

# The Bulletin

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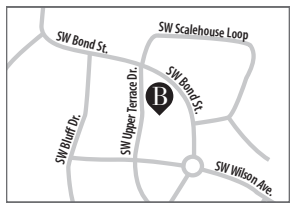
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

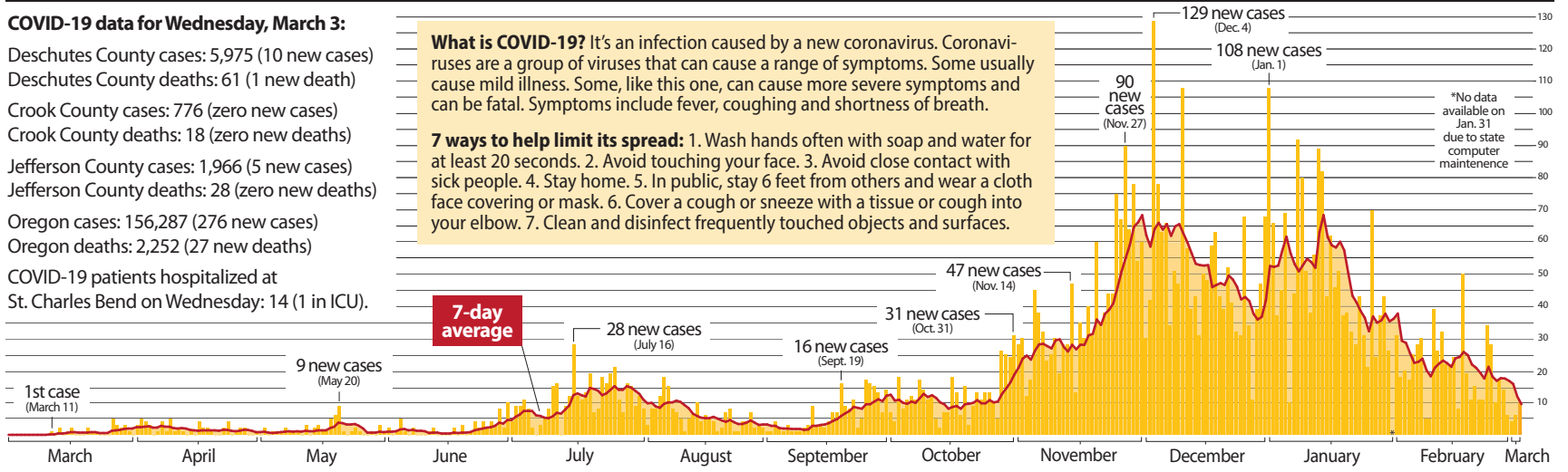
## DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

**COVID-19 data for Wednesday, March 3:**  
Deschutes County cases: 5,975 (10 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 61 (1 new death)  
Crook County cases: 776 (zero new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 1,966 (5 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 28 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 156,287 (276 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,252 (27 new deaths)  
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Wednesday: 14 (1 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.



## Park district receives federal permit for Drake Park project



Bulletin file

Pedestrians walk the trail along Mirror Pond in Drake Park in this file photo from March 2014.

**BY MICHAEL KOHN**  
The Bulletin

A \$6.6 million project to improve trails, beach access and deteriorating sections of the riverbank in and around Drake Park in Bend moved a step closer toward construction with the recent issuance of a federal permit to proceed.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved a joint application permit for the Drake Park project on Feb. 9, according to Brian Hudspeth, development manager for Bend Park & Recreation District. The permit is one of several needed by the district before it can break ground.

Drake Park is 13 acres of

grassy lawn and trees along Bend's iconic Mirror Pond. Constructed in 1921, it is one of the city's oldest parks and features a variety of trees, including ponderosa pine, juniper, and deciduous trees.

Many of the trails in the park are crumbling and lack a cohesive connection to Pacific Park to the north. Both these issues are expected to be fixed with the Drake Park project.

But the project is not without controversy, mainly due to the planned cutting down of more than 30 trees to make way for the eight to 10-foot-wide footpath.

Hudspeth said some trees sit squarely in the way of the path

and need to be removed.

"We will try to save every single tree we can," said Hudspeth. "But there are some in the middle of where the trail has to go and they are going to come out."

The remaining permits still pending include a "fill permit" that will allow drilling into Mirror Pond to install piles that will support a boardwalk, said Hudspeth.

Upon receipt of the remaining permits for construction, the district plans to start work on the trail in October. Hudspeth is hopeful that the permitting process could be complete this month.

Reporter: 541-617-7818, mkohn@bendbulletin.com

## Schools spent most of federal aid on virtual learning

**BY EDER CAMPUZANO**  
The Oregonian

Since the start of the pandemic, the federal government has earmarked nearly \$620 million in emergency funds for Oregon schools.

About \$121 million that has arrived in Oregon so far has helped schools across the state purchase laptops, internet hot spots and program licenses to set up the virtual learning programs that have dominated the Oregon classroom experience over the last year.

But a second round of federal funds is expected to deliver another \$499 million to school districts by the end of the month, the state's share of a \$900 billion relief bill passed in December.

And the bulk of that money should go toward reopening schools.

What that looks like will differ from district to district.

Some may need to upgrade ventilation systems or purchase air filters and fans. Others might opt to renovate classrooms to provide more space for students as the pandemic wears on.

Mike Wiltfong, the Oregon Department of Education's director of school finance and facilities, said schools that are already open for in-person instruction provide a glimpse at how districts will need to spend federal aid.

"We're already seeing where schools are struggling — some students sit in the hallway," he

told The Oregonian.

Wiltfong is concerned that Oregon schools will start burning through their federal aid allocations as districts begin rolling out their in-person offerings. In December, about 50,000 of Oregon's 580,000 public K-12 students were getting some sort of in-person instruction.

As of last week, that number was just over 136,000.

In states where governors ordered schools to reopen, such as Iowa, Texas and Arkansas, districts went through large chunks of their share of federal aid by the end of November, according to the most recent data from the U.S. Department of Education.

By December, Texas schools

spent 42% of their allocation in federal aid. In Iowa, it was 92%.

Wiltfong said that once Oregon schools fully reopen for in-person learning, it'll cost about \$500 per student to educate them safely every year, or about \$290 million.

Even though the White House has pledged to inoculate every adult in the country by the end of May, it doesn't mean COVID-19 goes away. And that means schools will still need a steady supply of hand sanitizer and cleaning materials.

Some may even have to take on construction projects to increase ventilation or expand classrooms.

"What is going to be the appropriate spacing for students

in the future?" Wiltfong said. "What happens if we have a run-in with another variant of the virus?"

Wiltfong said districts are wary of tapping into too much of the federal pot at this point in the pandemic. Even though Oregon's economy fared better than expected over the last year and schools avoided much-feared cuts in funding, that sort of fortune isn't guaranteed in the future.

And such unknowns are part of the reason districts have until September of next year to apply for reimbursements for federal coronavirus aid.

"They're proceeding in the best manner they can based on local decisions," Wiltfong said.

### LOCAL BRIEFING

#### Redmond man sentenced for sex abuse of a minor

A Redmond man received a month in jail and five years probation Wednesday for a sex crime involving a young victim in late summer.

Dillen Alan Hart, 21, had earlier pleaded guilty in Deschutes County Circuit Court to one count of second-degree sexual abuse for subjecting a minor to sexual intercourse in August.

He was arrested that month and originally charged with first-degree rape, in addition to three other counts, for engaging in sex with someone "incapable of consent by reason of mental incapacitation and/or physical helplessness."

On Wednesday, Judge Ray Crutchley assigned Hart 30 days in jail, which he'd already served. Hart was additionally ordered to register as a sex offender and have no contact with the victim.

#### Bend Parkway paving to prompt closures, detours

A paving project that will cover more than 6 miles of U.S. Highway 97 in Bend will begin Monday, prompting nighttime single-lane closures on the Bend Parkway and full closures in one direction starting March 14.

Construction is expected to continue through May 15.

The \$7.5 million repaving

project will add 2 inches of new pavement to address deterioration and rutting, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation. ODOT will also add 64 new ADA curb ramps, push-button controllers and other upgrades at crosswalks.

Detours will be present when closures are in effect to redirect traffic to Third Street, which doubles as the U.S. Highway 97 business route, according to ODOT.

Closures will happen in two stages. The first stage will close southbound traffic on U.S. Highway 97, first from Exit 135A to Reed Market Exit 139, and then from Exit 139 to Exit 141.

In the second stage, Highway 97 northbound will be closed from Exit 141 to Exit 139. Then the closure will go from Exit 139 to Exit 135B.

Closures will take place nightly from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday night to Friday morning.

From March 7 to 12 there will be single-lane closures Sunday night into Friday morning. Full closures will begin March 15 and go through May 15.

On two weekends, March 19 through March 22 and March 26 through March 29, a single lane will be closed 24 hours a day northbound from Reed Market to Revere Avenue.

For more information about detours and the project, visit oregon.gov.

#### Colorado, Columbia intersection to close

Starting Thursday, the intersection at Colorado Avenue and SW Columbia Street will close so the city of Bend can build a new roundabout.

The intersection will be

closed through May, according to the city of Bend website. A detour will be provided on Emkay Drive. Parking will be restricted to one side of Emkay Drive during this detour.

A second roundabout project at the intersection of Columbia Street and SW Simp-

son Avenue will begin in May.

The goal is to make both intersections, which currently just have stop signs, safer, according to the city's website.

For more information about both projects, visit bendoregon.gov.

— Bulletin staff reports

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ISSUE