

The Bulletin

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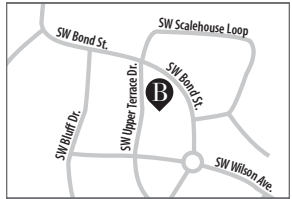
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

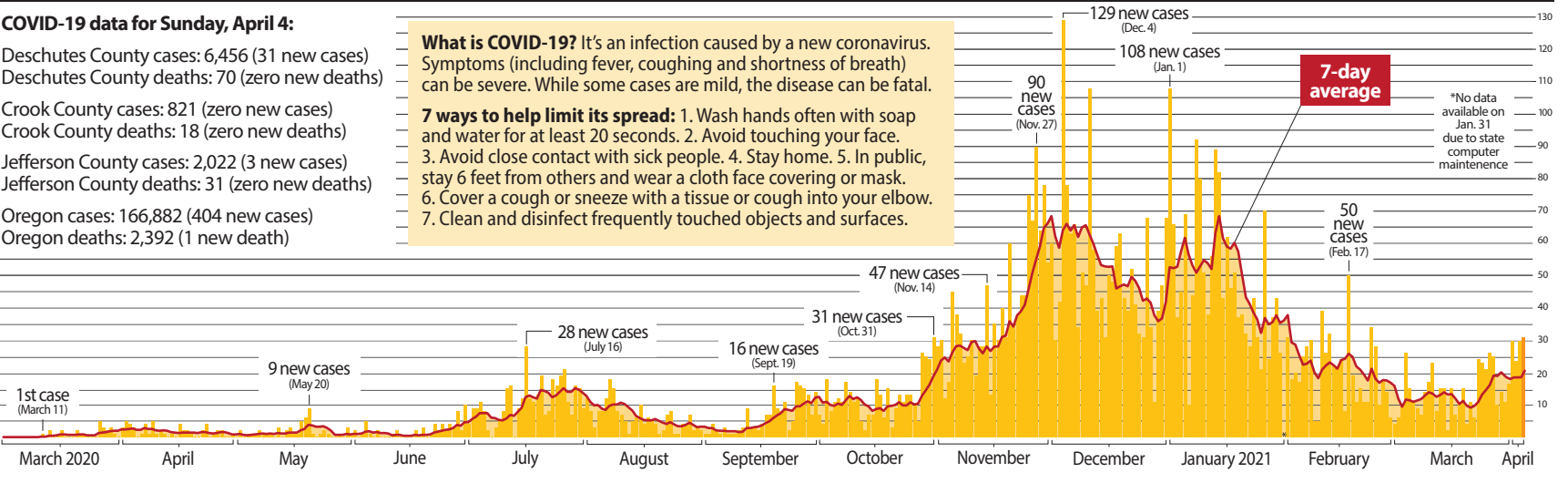
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN GRAPHIC

COVID-19 data for Sunday, April 4:

Deschutes County cases: 6,456 (31 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 70 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 821 (zero new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 2,022 (3 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 31 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 166,882 (404 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,392 (1 new death)

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.



COVID-19 at Snake River Correctional Institution

As prison sees apparent virus skepticism, judge tells officials they must do better

BY LILIANA FRANKEL

Malheur Enterprise
ONTARIO — A state judge recently ordered officials at Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario to devise a plan to enforce mask use at the prison and to deploy mass testing after finding that the state's treatment of two inmates reflected indifference during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Multnomah Circuit Judge Amy Baggio issued her findings and orders after two inmates sued prison officials in Malheur County Circuit Court. Local state judges recused themselves from the case.

"Certain SRCI staff view mask wearing as an issue of politics rather than one related to health and welfare during a pandemic," Baggio concluded. "Mask failures by staff are particularly troubling considering the very nature of their jobs: to oversee a large, congregate environment."

Her findings came in civil cases filed by inmates Mark Lawson and Don Skelton, who claimed they received poor medical care that put their lives at risk. They claimed the care so was bad that it violated their constitutional rights.

Baggio ordered the Oregon Department of Corrections to provide her "documentation as to how SRCI is enforcing the masking policy, including proof of specific enforcement" and "consideration of a plan to engage in mass COVID-19 testing at SRCI, particularly rapid testing of staff prior to entry."

While she set no deadline, Baggio



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian file

Unannounced COVID-19 safety assessments conducted in February found that neither staff nor inmates at Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario were wearing face masks correctly.

said she would conduct a status check in 30 days.

Court filings and the judge's orders paint a picture of a prison where, despite heightened precautions such as locking down inmates and eliminating most programming, the danger of COVID is taken lightly by some staff and inmates.

Dr. Garth Gulick, chief medical officer for SRCI, testified that he is at war with COVID-19 misinformation in SRCI, the court order said. "He described how staff are on the whole very conservative and have doubts about the virus and the vaccine."

Referring to inmates as adults in custody, the order said that Gulick testified

that "misinformation is totally engrained in staff and some of the AICs. He testified that many staff believe that masking is stupid and that the virus is harmless."

Jason Bell, assistant superintendent at Snake River, said "that staff at SRCI mostly live in Idaho where masks are not required. He explained that it is difficult for staff to understand why masks are required in one state and not the other. He stated that very few people wear masks in Idaho," the judge's order said.

Unannounced COVID-19 safety assessments conducted in February and documented in the ruling found that neither staff nor inmates were reliably wearing their face masks correctly, including indoors, where the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that the danger of airborne virus transmission is greater.

"Some staff remark to AICs that they already had COVID," read one of the reports. "Observed AICs and staff pull down masks to talk."

Bell testified that inmates can be disciplined for mask noncompliance, but recognized that enforcement was inconsistent. He said enforcing mask orders also "raised a security issue because SRCI did not want to risk the AICs organizing and resisting SRCI officials."

He also said inmates feared reporting employees who weren't wearing masks. "He further testified that there is potential for retaliation by staff in positions of power over AICs. Dr. Gulick repeated this observation," the judge's ruling said.

Bell testified about a six-step process to discipline employees, ranging from a private conversation to a predissmissal hearing, the ruling said. Bell testified that only one staff member had progressed in discipline to the sixth step for mask violations.

While Gulick had asserted in testimony that "he considered testing 'harmful' and stated that it 'can be the enemy,'" Baggio found that there was no law preventing SRCI from conducting mass testing of its inmates and employees. She pointed out that even without mass testing, the institution had been on Tier 4 status, the highest level of COVID-19 alert within the Oregon prison system, since July.

"The current plan has proven ineffective," she wrote. "Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result is unreasonable, irrational and unjustifiable."

In separate cases, Baggio found that SRCI officials had been "deliberately indifferent" to treating Lawson's COPD, as well as treating Skelton's asthma and hypertension, violating their Eighth Amendment rights to protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

Baggio also ruled that the prison's management of mask orders "creates an unjustifiable risk."

She said that "SRCI cannot throw up its hands in the face of chronic mask noncompliance and simultaneously fail to explore other options such as rapid testing of staff before entry."

Fatal Corvallis police shooting: Video shows man with knife chasing officer

BY KALE WILLIAMS

The Oregonian

A Philomath man armed with a knife chased an officer and screamed "do you want to die?" before he was fatally shot by police early Saturday, according to video of the incident released by prosecutors.

Corvallis police officers responded about 3:45 a.m. to reports of an aggressive man, later identified as 32-year-old Jeffrey Appelt, trying to get into guest rooms at a Days Inn hotel.

Body camera footage shows the first officer on the scene contacted Appelt near the front doors of the hotel. There is no audio for the first few seconds, but after a moment the officer can be heard asking Appelt, "What's going on?"

"Leave me alone!" Appelt can be heard saying before chasing the officer and yelling, "I'll kill you!"

In a statement, the Benton County District Attorney's Office said the officer saw Appelt pull something from his pocket before pursuing the officer through the parking lot.

The officer pulled his stun gun as he ran from Appelt, the video shows, and Appelt can be seen with an object in his hand. The officer's stun gun can be heard going off in the video footage, but it's unclear if Appelt was actually hit.

Appelt then moved back toward the entrance of the hotel, the video shows, as the officer yelled, "He's got a knife in his hand." As Appelt attempted to reenter the hotel, a second officer tried to take him into custody, but Appelt was able to break free of his grip and flee in the opposite direction toward a third officer that was approaching in a patrol vehicle. That officer stopped his car,

got out and yelled, "Stop! Drop the knife!" as Appelt advanced toward him, the video shows. Appelt is seen in the video with an object in his hand and again is heard verbally threatening to kill the officer.

"When Appelt came in close proximity to the officer, and his open patrol vehicle in which there was a loaded AR-15 rifle and shotgun, the third officer fired his pistol," Benton County prosecutors said in a statement.

The dashboard camera from the patrol vehicle does not show the actual shooting, but five shots can be heard. The officers attempted to aid Appelt, officials said, but he died at the scene.

All of the involved officers were put on administrative leave, as is state policy, while the Benton County Major Crimes Team and Albany Police investigate the incident.

Amazon apologizes after its bogus 'peeing' tweet

Associated Press

Amazon is sorry for tweeting about peeing.

The Seattle-based company apologized in a late Friday blog post for a tweet it sent to a congressman more than a week ago denying that its employees work so hard they must urinate in empty water bottles. It also admitted that some delivery drivers might have had to urinate in bottles and it vowed to improve their working conditions.

The matter was first raised March 24 by Wisconsin U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, who responded to a tweet by an Amazon executive that said the company was a progressive workplace. "Paying workers \$15/hr doesn't make you a 'progressive workplace' when you union-bust & make workers urinate in water bottles," Pocan said in his tweet.

Amazon responded: "You don't really believe the peeing in bottles thing, do you? If that were true, nobody would work for us."

In the Friday night blog post, Amazon apologized to Pocan and acknowledged that delivery drivers "can and do have trouble finding restrooms because of traffic or sometimes rural routes." The online shopping giant said COVID-19 has made the issue worse, since many public restrooms are closed.

"Sigh," Pocan responded in a Saturday morning tweet. "This is not about me, this is about your workers — who you don't treat with enough respect or dignity."

Amazon wrote in its blog post that urinating in bottles is an industrywide problem.

Amazon didn't respond to a request for comment.

STATE BRIEFING

Man, 72, faces attempted murder charge in adult son's shooting

A 72-year-old man faces charges including attempted murder after being suspected of shooting his 37-year-old son. The shooting occurred in a rural area near Silverton, about 40 miles south of Portland, according to the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

Hospital officials notified police Friday night of a man with multiple gunshot wounds that were not considered life-threatening.

Police went to a property near Sil-

verton where they met the man's father, Willie Madewell, who surrendered peacefully. Madewell was booked on multiple charges, including first-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon.

A court appearance was scheduled for Monday.

Police: Man made threats with ax, shot bystander with paintball gun

A man was arrested in downtown Portland after he threatened park rangers with a small ax and shot a random passerby with a paintball gun Saturday

morning, according to police.

Park rangers were distributing flyers about some restoration work near Chapman Square Park around 9 a.m. when they approached the suspect, later identified as Randy Graves, 32.

Rangers told police Graves threatened to kill them and followed them as they tried to disengage.

About 45 minutes later, a different group of park rangers were called about a fire in the park. When they got to the scene, police said Graves pulled out a small ax and threatened the rangers.

Around 10 a.m., a man walked into

the downtown precinct and told officers he had just been shot with a paintball gun as he was riding a bicycle through the park, which the park rangers said they also witnessed.

Graves was located by police a short time later and officers took him into custody. He was found to be in possession of a paintball gun, an ax and a stun gun, police said.

Graves is being held at the Multnomah County jail on suspicion of menacing, assault and disorderly conduct.

—Bulletin wire reports