

The Bulletin

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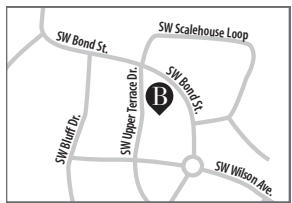
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

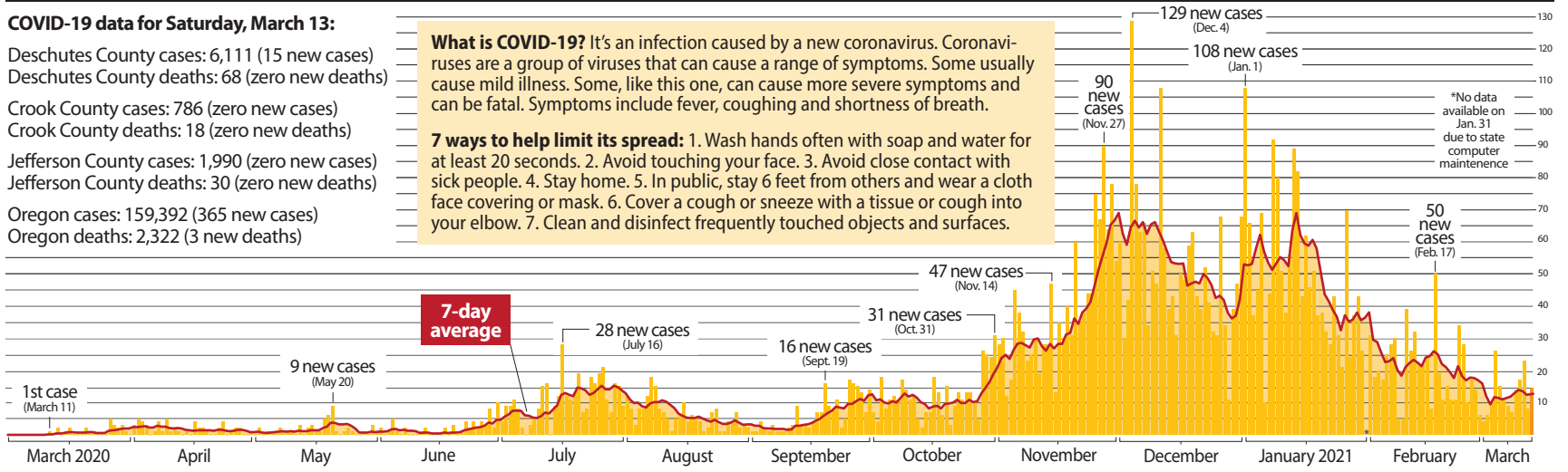
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC

COVID-19 data for Saturday, March 13:

Deschutes County cases: 6,111 (15 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 68 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 786 (zero new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,990 (zero new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 30 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 159,392 (365 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,322 (3 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.



Is there an afterlife?

A strange soul-weighing experiment in Oregon 20 years ago produced an unusual result

BY DOUGLAS PERRY

The Oregonian
Humans are endlessly fascinated by death. Everyone wants to know what, if anything, awaits on the other side.

The latest probing of this subject comes from psychiatrist Bruce Greyson, whose just-published book is called, simply, "After."

The volume's arrival is as good a reason as any to look back at one of the more unusual experiments ever conducted in Oregon. Here's the study's abstract in its entirety:

"Twelve animals (one ram, seven ewes, three lambs and one goat) were studied. At the moment of death an unexplained weight gain transient of 18 to 780 grams for 1 to 6 seconds was observed with seven adult sheep but not with the lambs or goat. The transients occurred in a quiet time at the moment of death when all breathing and movement had ceased. These transient gains are anomalous in that there is no compensating weight loss as required by Newton's Third Law. There was no permanent weight change at death. Dynamic weight measurements may present a fruitful area of investigation."

The 2001 study, by Lewis E. Hollander, Jr., is titled "Unexplained Weight Gain Transients at the Moment of Death." It attempted to build upon the work of the late Massachusetts physician Duncan Macdougall.

The goal of Macdougall's original work 100 years earlier: to prove that the soul existed.

Macdougall's ambitious objective turned on the commonplace belief that there is a soul and that it leaves the body at the time of death. He figured that, while the soul surely is a will-o'-the-wisp, in the modern



Courtesy of Serkan Ates/Oregon State University

Sheep graze in Oregon.

age it must be detectable.

That is, he decided to weigh it.

The doctor, working at the beginning of the 20th century, put a dying tuberculosis patient on a commercial scale and closely monitored the man's last breaths, figuring a sudden loss of weight at the moment of death would be the result of the soul lifting into the ether.

Macdougall's "Patient 1," resting on an E. & T. Fairbanks scale, reached his end in April 1901. When the man died, sure enough, the scale reportedly quivered, dropping three-fourths of an ounce.

"Which is, yes, twenty-one grams," wrote Mary Roach in her 2005 bestseller "Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife." "Hollywood metricized their reference to the event for the simple reason that '21 Grams' sounds better. Who's going to go see a movie called 'Point Seven Five Ounces'?"

"'21 Grams' is a ruminative, stunned look at life after death — that is, the existence of the living after they have been devastated by loss; it's the after-

nabe scientists over the years. A few of them took up his soul-weighing experiment, using ever more sophisticated equipment. One of them, in 2000, was Lewis Hollander, a retired physicist living in Southern Oregon.

Back to Roach: "(Hollander) rigged a seven-by-three-foot platform to a Toledo model 8132 electronic digital indicator, a quartet of load cells and a computer. His subjects were eight sheep, three lambs and a goat, all of which were sedated and then euthanized, and all of which, he assures us, were headed in that direction anyway. The animals were wrapped in plastic to, as he put it, contain any voiding. This was important because (a) voided material might drip off the weighing surface, creating a spurious weight loss, and (b) you try getting sheep urine out of your load cells."

But the result of this experiment proved truly unexpected.

The sheep — though not the lambs or the goat — gained weight at death for a few seconds. One gained as much as 780 grams. Hollander called this baffling gain an "anomalous transient."

He published his results in 2001 in the Journal of Scientific Exploration, a journal that focuses on work that is "ignored or studied inadequately within

mainstream science."

Hollander's experiment sounds about as fringe as fringe science gets, but Japanese engineering professor Masayoshi Ishida took the research seriously enough to test it via computer model and then produce his own study, "A New Experimental Approach to Weight Change Experiments at the Moment of Death with a Review of Lewis E. Hollander's Experiments on Sheep."

It was published, also in the Journal of Scientific Exploration, in 2009.

Ishida wrote that the "transient gain of weight" for one or more of the sheep was likely a glitch of some sort. "It is doubtful whether the weighing system (primarily the four load cells) functioned normally," he wrote.

He added that the study's overall result, however, "remains to be explained."

What did Hollander himself think of his experiment? When asked about the sheep's weight gain at death, he said:

"I haven't the faintest idea." But he does believe it has something to do with the great beyond.

"I think that at the moment of death that little window opens up," he said. "I think that maybe we're all connected to something bigger than we are."

Northwest wildlife agencies warn of invasive zebra mussels

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Wildlife agencies in Oregon, Washington and Idaho are urging pet stores to stop selling a popular aquarium product after discovering invasive zebra mussels inside them.

The mollusks breed quickly and can wreak havoc on natural waterways. Unexpected sightings in Northwest pet stores have wildlife officials sounding the alarm.

"It would be devastating to our environment if these ever got established in Oregon or the Pacific Northwest," said Rick Boatner, the invasive species wildlife integrity supervisor at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A PetCo employee in Seattle found zebra mussels in "Betta Buddy Marimo Ball" moss ball products in February.

"I work in the aquatics department, and almost every shipment of these moss balls that I have unpacked for the



The Oregonian

Invasive zebra mussels can clog water intake and delivery pipes, dam intake gates and pipes, and adhere to boats and other surfaces.

past two months has had mussels nestled in the moss balls," reads a specimen filing with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Zebra mussels are small but destructive. They eat algae that native species need to survive. The USGS says they can also incapacitate native mussels. They clog storm drains, drinking water systems, irrigation and dams. Zebra and quagga mussel infestations in the Great Lakes region have cost hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Red Chair gallery

"Creativity comes from a conflict of ideas."
- Donatella Versace

LARISSA SPAFFORD

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