

# The Bulletin

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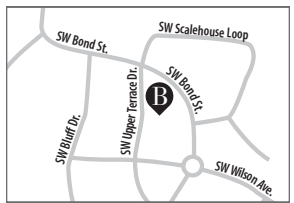
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

## DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

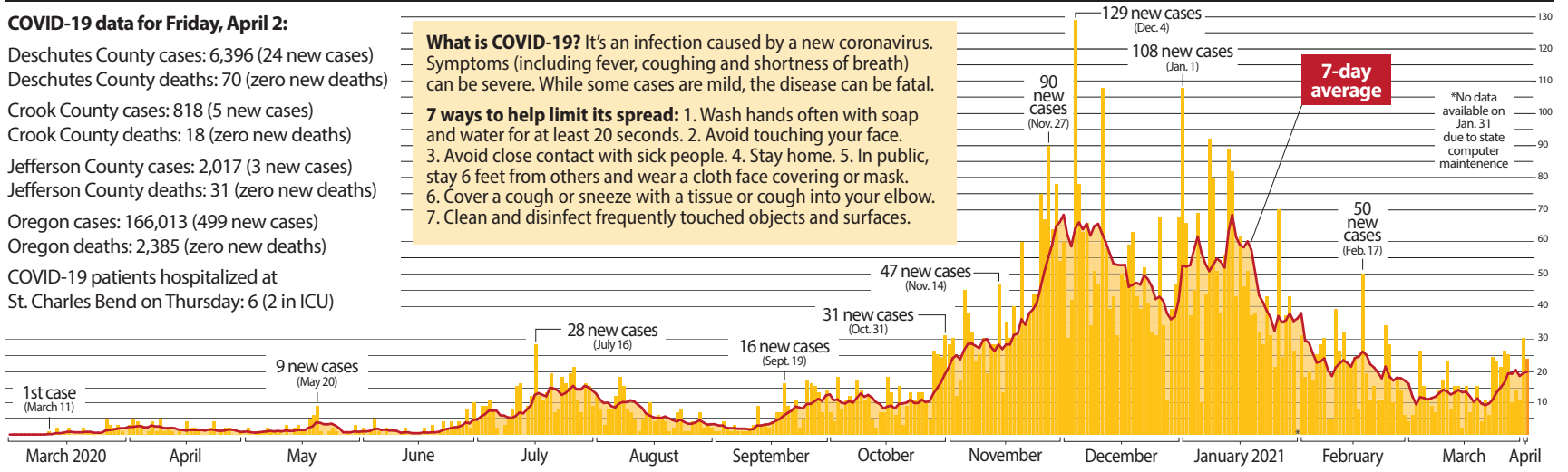
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN GRAPHIC

**COVID-19 data for Friday, April 2:**

Deschutes County cases: 6,396 (24 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 70 (zero new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 818 (5 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 2,017 (3 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 31 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 166,013 (499 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,385 (zero new deaths)  
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Thursday: 6 (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.



## \$2.2M SEISMIC GRANT IS PUT TO WORK

BY ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP

For the Wallowa County Chieftain  
WALLOWA — Wallowa may look like a placid little town, but there's a monster lurking underground just a few miles to the southeast.

The Wallowa School District is outfitting its Cougar Dome to ensure safety for students and a safe haven for the community should the monster ever strike.

The monster is the nearly 40-mile-long Wallowa fault and related faults that define the Lostine and other river valleys, as well as other parts of the Blue Mountains. Historic seismic activity in Wallowa County has produced only magnitude 5 and smaller quakes, many centered around Joseph.

In January, two magnitude 2 quakes occurred 6 to 7 miles from Lostine, and were felt by local residents. Although no fault scarps younger than 17,000 years have been found, some geologists, notably U.S. Geological Survey's Gary Mann, consider the Wallowa fault, which has been active for about 12 million years, to be capable of a magnitude 7 quake.



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain  
**Geotechnical drillers Michael and Marvis Remboldt on March 16 examine a core sample they drilled on the west side of the Wallowa High School Cougar Dome.**

The Wallowa School District is addressing this potential threat with a \$2.28 seismic rehabilitation grant. The grant, awarded in May 2020, is funded by state bonds, administered by Business Oregon.

The district chose the Cougar Dome, constructed in 1949, for the project's seismic retrofit rather than the century-old, brick high school. A seismic retrofit of the more

vulnerable high school was estimated at \$8.1 million, far above the grant program's \$2.5 million limit. The Cougar Dome also was deemed a place where the community could shelter in any emergency, seismic or otherwise.

"We're underway with the evaluation work," school Superintendent Tammy Jones said. "Right now, we are into schematic design."

## Oregon Senate passes bill making display of a noose a hate crime

BY LIZZY ACKER

The Oregonian  
The Oregon Senate voted 27-1 Thursday to make the display of a noose a crime of intimidation. The bill will now move to the House.

The sole no vote on Senate Bill 398 was Sen. Dennis Linthicum, R-Klamath Falls.

Linthicum did not immediately respond to a request for a comment about his vote.

Sens. Brian Boquist, I-, Dallas, and Dallas Heard, R-Roseburg, were absent when the vote was taken.

"Displaying a noose is a hateful act. It is meant to intimidate and harass," Sen. Ginny Burdick, a chief sponsor of the bill, said in a statement.

Burdick, who represents a district in Portland, added, "Hate crimes are disturbingly on the rise in Oregon, includ-

ing in my district. A noose is a racist symbol. It is intimidating to our neighbors of color and it needs to be banned." She noted that a noose was found in the past year at the elementary school that she and subsequently her daughter attended.

The Anti-Defamation League considers a noose a hate symbol and notes it is commonly used to intimidate Black people.

Nooses have been found in Portland schools multiple times, as well as at Oregon Health & Science University and at a construction site in Portland.

"The display of a noose should have been a crime long ago. It's not OK," said the bill's other chief sponsor, Sen. James Manning Jr., D-Eugene. "Louisiana, Virginia, California, New

York, Maryland and Connecticut have criminalized the display of nooses because they all know exactly what that noose implies."

If the House passes the bill, displaying a noose would be punishable by up to 364 days in jail, a fine of up to \$6,250 or both.

Manning called the noose "a racist relic."

### LOCAL BRIEFING

**Brown denies clemency for Robert Lee Emery Jr.**

The governor has denied clemency for Robert Lee Emery Jr., who was convicted of attacking and trying to rape a woman in her Bend home in April 2000.



Emery Jr.

"I have considered carefully whether your application for commutation should be granted," Gov. Kate Brown wrote in her decision issued March 19. "Under the circumstances, I have concluded that a commutation is not warranted."

Emery was arrested after breaking into a home on NW Portland Avenue and attacking and tying up Michelle Hart, who fought back and escaped the home to call for help. While awaiting trial, he confessed to two armed robberies in Deschutes County.

In 2000, a judge gave Emery, who had a lengthy criminal record, a 60-year prison sentence.

In October, Emery, 57, filed a commutation request with the governor's office, citing a changed mindset and good works in prison. Advocates for his release noted his sentence was long for a man who never killed anyone.

But Hart wrote in opposition, saying Emery's 22-page statement showed he hadn't changed. She was joined by Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel and state Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, in asking Brown to deny commutation for Emery.

In a statement to The Bulletin, Hart lamented that Emery may apply for clemency "again

and again and again," when victims require closure.

"This story is a lot bigger than me," she wrote. "There are many Emerys out there, and far too many victims like me. I am grateful for the Governor's decision but it never should have been a question in the first place."

**Projects in Metolius River area could cause delays**

The Deschutes National Forest has announced several road projects scheduled to occur in April in the Metolius River area that could cause driving delays.

**April 5-9:** Delays are expected on Forest Road 1230 between Forest Road 12 to the end of the paved section of Forest Road 1230. The existing roadway is being turned into a gravel surface to prevent potholes from forming in the asphalt.

**April 12-16:** Both lanes on a section of Forest Road 12 between the junction of Forest Road 1210 and Forest Road 1217 will be closed to repair a 50-foot section of Forest Road 12. The section of road will have a gravel driving surface and will be repaved later this year. Forest roads 1217 and 1210 will be open while crews work on Forest Road 12.

**April 19-23:** Forest Road 1200-980 between Forest Road 12 and Candle Creek Campground will be closed. The campground will also be closed during this time. Work will be done on a 400-foot section of the road that has an unstable driving surface and base.

Questions about the repair work can be directed to Donald Walker, the Sisters Ranger District road manager 541-410-2041.

—Bulletin staff reports

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