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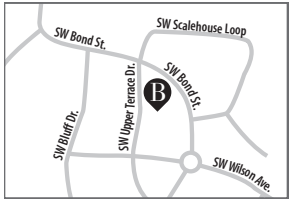
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No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Phone 541-385-5809
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Lottery 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

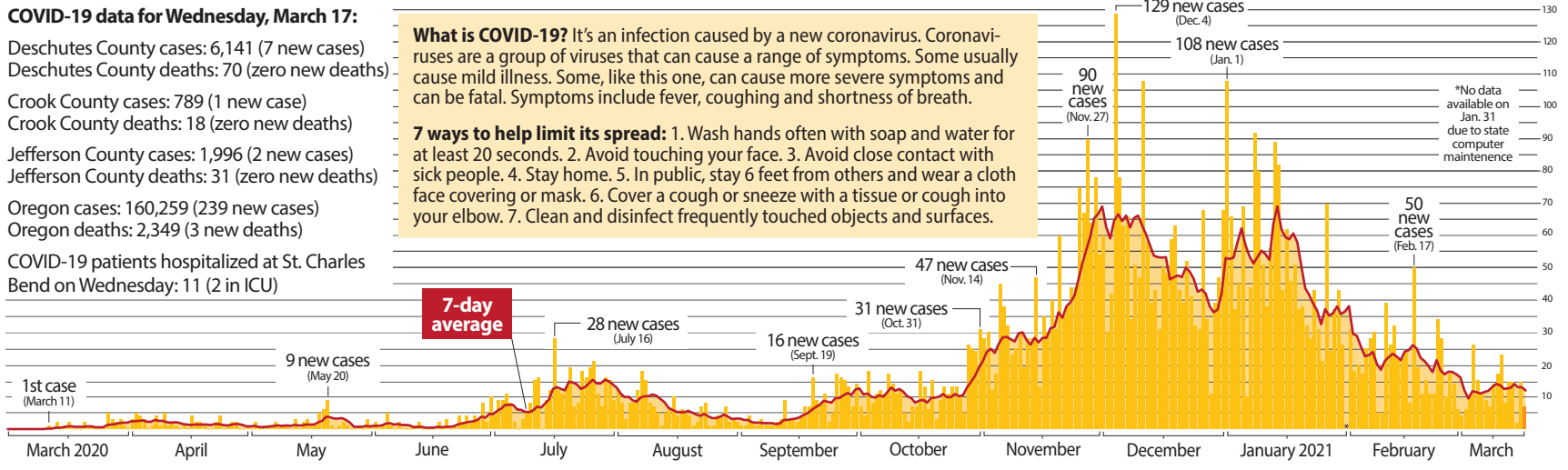
COVID-19 data for Wednesday, March 17:

Deschutes County cases: 6,141 (7 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 70 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 789 (1 new case)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,996 (2 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 31 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 160,259 (239 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,349 (3 new deaths)

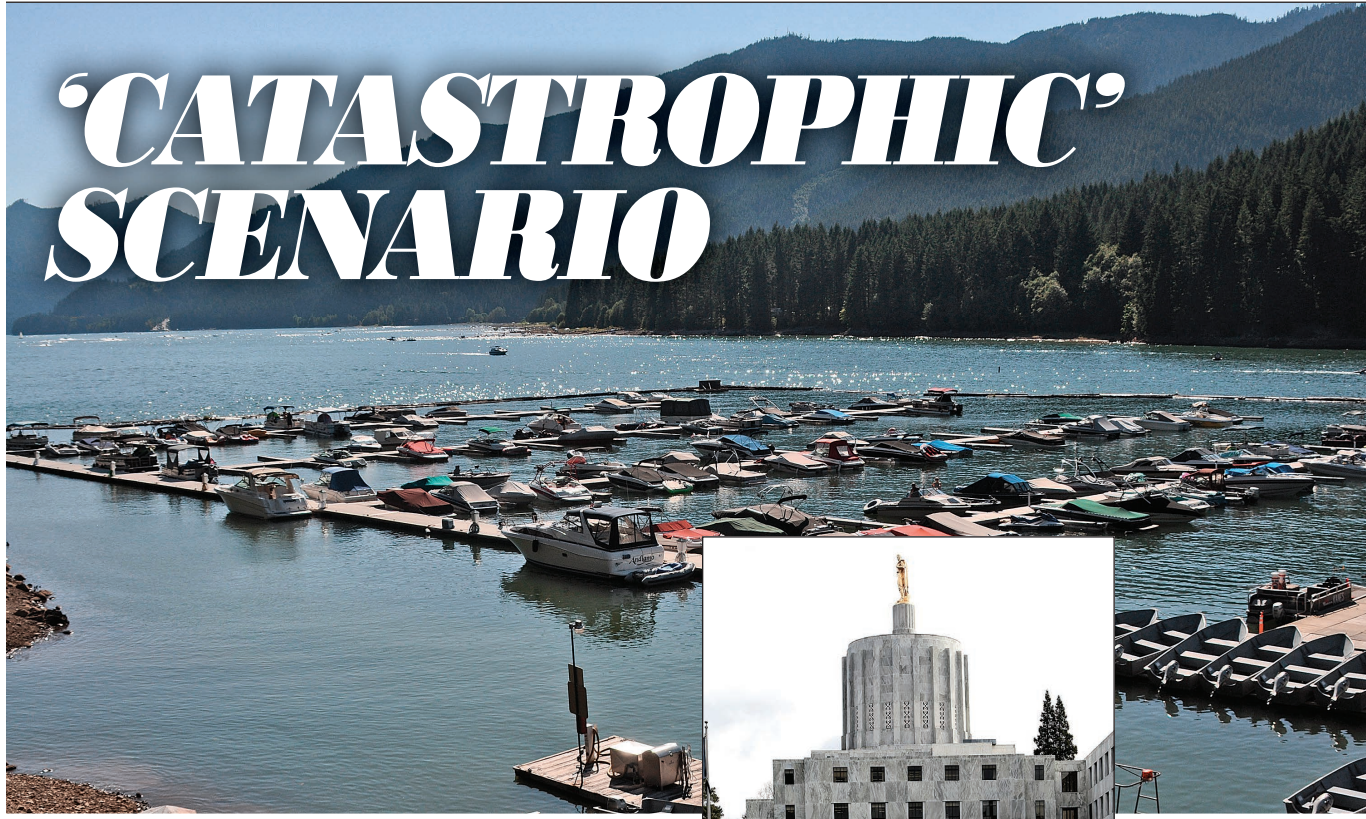
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Wednesday: 11 (2 in ICU)

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.



'CATASTROPHIC' SCENARIO



LEFT: The Capitol building is reflected in a pond on the Capitol grounds in Salem. Hundreds of thousands of people, including those in Salem, live downstream of the Detroit Dam, which is at risk of rupturing from a major earthquake. ABOVE: Kane's Marina on Detroit Lake Reservoir in Detroit.
Photos: AP file (left), The Oregonian file (above)

Detroit Dam could fail in a large earthquake, federal authorities say

BY ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that a large earthquake — which is expected to occur again in the Pacific Northwest sooner or later — could cause the spillway gates of a dam in Oregon to buckle, resulting “in a potentially catastrophic flood.”

The Corps announced Monday it will try to minimize the danger by reducing the maximum height of the lake by 5 feet starting in April. Hundreds of thousands of people, including those in the state capital, live downstream from the Detroit Dam, whose construction in the 1950s created the narrow, 9-mile long Detroit Lake.

The move comes as Oregon and the wider Northwest are coming to grips with “the big one” that experts say is coming. Earthquakes in the Cascadia subduction zone, which extends from the ocean off Northern California to Canada's Vancouver Island, have an average magnitude of around 9, making them among the world's biggest.

A quake in that zone has a 37% probability of happening off Oregon's Coast in the next

50 years, according to Chris Goldfinger, an Oregon State University professor and earthquake geologist.

Just last week, an earthquake early warning system was launched in Oregon. Operated by the U.S. Geological Survey, the state joined California in the system that sends alerts to smart phones. Washington state is expected to join the ShakeAlert system, which operates on an array of seismic sensors, in May.

“When a Cascadia event happens, the critical seconds of notice ShakeAlert warnings provide will save lives and reduce damage to important lifeline systems,” Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said the day it launched, on Thursday.

Lawmakers are also trying to prepare the state for a major earthquake.

In the Oregon Legislature, House Bill 3083 mandates that contracts for public works must adhere to seismic safety standards and seismic rehabilitation standards in constructing or renovating public buildings or critical infrastructure in earthquake-prone areas. A House committee has a work session scheduled for the bill on April 1.

In 2020, the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers completed a seismic hazard analysis for Detroit Dam, and found the risk to be higher than Corps officials previously thought.

“Structural analysis has shown a possibility of the spillway gates buckling under the force of a full reservoir during a large earthquake,” the Corps said in its statement. “Risk is high enough to warrant immediate actions.”

A breach would send a surge of water shooting down the Santiam Canyon, which was devastated by a wildfire last summer, and onto where it opens up on the eastern edge of the Willamette Valley.

“Because Detroit Dam is located upstream of many communities including the state capital of Salem, Oregon, there is potential for devastating flooding to affect large portions of the narrow North Santiam

River canyon and urban areas,” the Corps said in its draft environmental assessment.

Lowering the maximum level is a temporary solution to mitigate the risks and will have little impact, the Corps said. The lake is used for recreation, and most of the boat ramps would be unusable for up to a month.

The Corps said it continues to evaluate the seismic performance of the spillway and other components of the dam to determine if long-term modifications or changes to operations will be necessary. That includes the potential for major reconstruction to address seismic risk.

Lawsuit over 'glaring' gender pay gap at UO is revived

Associated Press

EUGENE — A federal appeals court has revived a University of Oregon professor's lawsuit alleging the university has failed to address a “glaring” pay gap between her and male colleagues.

Psychology professor Jennifer Joy Freyd argued that the university paid her thousands less per year than it paid four male professors though they were all of equal rank and seniority.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit of Appeals held Monday that a reasonable jury could find that Freyd and her male colleagues performed a common core of tasks and did substantially equal work yet the men drew significantly higher wages.

The decision reverses a ruling by U.S. District Judge Michael J. McShane and moves the case back to the trial court.

The appeals panel revived Freyd's claim under the federal Equal Pay Act, Oregon's law prohibiting discriminatory wages and federal civil rights law preventing job discrimination based on sex.

The decision has coincided with Freyd's retirement and new status as professor emerita at the university. “I gave the university my career basically, and it's hard to be treated this way,” Freyd said.

In a statement, the University of Oregon said it will evaluate whether to appeal or proceed to trial.

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