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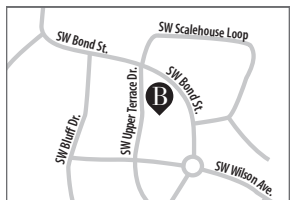
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OUR ADDRESS

Street.....320 SW Upper Terrace Drive
Suite 200
Bend, OR 97702
Mailing.....P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708



ADMINISTRATION

Publisher
Heidi Wright.....541-383-0341
Editor
Gerry O'Brien.....541-633-2166

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Advertising
Steve Rosen.....541-383-0370
Circulation/Operations
Jeremy Feldman.....541-617-7830
Finance
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Human Resources.....541-383-0340

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Mailing address.....P.O. Box 6020
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

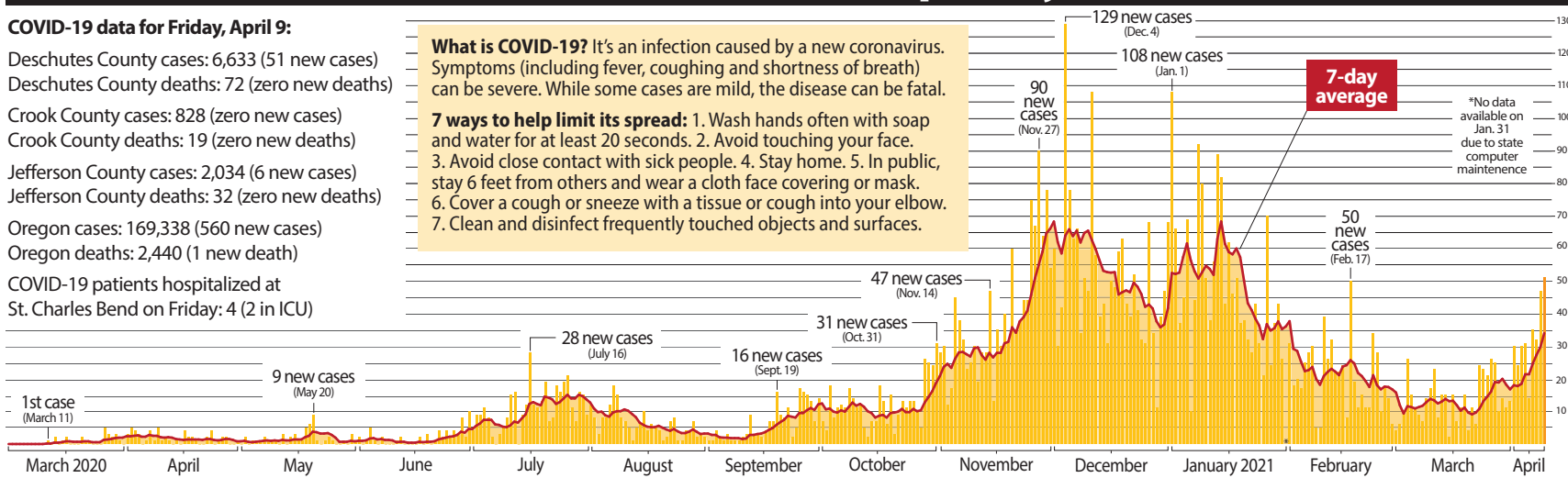
DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

COVID-19 data for Friday, April 9:
Deschutes County cases: 6,633 (51 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 72 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 828 (zero new cases)
Crook County deaths: 19 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 2,034 (6 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 169,338 (560 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,440 (1 new death)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Friday: 4 (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.



House votes to make Juneteenth a state holiday

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau
Oregon's next official state holiday is proposed to be the anniversary of the final proclamation of the end of slavery in the United States.

June 19, "Juneteenth," would be the 11th state holiday under House Bill 2168, which cleared the House on a 53-0 vote Thursday and went to the Senate.

Rep. Mark Meek, D-Oregon City, even concluded his support of the bill with an a cappella rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Also known as the Black national anthem, its words were written by James

"We all know we are still dealing with systemic racism and racial discrimination in our country. But each time injustice has reared its ugly head, it has been met with resistance."

— Rep. Mark Meek, D-Oregon City

Weldon Johnson and music by J. Rosamond Johnson, his brother, in time for the 1905 commemoration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

"We all know we are still dealing with systemic racism and racial discrimination in our country," said Meek, one of a record nine members of color in the House. "But each time injustice has reared its ugly head, it has been met with

resistance.

"Slavery was met with the work of abolitionists. Jim Crow was met with the civil rights movement. The rise of racially discriminatory police violence is now being met with strong affirmation that Black lives matter."

Portland and Multnomah County declared June 19 a holiday for their public employees last year, just weeks after na-

tionwide protests triggered by the death of George Floyd by a police officer now on trial in Minneapolis for murder.

Gov. Kate Brown said then she would seek to write June 19 into law as a state holiday. House Bill 2168 was introduced at her request.

Twenty years ago, the Legislature designated June 19 as a day of celebration but did not make it a state holiday.

Although 47 of the 50 states offer some official recognition, June 19 is a paid holiday for state employees in only four states: New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia. Whether it becomes a paid holiday for

Oregon state employees will hinge on collective bargaining agreements.

"While this is an important day for many Black Americans, this is not a separate history. This is our history. This is American history," said Majority Leader Virginia Smith Warner of Portland, the bill's floor manager.

Rep. Bobby Levy, a Republican from Echo, said she had a personal reason to support the bill. Her daughter-in-law is from Uganda, and Levy said she has endured racial slurs, although Levy's grandchildren have not.

"This bill is a step in the right direction," Levy said.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald file

Phillips Reservoir, which supplies irrigation water to Baker Valley farms and ranches, was holding about 5,500 acre-feet of water when the photo was taken in November. Today, the reservoir is impounding about 14,500 acre-feet — approximately 19% of its capacity.

Baker County declares drought emergency

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

Baker City Herald
BAKER CITY — The Baker County Commission unanimously approved a resolution Wednesday, April 7, declaring a drought disaster in the county and asking Gov. Kate Brown and U.S. Agriculture

Secretary Tom Vilsack to follow suit.

State and federal drought declarations could make county property owners eligible for financial aid, and give state water regulators more flexibility in allocating water. Baker County could be-

come the second of Oregon's 36 counties to have a state drought declaration.

Brown on March 31 declared a drought in Klamath County, the first such declaration of 2021. Baker County also declared a drought disaster in late summer 2020.

Inmates sue over handling of virus

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — More than a dozen current and former inmates have sued Multnomah County over its handling of COVID-19.

In federal court documents filed this week, the inmates allege they contracted the virus at the county's Inverness Jail because they were denied proper testing and treatment.

The complaint filed Monday in Portland also says the county knowingly put infected guards and inmates with those who were not infected, further spreading the disease.

On Feb. 17, more than 37% of inmates tested positive for COVID-19, court papers say, while the general population of Oregon was contracting the virus at a rate of 3.5%.

"The reason for the outbreak is not a mystery," the lawsuit says. "Inverness does not enforce use of PPE by its staff. Inverness corrections staff routinely do not wear masks and express statements disapproving of wearing masks."

SEATTLE

Biden halts sale of National Archives

BY GENE JOHNSON

The Associated Press
SEATTLE — The Biden administration has halted its predecessor's decision to sell the federal archives building in Seattle, following months of opposition from people across the Pacific Northwest and a lawsuit.

The federal Office of Management and Budget has withdrawn its approval for the sale, which would have forced the transfer of millions of records to facilities in Kansas City, Missouri, and Riverside, California.

A federal judge had temporarily blocked the sale, pending a lawsuit by Washington, Oregon and more than two dozen Native American and Alaska Native tribes. Last month, 25 of the 26 members of Congress from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska signed a letter urging the Biden administration to reverse course.

The records at National Archives facility date to the 1840s and include documents key to the histories of 272 federally recognized tribes in Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Idaho. It houses all federal records generated in the Pacific Northwest, including military service, land, court, tax, marriage and census documents.

The documents also include records of Japanese Americans sent to internment camps during World War II. There are 50,000 files related to the Chinese Exclusion Act, which limited the presence of Chinese laborers in the U.S. from 1882 until 1943, including photos and interrogations of Chinese immigrants.

Only a tiny fraction of the records have been digitized, and the facility is frequently used for research related to genealogy, land use and water rights, treaties and other historical topics.



National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration Seattle building houses all federal records generated in the Pacific Northwest.

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