

# The Bulletin

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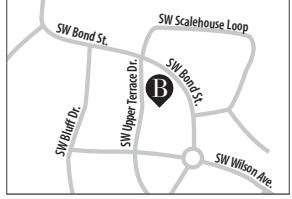
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

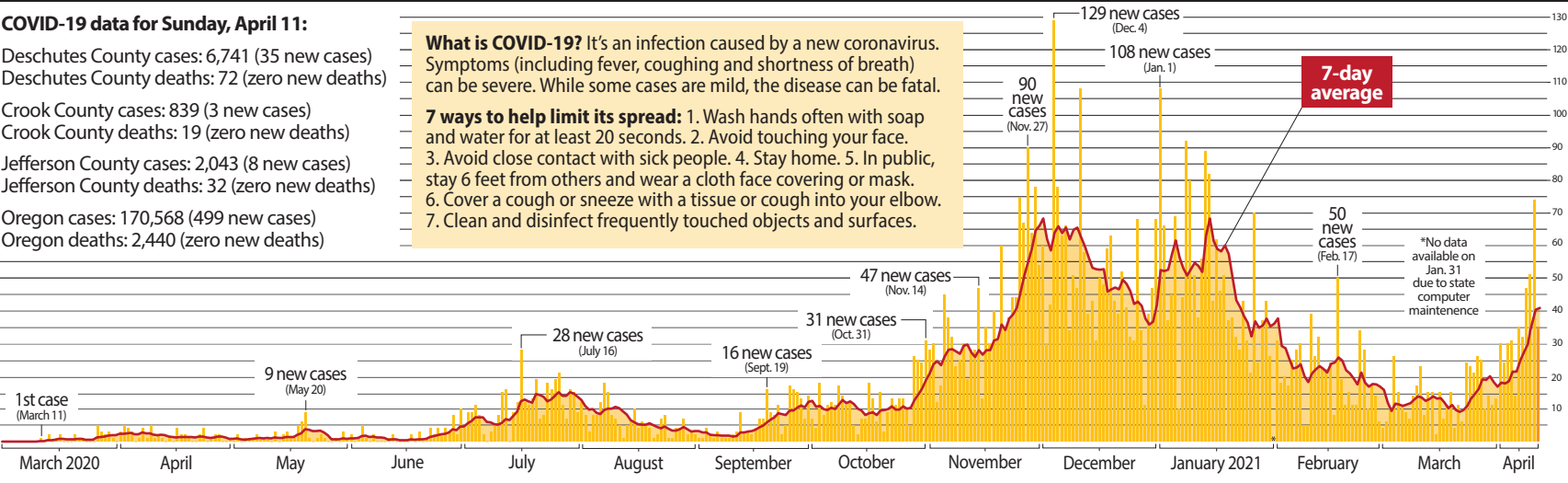
# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

## DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

**COVID-19 data for Sunday, April 11:**  
Deschutes County cases: 6,741 (35 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 72 (zero new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 839 (3 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 19 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 2,043 (8 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 170,568 (499 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,440 (zero new deaths)

**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.



## THE FIRST SERIOUS SUPERSPREADER

*It's been over a year since a choir practice in Washington state sickened 53 people and killed two. These families finally start to get some closure.*



**PHOTOS FROM TOP:** Music for the hymn "It Is Well With My Soul" rests on a piano at a March 27 memorial service for Carole Rae Woodmansee at Radius Church in Mount Vernon, Washington. Hymns were among the last words spoken by Woodmansee. She died a year ago — the day of her 81st birthday — from complications of COVID-19 after contracting it during a choir practice. **ABOVE:** Woodmansee's daughter Wendy Jensen helps her granddaughter Abby place items at her headstone in Sedro-Woolley.

**BY MANUEL VALDES**

**SEDRO-WOOLLEY, Wash.** — With dish soap, brushes and plastic water jugs in hand, Carole Rae Woodmansee's four children cleaned the gravestone their mother shares with their father, Jim. Each scrub shined engraved letters spelling out their mother's name and the days of her birth and death: March 27, 1939, and March 27, 2020.

Carole passed away on her 81st birthday. That morning marked a year since she died of complications of COVID-19 after contracting it during a choir practice that sickened 53 people and killed two — a superspreader event that would become one of the most pivotal transmission episodes in understanding the virus.

For the siblings, the somber anniversary offered a chance at closure after the pandemic stunted their mourning. They were finally holding a memorial befitting of their mother's footprint in the community.

"The hardest thing is that there was no goodbye. It was like she just disappeared," said Carole's youngest child, Wendy Jensen.

After cleaning, the siblings reminisce. They say their father must be happy to be back with his wife of 46 years. They thank them for being good parents and recall how their mother used to say "my" before calling their names and those of other loved ones.

"I was always 'My Bonnie,'" Bonnie Dawson tells her siblings. "I miss being 'My Bonnie.'" "She had been missing Dad for a long time," eldest sibling Linda Holeman adds. Their father, Jim, passed away in 2003.

Of the more than 550,000 people who have died of the virus in the United States, Carole was among the first. Her death came just weeks

after the first reported outbreak at a nursing home in Kirkland, about an hour south of Mount Vernon. Carole, who survived heart surgery and cancer, had fallen ill at her home. Bonnie took care of her until they called the paramedics.

"You're trying to say goodbye to your mom, and they're telling you to get back. It was a very hard, emotional ... to have to yell, 'I love you, Mom,' as she's being wheeled out the door with men standing in our yard 10 feet out because they didn't want to be near our house," Bonnie said.

**Before the shutdowns**

The rehearsal of the Skagit Valley Chorale, a community choir made up mostly of retirees and not associated with the church where they practiced, happened two weeks before Gov. Jay Inslee shut down the state. The choir had taken the precautions known at the time, such as distancing themselves and sanitizing. But someone had the virus.

"The choir themselves called us directly, and they left a voicemail. The voicemail said a positive person in the choir, 24 people now sick," said Lea Hamner, communicable disease and epidemiology lead for Skagit County Public Health. "It was immediately evident that we had a big problem."

Hamner and her team went to work interviewing choir members, often repeatedly, and those with whom they came in contact after the practice, a total of 122 people. They meticulously pieced together the evening, tracking things like where people sat and who ate cookies or stacked chairs.

That level of access and detail is rare among outbreak investigations, Hamner said, so when cases waned in the county a few weeks later, she sat down to write a report.

"There was a lot of resistance to calling it an airborne disease," Hamner said. "But we found this

middle ground of this disease that can both be droplet and airborne. So that was a big shift. After the paper, the CDC started to acknowledge airborne transmission."

**'Woke people up'**

The outbreak had gained notoriety after a Los Angeles Times article, prompting other researchers to study the event, further cementing the conclusion that the virus traveled through the air at the rehearsal.

"I think this outbreak in the choir is viewed ... as the one event that really woke people up to the idea that the virus could be spreading through the air," said Linsey Marr, a Virginia Tech professor and expert in airborne transmission. Marr was among 239 experts who successfully lobbied the World Health Organization to change its guidelines on transmission.

The other person who died from the choir practice was 83-year-old Nancy "Nicki" Hamilton. Originally from New York, Hamilton settled north of Seattle in the 1990s. She put out a personal ad in the Everett Herald, and that's how she met her husband.

"We went down to the bowling alley in Everett," said 85-year-old Victor Hamilton. "We picked it up from there."

Hamilton hasn't been able to hold a memorial for her. Their families are spread throughout the country, and he'd like to have it in New York City if possible. He's eyeing June 21 — her birthday.

In nearby Mount Vernon, family and friends stream into Radius Church, gazing at an installation of a few dozen photos of Carole that the siblings put together. Loved ones recall Carole's devotion to her family, faith and music. They sing "Blessed Assurance," her favorite hymn. Its lyrics were among her last words to her children from the hospital.

## Parameters outlined for investigation into OHSU

**BY MEERAH POWELL**

Oregon Public Broadcasting  
Oregon Health & Science University leaders told students and employees last week they will be able to share their experiences and observations as part of an external investigation of the teaching hospital's culture regarding harassment and retaliation claims.

The investigation, led by former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and former federal prosecutor Nancy Kestenbaum, will look into allegations of sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation and racism.

It comes about a month after a female employee filed a federal lawsuit against a doctor at OHSU for sexual assault. The suit includes the institution itself and other employees. The main defendant in the case is Jason Campbell, a former anesthesiology resident at OHSU who was also known as "TikTok Doc" for posting dance videos that went viral.

The woman who filed the lawsuit said multiple OHSU employees violated mandatory reporting rules by not properly filing complaints about the allegations against Campbell. She also said she faced retaliation for reporting sexual misconduct.

OHSU leaders said the lawsuit against Campbell is not the sole reason for the investigation, which is being run by the law firm Covington & Burling LLP. "Covington's investigation will examine our culture — including our policies, programs and procedures — from a wider lens to help us identify root causes and identify or create ways to address areas requiring improvements."

**EUGENE**

## Declared riot on May 29 has led to 30 arrests

The Register-Guard (Eugene)  
Eugene Police have now totaled 30 arrests of people suspected of rioting, breaking into businesses and setting fires on May 29 during a protest in the wake of the death of George Floyd.

It was the first of many protests here after the May 25 death of Floyd. In response, demonstrators marched through Eugene's streets. When the group reached the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Washington Street, some protesters set fires in the streets, destroyed public and private property, and looted businesses.

The latest arrest came last week. Azariah Michael Klote, 22, was arraigned Tuesday on charges including rioting, second-degree burglary and first-degree theft. Klote was arrested after a traffic stop while leaving a Safeway, according to a police news release. He is due back in court May 12. This was the third recent arrest related to May 29.

In mid-August, Eugene Police published images from social media and security cameras showing more than 60 people police were trying to identify.

Between January and this month, eight other adults arrested following the declared riot have had court appearances. Of those, five pleaded guilty, while other cases are ongoing or had court dates moved back.

In an email, police spokeswoman Melinda McLaughlin said the department has identified "numerous" other suspects to eventually arrest.