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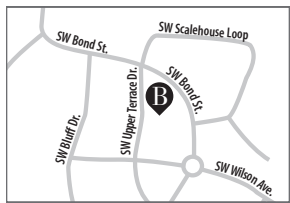
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

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 Tuesday, March 30:

Deschutes County cases: 6,327 (11 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 70 (zero new deaths)

Crook County cases: 809 (6 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)

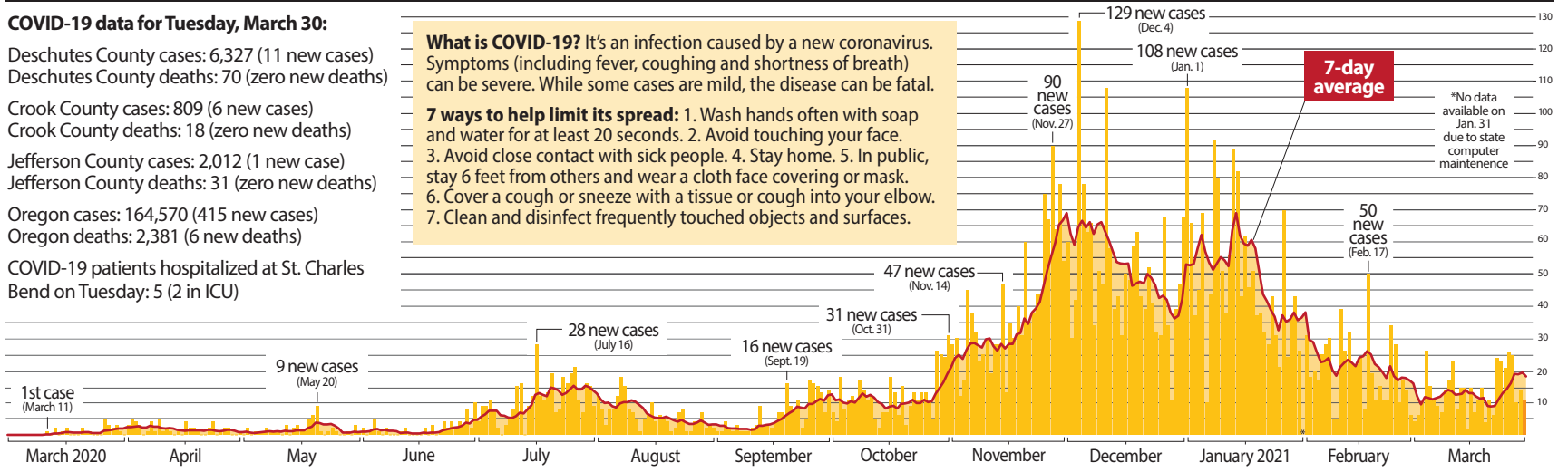
Jefferson County cases: 2,012 (1 new case)
Jefferson County deaths: 31 (zero new deaths)

Oregon cases: 164,570 (415 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,381 (6 new deaths)

COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Tuesday: 5 (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.



Small plane crashes in flight from Bend to Tacoma

Pilot, only passenger were rescued with minor injuries

Associated Press

A U.S. Navy helicopter crew late Monday night rescued the pilot and the passenger of a small plane that took off from the Bend Municipal Airport and went down in forestland near Yacolt, Washington, according to the Washington Department of Transportation.

Authorities began searching for the small plane after its pilot reported engine trouble Monday afternoon, KATU reported. The plane was headed to the Tacoma Narrows Airport near Gig Harbor, Washington.

The pilot told air traffic controllers the plane was unable to maintain altitude and was descending through the clouds. Air traffic controllers lost radar contact with the plane shortly before 4 p.m. as it flew over forestland near Yacolt. The plane did not emit an emergency signal, but that last radar contact gave search and rescue crews a good idea where the plane went down.

According to the transportation department, the helicopter crew spotted the two people and their aircraft near Jack Mountain around 9:30 p.m. They picked them up in a clearing and flew them to Yacolt Primary School's parking lot to be checked out. Officials say they were treated for their minor injuries and given food and water, according to the Clark County, Washington, sheriff's office and released.

Wirkkala faces stinging cross-exam as retrial for 2013 slaying continues

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

REDMOND — Prosecutor Kristen Hoffmeyer demonstrated Tuesday why defendants rarely take the stand in their own defense, pelting accused murderer Luke Wirkkala with tough leading questions and pressing him to answer only those he was asked.

After a more friendly interview with his own counsel Friday, Wirkkala, 40, retook the witness stand as his retrial for murder resumed in Deschutes County Circuit Court, where he was grilled by Hoffmeyer, a seasoned assistant attorney general with the Oregon Department of Justice.

"Mr. Wirkkala, what question are you answering right now?" Hoffmeyer asked. "You understand how this works, right?"

He sighed, sounding frustrated.

Deschutes County Circuit Judge Randy Miller eventually cut in.

"I can see this is de-volving," Miller said. "Mr. Wirkkala, you are to answer the questions you're asked."



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin

Luke Wirkkala is seen March 19 in court during his retrial.

Tuesday was the start of the third week of Wirkkala's retrial. In 2014, a jury convicted of murdering his 31-year-old houseguest, David Andrew Ryder. That conviction was vacated in 2018 when the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled the original jury heard portions of a police interview that took place after Wirkkala had invoked his right to an attorney.

Wirkkala has again claimed self-defense. He faces life in prison if convicted.

Wirkkala might not have opted to testify had the judge allowed a pretrial request by the defense team to present evidence about Ryder's character, specifically that he was sexually aggressive and violent toward passed-out men.

On Friday, Wirkkala told the jury about conversations he had with Ryder about the latter's penchant for violence. Wirkkala stated once again how in the early morning of Feb. 4, 2013, Ryder sexually assaulted him, and "made me shoot him" by attacking him

after Wirkkala retrieved his shotgun and ordered Ryder to leave.

Under cross-examination Tuesday, he noted the difficulty recalling with precise detail events that took place in a few seconds eight years ago.

After Wirkkala left the stand, forensic psychologist Michelle Guyton testified she evaluated him in 2019 and found he met symptom criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as social anxiety disorder and alcohol use disorder.

Defense attorneys asked Guyton about the connection between PTSD and experiencing a sexual assault.

Throughout trial, prosecutors have sought to poke holes in Wirkkala's claim he was violently sexually assaulted by Ryder, referring to it as an "alleged" assault and highlighting his level of intoxication.

While cross-examining Guyton, prosecutor Jayme Kimberly asked if the act of killing someone by shooting them in the face could also cause PTSD.

"It could, yes," Guyton replied.

The defense continues its presentation Wednesday.

Reporter: 541-383-0325, gandrews@bendbulletin.com

Lawmakers explore wiping out stimulus tax penalty, but refunds could take months

Oregon's unusual system resulted in 900K low-income residents owing state taxes

BY MIKE ROGOWAY
The Oregonian

The Oregon Legislature is moving to wipe out more than \$300 million in state taxes triggered by federal stimulus payments, but it could take several months for 900,000 taxpayers to get all the money back.

Congress authorized \$1,800 in coronavirus relief payments in two installments last year and approved another \$1,400 earlier this month. The aid comes in the form of a federal tax rebate, which isn't taxable.

Oregon is one of just six states that allow residents

to subtract their federal taxes from their state tax liability. That's usually a tax break, but the stimulus payments produced the opposite effect: Lower federal taxes meant Oregonians had less to subtract from their state tax obligation.

On average, that created a \$333 tax hit for Oregonians who received stimulus payments. The actual amount varies considerably based on individual circumstances, but even some lower-income households could end up owing a few hundred dollars.

The issue has been clear to lawmakers since last May, at least, when the Legislative Revenue Office wrote a report

on the effects of the federal stimulus program. But lawmakers are just now taking it up.

An amendment to House Bill 2433 proposed Monday would wipe out the entire Oregon tax obligation created by the stimulus payments. Some taxpayers who owed no federal taxes at all could also benefit with lower state taxes.

Lawmakers in both parties have signaled support for addressing the stimulus tax issue. It may not be easy, though.

Changes in Oregon tax law don't take effect until 90 days after the Legislature convenes, long after the tax deadline for filing 2020 taxes (the deadline is May 17 this year, following a federal and state postponements.)

At a House committee hearing Monday, representatives from the Oregon Department of Revenue testified that any change could take months to implement. That means Oregonians will have to wait an extended period to get repaid for taxes generated by stimulus payments, including the stimulus money Congress approved in December.

Legislators and administrators hashed out various options for implementing the change at Monday's hearing. Oregon could send out refund checks, enable people to file amended tax returns, or simply allow them to claim a credit when they file their 2021 taxes next year.

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