

# The Bulletin

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

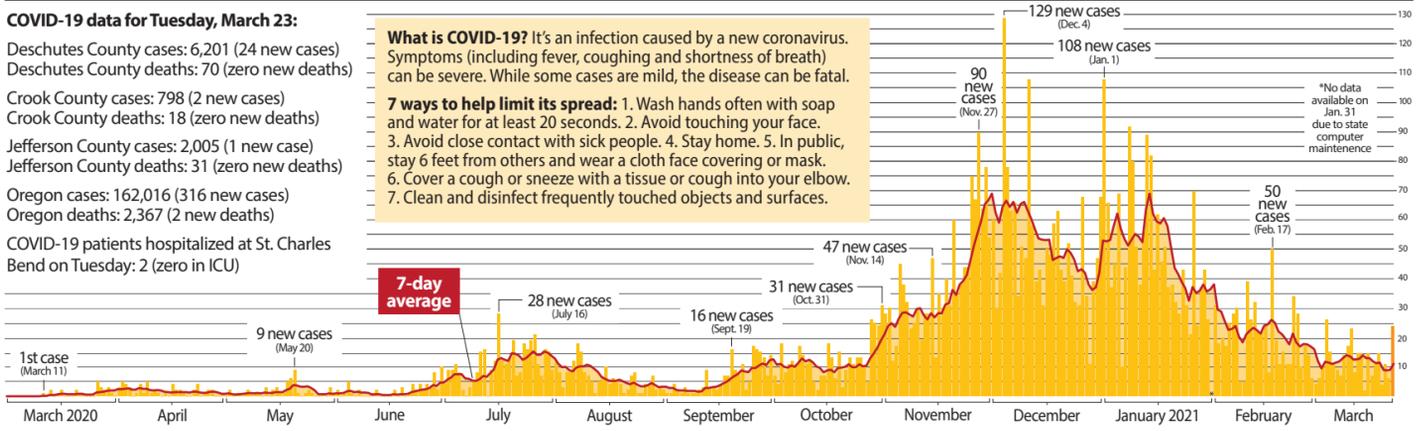
# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

## DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

**COVID-19 data for Tuesday, March 23:**  
Deschutes County cases: 6,201 (24 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 70 (zero new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 798 (2 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 2,005 (1 new case)  
Jefferson County deaths: 31 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 162,016 (316 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,367 (2 new deaths)  
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Tuesday: 2 (zero 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.



## Colleges sued for refunds over online learning

The Associated Press  
**PORTLAND** — Three students have filed class-action lawsuits against Oregon's two largest colleges saying they were charged full-price for online classes of poorer quality than in-person classes.  
When the University of Oregon and Oregon State University closed their campuses because of the coronavirus pandemic, they didn't offer to refund students' tuition bills, The Oregonian reported.

The University of Oregon says on its website that in order to provide quality education now and in the future, it cannot discount tuition. The universities did agree to refund portions of their room and board.  
"The University of Oregon, we believe, has unfairly continued to charge tuition payers for all of the things they were not allowed to experience and use during the COVID-19 campus closure and switch to online classes," said Steve Berman,

managing partner of Hagens Berman and attorney for students in the class action.  
Caine Smith filed the suit against Oregon. Danielle Pranger and Garrett Harris filed the complaint against Oregon State.  
The complaints were filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court earlier in March. The suits did not specify how much they are seeking in damages.  
In the complaint against OSU, students allege before the

pandemic the college charged much lower tuition for remote students using the "Ecampus" program. But when the in-person students were forced to go online, they continued to be charged the full in-person tuition, the lawsuit claims.  
Spokesman Steve Clark said OSU prorated charges for room and board.  
"The lawsuit is wrong on the law and the facts," the University of Oregon said in a statement. "Despite what the lawsuit

suggests, the university's costs for delivering instruction have not decreased as a result of the pandemic. In fact, our costs have increased due to a variety of new technology and infrastructure investments."  
Hagens Berman, based in Seattle, has filed similar lawsuits on behalf of students against over a dozen other colleges including the University of Washington.  
Nationally, more than 200 similar lawsuits have been filed.

### COVID-19

# ASHES OF 911 DISPATCHER RECEIVE ESCORT HOME



**Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish, right, watches as Deputy Jeff Baty hands the ashes of late 911 dispatcher and reserve deputy Bret Bridges, shown inset, to Bridges' parents, Dolores and David Bridges, at their Joseph home March 12. Fish and Baty escorted the ashes home from Portland, where Bridges died March 2 of COVID-19.**  
Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

BY BILL BRADSHAW • Wallowa County Chieftain

The ashes of a 911 dispatcher and reserve Wallowa County deputy were delivered by police escort to his parents' Joseph home March 12, and a special "last call" over the county's 911 system was issued for Bret Bridges.  
The 47-year-old Bridges died March 2 at Portland's Legacy Emanuel Medical Center after testing positive for COVID-19 on Jan. 25. He reportedly had underlying issues, according to a press release from the Oregon Health Authority.  
The "last call" was to be issued at 1 p.m. March 16.  
"It's a very honorable thing to do in the 911 world," said Brenda Micka, administrative services director for Wallowa County. "We've lost one of our own. It's nice to do that, to do the 'last call' on the radio."  
Sheriff Joel Fish and Deputy Jeff Baty went to Portland to retrieve Bridges' ashes. They were joined by other local law

enforcement and emergency vehicles once they arrived in the county for the escort to the home of David and Dolores Bridges.  
"He was awesome," Fish told the Bridges as he and Baty handed over the ashes.  
"Bret has been a dispatcher and reserve deputy for about three years," Fish said later. "He was a very devoted third-shift dispatcher. He never missed a day until this past episode. He didn't want to take off. He didn't want to be gone. He was very devoted to his position."  
Bridges had lived in Wallowa County since September 2017.  
"We invited him," his father said. "He was living in Colorado at the time and had no family close to him and he accepted our invitation. It brought our family closer together."  
He said Bret was first hospitalized at Wallowa Memorial

Hospital for a week before being transferred to Tri-Cities for a week and then to Portland. He said it both was and was not a surprise that his son fell ill.  
Bridges said he never was told by a medical professional what the "underlying condi-

tions" that contributed to his son's death were. To his knowledge, Bridges said, his son was healthy other than being overweight.  
"Nothing surprises me in this pandemic," David Bridges said. "It was a huge blow and a disappointment. It's truly a terrible disease."

### LOCAL BRIEFING

#### Bend man arrested in sexual assault cases

A 30-year-old Bend man was arrested in connection with two separate sexual assault cases, and authorities believe there are more victims, according to Bend Police.  
Brigham "Briggs" Scott Lazalde is suspected of two sexual assaults that were reported in January and February, police said.  
In each case, Lazalde allegedly met the women on dating websites, provided controlled substances and then sexually assaulted the women, according to police. The women are Bend residents. One is 20 and the other is 29, according to police.  
Lazalde was arrested Monday morning in the 20000 block of Merriewood Lane and booked in Deschutes County jail on charges related to the February report.  
Lazalde has been charged with five counts including first-degree sexual penetration, first-degree sodomy and furnishing alcohol to a minor.



Lazalde

—Bulletin staff report

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**Upcoming Grief Support Series**

Partners In Care offers a variety of support services for families, friends, and the community when a loved one dies. The following series will begin in April and end in June. All conducted virtually.

- Mindfulness & Grief Class** – 10 weekly sessions beginning April 19 - 2-3:30pm
- Spousal Loss Support Group** – 8 weekly sessions beginning April 20- 10:30am-noon
- General Grief Support Group** – 8 weekly sessions beginning April 22 - 10:30am-noon

**Open to the community at no cost!**  
Register by calling (541) 382-5882 and a Zoom registration will be emailed to you.

**(541) 382-5882 PartnersBend.org**

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