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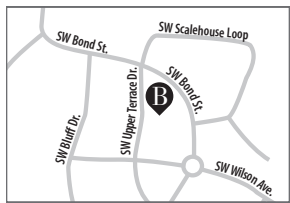
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OUR ADDRESS

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

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

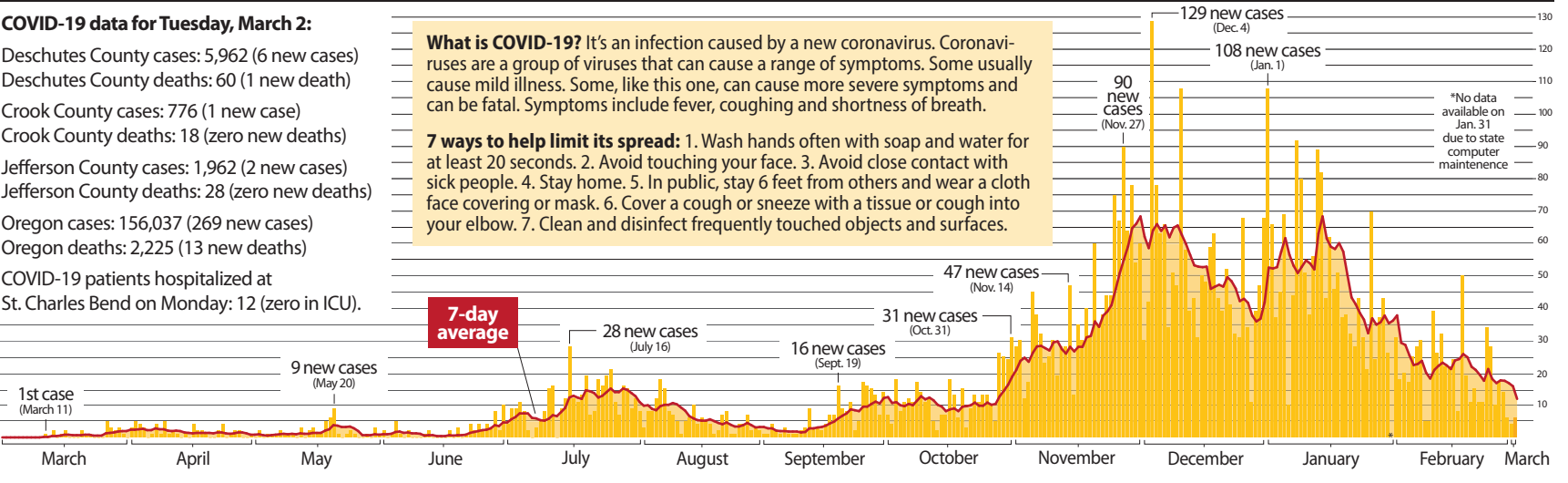
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC

COVID-19 data for Tuesday, March 2:

Deschutes County cases: 5,962 (6 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 60 (1 new death)
Crook County cases: 776 (1 new case)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,962 (2 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 28 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 156,037 (269 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,225 (13 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Monday: 12 (zero in ICU).

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.



Coronavirus in Oregon

First case of Brazilian variant confirmed in Douglas County

BY CARISA CEGAVSKE

The News-Review

The first case of the Brazilian variant of COVID-19 has hit the West Coast — in Douglas County.

Douglas County Public Health Officer Bob Dannenhoffer confirmed Tuesday that a Douglas County resident has tested positive for the variant.

“Local Public Health shares in the worry with the CDC, OHA and the entire scientific community, that the COVID-19 variants could be more infectious, perhaps more deadly, and maybe less well controlled by our current vaccine,” the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team said in a press release Tuesday, referring to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Oregon Health Authority.

Public health officials are also awaiting results of other samples that were sent to the CDC for gene sequence DNA testing for COVID-19 variants.

The Brazilian variant, also known as P.1 became known after it fueled a record-breaking case spike in the city of Manaus in the Amazon. Scientists say it has reinfected people previously immune from having contracted the original virus.

Ten cases have previously been found in the U.S. They were in Alaska, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota and Oklahoma.

The Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team said the case found here was confirmed Monday night.

It appears to be related to business travel outside the United States to and from Brazil.

Public health officials fear that an increase in the number of cases will put more strain on health care resources and could lead to more hospitalizations and deaths.

What this means for Douglas County residents is that “rigorous and increased compliance with proven public health recommendations” is essential to limit the virus’s spread, the response team said.

Those recommendations include getting the COVID-19 vaccine, physically distancing from others not in your household, wearing masks and face coverings, hand washing properly and frequently, staying home when you are sick, and going into isolation or quarantine if you become infected or are in contact with an infected person.

Sen. Wyden takes lead in urging continued aid during pandemic

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden and nine other senators urge President Joe Biden to support new rounds of direct payments and supplement unemployment benefits until the U.S. economy returns to pre-pandemic levels.

The senators made their pitch Tuesday as the Senate begins work on its version of Biden’s \$1.9 trillion pandemic recovery plan. The House passed it, 219-212, on Saturday. Congress hopes to send a plan to Biden before current unemployment benefits end March 13.

Included in the plan are another round of direct payments of \$1,400 — following amounts of \$1,200 and \$600 — and weekly supplemental unemployment benefits of \$400. The current benefit of \$300 per week ends March 13, and the House-passed plan would boost it, but only through Aug. 29. Wyden and Biden want an extension through Sept. 30.

Biden is preparing to propose another long-term relief plan, which Wyden and the other senators hope to influence.

“This crisis is far from over, and families deserve certainty that they can put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads,” their letter said. “Families should not be at the mercy of constantly shifting legislative timeliness and ad hoc solutions.”

Wyden, a Democrat, leads the tax-writing Finance Committee. Among the other signers were Sens. Sherrod Brown, a Democrat from Ohio who chairs the Banking Committee, and Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont who chairs the Budget Committee.

Wyden has argued that unemployment benefits should be tied to economic conditions.

The senators argue that both types of support are needed. “Unemployment insurance



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., speaks at a town hall meeting in Bend in 2018.

has replaced lost income for millions who have lost their jobs,” their letter said.

“But millions of others do not qualify for unemployment insurance after seeing their hours reduced, switching to lower-paying jobs, or temporarily leaving the workforce to care for family members during the pandemic. Direct payments are crucial for supporting struggling families who aren’t reached by unemployment insurance.”

They cite an Urban Institute study that 12 million people can be kept out of poverty through a \$1,200 direct payment, supplemental unemployment benefits and other assistance, and 6.3 million more people can be kept out of poverty with another round of direct payments.

They also said there is widespread public support for their position, based on an online survey of 600 people by David Binder Research between Feb.

18 and 21. The sampling found 58% in support of assistance based on economic conditions — 57% from Democrats, 60% from Republicans and 59% from independents — as opposed to 35% wanting to leave it to Congress. Of those polled, 53% supported their continuation until the economy returns to pre-pandemic levels; 43% until the economic downturn ends.

The margin of error is 4 percentage points.

In the House, both the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the New Democrat Coalition endorsed “automatic stabilizers” for COVID relief.

The New Democrats listed it as their top priority last year, saying, “Including automatic stabilizers would enable the rapid disbursement of assistance and funds where needed most without any additional congressional action or administration roadblocks if negative conditions persist or worsen.” The Progressive Caucus called for “ensuring financial assistance lasts the duration of the crisis through automatic triggers that tie assistance to economic conditions.”

Other senators who signed the letter, all Democrats, were (in alphabetical order) Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Michael Bennet of Colorado, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Ed Markey of Massachusetts, Alex Padilla of California and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Local couple will help match donations

A local couple has agreed to match donations up to \$5,000 for MountainStar Family Relief Nursery, a child abuse prevention organization in Central Oregon. The promise is being made to honor the 5,000 children the organization has served over the past 20 years.

Donations will be matched until March 31, according to MountainStar.

MountainStar staff have worked with 5,000 children up to 5 years old and with more than 20,000 parents and family members in child abuse and neglect prevention programs, the organization said in a press release.

To date, MountainStar has successfully kept 98% of children in its program safe from confirmed cases of abuse and neglect.

The organization opened in April 2001 in Bend and has expanded to Madras, Prineville, Redmond and La Pine.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, MountainStar is asking supporters to share their stories and hopes for children and families served through the program.

Stories and messages about MountainStar can be shared by contacting Kevin Donor at development@mtstar.org.

Free subscription for Bend-La Pine Schools

With spectators unable to attend school athletic events due to COVID-19 safety guidelines, the Bend-La Pine school district has decided to offer free online streaming of games.

Through the National Federation of State High School Associations Network, all of the district’s four high schools will livestream their football, volleyball, soccer and basketball games. Previously, viewers would have to pay a monthly subscription fee to be able view the games. Here’s how to register for access:

- Create a free account https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/users/sign_up

- Click ‘Subscribe’ in the top right corner of the page
- Enter Bend-La Pine Schools or your high school in the “Find your school, event, association” box, for example: Bend Sr. High School

Note: There is no need to select either of the paid subscription options; you will be allowed free access to select high school regular season home games.

Man sentenced for driving at police

The Madras man who crashed into a police car in January, prompting a police officer to fire his gun 12 times, has pleaded no contest to felony charges and was sentenced Tuesday to time served and three years probation.

Jordan Wayne Abbe, 30, received only minor injuries and was taken to jail on suspicion of eluding police, reckless driving and two counts each of unlawful use of a weapon, menacing and reckless endangering. He pleaded no contest to two counts of unlawful use of a weapon.

In exchange, his case was transferred to mental health treatment court, where he will have to abide by certain treatment conditions.

Just before noon Jan. 6, two Madras Police Department officers, Ryan Kathrein and Mel Brown, were parked outside a business in Madras when Abbe, driving a Chevrolet Monte Carlo, entered the parking lot at high speed and skidded circles around their patrol vehicles. The officers followed Abbe through nearby residential streets, attempting to pull him over before he crashed into Kathrein’s vehicle on NE Oak Street.

As Brown approached Abbe’s stopped vehicle on foot, Abbe stared at Brown and revved his engine, a witness told police. At this, Brown fired his service weapon.

Jefferson County District Attorney Steve LeRiche later determined that Brown’s use of force had been justified.

—Bulletin staff reports

STATE BRIEFING

La Pine man one of two fatally shot in Portland

William “Billy” Peters, his fiancée, mother, brother and friends had gone out to the Acropolis bar Saturday night in southeast Portland after celebrating his 4-year-old daughter’s birthday earlier that day.

Others in the group had already left when Peters and a friend — Adam David-Lawrence Arrambide, of La Pine — were fatally shot in the strip club’s parking lot as they were trying to leave.

“They went out for a quick

drink and never came home,” said Brandon Krupp, a friend of Peters’.

Portland police confirmed Tuesday that Peters, 40, was shot and killed outside the Acropolis in the 8300 block of SE McLoughlin Boulevard. Police were called at 11:30 p.m. to the club on a report of two people shot.

Peters died at the scene, police said. Arrambide, 36, died Sunday at a hospital.

No arrests have been made in the double homicide. It’s not clear what led up to the shooting.

—The Oregonian

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