises that people who suffer from respiratory ailments or a heart condition remain indoors in smoke-impacted areas.

— Bulletin staff report

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—2011 Study by John Hopkins University School of Medicine and the National Institute on Aging

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- Do you feel that people mumble or do not speak clearly?
- Do you turn the TV up louder than others need to?
- Do family or friends get frustrated when you ask them to repeat themselves?
- Do you have trouble understanding the voices of women and small children when they are speaking?
- Is it hard to follow the conversation in noisy places like parties, crowded restaurants or family get-togethers?

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