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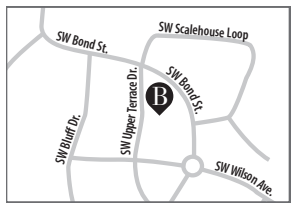
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

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 Friday, March 19:

Deschutes County cases: 6,161 (15 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 70 (zero new deaths)

Crook County cases: 793 (3 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)

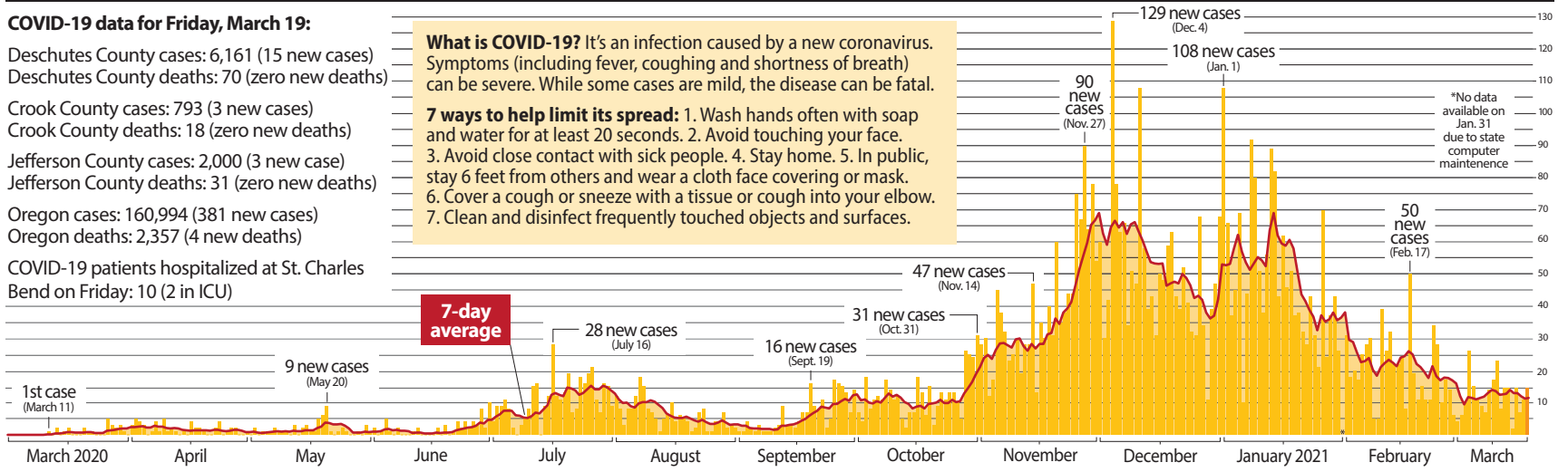
Jefferson County cases: 2,000 (3 new case)
Jefferson County deaths: 31 (zero new deaths)

Oregon cases: 160,994 (381 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,357 (4 new deaths)

COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Friday: 10 (2 in ICU)

What is COVID-19? It's an infection caused by a new coronavirus. Symptoms (including fever, coughing and shortness of breath) can be severe. While some cases are mild, the disease can be fatal.

- 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.



White House appoints OSU scientist to key climate change role

BY ANDREW FREEDMAN
The Washington Post
WASHINGTON — The White House has appointed Jane Lubchenco, a well-known marine scientist at Oregon State University and former head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to a high-level position coordinating climate and environmental issues within its Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The announcement scheduled for Friday marks another step in the Biden administration's all-of-government approach to tackling climate change.

Lubchenco is serving in the renamed position of deputy director for climate and the environment, which in previous administrations had been known as the head of "energy and the environment."

Her portfolio encompasses a broad set of issues that President Biden asked Office of Science and Technology Policy officials to address in a letter on Jan. 15.

In that letter to Eric Lander, nominated to serve as presidential science adviser, Biden tasked the office with finding climate change solutions that will help improve the economy and health, "especially in communities that have been left



Jane Lubchenco meets students during a groundbreaking ceremony for an ocean sciences education center on the campus of University of California, Santa Barbara in January 2010.

behind." Office of Science and Technology Policy is also responsible for overseeing the U.S. Global Change Research Program, which coordinates climate research among 13 different agencies. Every four years, this program produces the U.S. government's definitive report on climate change science and impacts, known as the National Climate Assessment.

In an interview, Lubchenco said her aim is to seek to pro-



Lubchenco: "I frankly relish the opportunity to represent a president who values the science."

mote solutions to global warming that would have tangible benefits for working class Americans, in keeping with Biden's "Build Back Better" campaign. "I frankly relish the opportunity to represent a president who values the science," she said, noting that for Biden, complex issues such as climate change are ultimately about people on the ground. "I really like that he always brings policy back to people. It's very grounded in what's real."

Democrats seek to end GOP boycotts of Oregon Legislature

BY ANDREW SELSKY

The Associated Press
SALEM — Walkouts by Republicans in Oregon's Legislature have become so frequent, with GOP lawmakers torpedoing progressive legislation, that Democrats want to sanction boycotters with \$500 daily fines and even disqualify them from holding office.

The issue has become acrimonious, with Democrats saying the boycotts harm the democratic functioning of the state. Oregon is particularly vulnerable to boycotts because, while 46 of the other statehouses in America require only a simple majority for a quorum, the northwestern state requires two-thirds of lawmakers to be present.

Democrats have most of the seats in the Oregon Legislature, but lack the two-thirds majority to conduct business if Republicans stay away.

On Thursday, the Senate Committee on Rules

held an emotional public hearing on four measures that seek to deprive Republicans of the leverage from quorum rules that critics say they have weaponized.

This is the third straight year in which Republicans have used walkouts. They have also sometimes insisted that bills be read in full, causing bills to stack up after they leave committees, and delaying floor votes on them.

The Legislature's 2020 session ended early, and acrimoniously, because of a Republican boycott. House Speaker Tina Kotek said then that Republicans violated their constitutional duty of voting on bills, adding: "We have been held hostage by a small group of elected representatives."

This year, Republicans have already been absent from a Senate floor session. GOP lawmakers have insisted on bills being read in full, leading Kotek to schedule night sessions in the House.

Oregon lawmakers consider bills to reduce wildfire risk

BY MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Oregon would emphasize reducing fuels in high-risk forests near communities and key environmental resources as part of broader legislation aimed at mitigating wildfire hazards.

A crucial aspect of the proposal involves steering forest treatments toward where they're most needed, regardless of property ownership.

"We are taking an all-lands approach here," said Dylan Kruse, government affairs director for the Sustainable Northwest nonprofit. "Immediately, we're going where there's the most urgent need"

At its core, the legislation is aimed at selecting where and

how to conduct forest projects that would be most effective, Kruse said.

"We know we can't treat all the forest acreage we want to in this state, so we have to narrow down and prioritize where we get the best return on investment," Kruse said during a recent legislative hearing.

The U.S. Forest Service has developed a "quantitative wildfire risk assessment" that indicates about 5.6 million acres in Oregon need fuels treatments, he said.

Under the legislation, projects would begin in the four highest risk categories, with an eye toward protecting human life, property and critical infrastructure, as well as watershed health and habitat restoration.

LOCAL BRIEFING

New charge for deputy accused of hitting stepson

The Deschutes County Sheriff's deputy accused of striking his teenage stepson last year faces a new charge in an updated indictment.

Blair Joseph Belding, 43, appeared this week in Deschutes County Circuit Court for a pretrial hearing where a new count of harassment was read against him.

The alleged victim is the same 15-year-old he was accused of striking and choking during a domestic dispute May 30, 2020. The alleged harassment is said to have occurred on the same date.

Belding was charged in June with one count of fourth-degree assault and one of strangulation.

Per state law, he was placed on paid administrative leave for the duration of his criminal case.

Belding started his career as a reserve deputy with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office in 2000 and was hired full time in 2002. He was assigned as a corrections deputy at the time he was placed on leave of absence last summer.

He has a plea hearing scheduled for April 19.

— Bulletin staff report

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