

# The Bulletin

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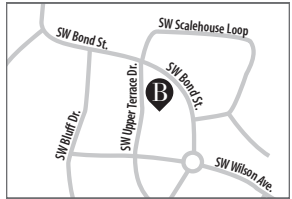
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

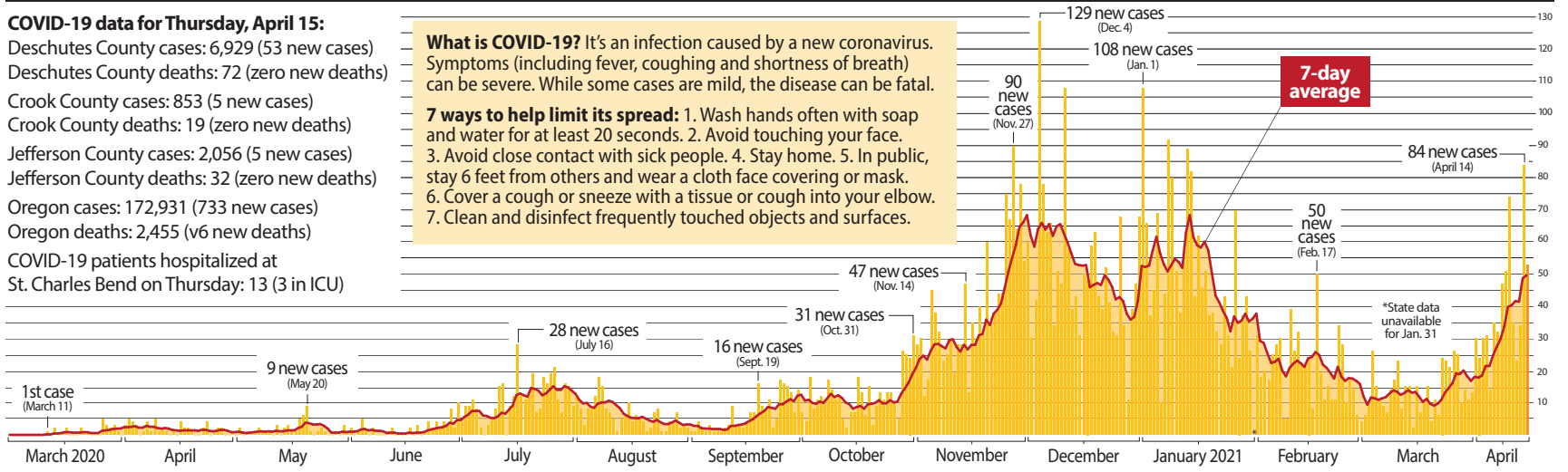
## DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

**COVID-19 data for Thursday, April 15:**  
Deschutes County cases: 6,929 (53 new cases)  
Deschutes County deaths: 72 (zero new deaths)  
Crook County cases: 853 (5 new cases)  
Crook County deaths: 19 (zero new deaths)  
Jefferson County cases: 2,056 (5 new cases)  
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (zero new deaths)  
Oregon cases: 172,931 (733 new cases)  
Oregon deaths: 2,455 (v6 new deaths)  
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Thursday: 13 (3 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.



## Deadly disease for wild rabbits found in La Pine

Environmental experts are concerned about Oregon's wild rabbit population after multiple cases of a virus that is deadly to the animals were confirmed in different parts of the state.

The latest case of the rabbit hemorrhagic disease, which was confirmed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Wednesday, was in La Pine. Last month, the disease was detected nearly 200 miles away in Milwaukie, a suburb of Portland, in eight dead domestic and feral rabbits.

Following last month's discovery, Dr. Ryan Scholz, Oregon's state veterinarian, said the virus has taken hold in the feral rabbit population. The disease, also referred to as RHD, causes sudden death and is highly contagious among the animals, spreading through contact with infected rabbits, meat, fur or other materials. Birds, rodents, flies,

predators and scavengers can also spread this virus, as well as people by carrying it on their clothing, hands and shoes.

The disease poses no health risk to humans, experts say. Officials from the Department of Agriculture warned that people who own domestic rabbits should keep them inside, don't allow the animals to roam the yard, avoid transporting the animals and quarantine new rabbits for 30 days.

In addition, officials say hunters should avoid areas where outbreaks of the disease have been reported. After handling wild rabbits, people should wash their hands, change clothes and report sick or dead rabbits to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

To prevent the virus from spreading further into the domestic rabbit population, the state is collecting and testing feral rabbits where disease has been detected.



Bulletin file  
A rabbit in Culver in 2015.

## Surprise deal trades redistricting power for dropping delay tactics

SALEM — Democrats have agreed to give up an advantage in redrawing the state's political districts for the next 10 years in exchange for a commitment from Republicans to stop blocking bills in the Oregon Legislature with delay tactics.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the surprise deal was reached Wednesday evening after a weeks-long standoff. With the agreement, Democrats, stymied so far despite holding supermajorities in both legislative chambers, appear to have gained an easier path to passing much of the their agenda.

But they've essentially granted veto power to Republicans, who can now block any map of legislative or congressional districts from passing. "It's a gamble," said state

Rep. Rob Nosse, D-Portland, shortly after the deal was reached. House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, announced a change to the House Redistricting Committee, one of two bodies with a primary responsibility for redrawing political maps this year. Kotek announced she would be bumping up the committee's vice chair, Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis, R-Albany, to co-chair, and adding another Republican to the body, House Minority Leader Christine Drazan, of Canby.

That change means that Republicans and Democrats will be evenly split on the committee with three members apiece, and so a party-line vote will be insufficient to pass new maps.

The deal gives Republicans more say over what boundaries for the state's 90 legislative districts will look like for the next 10 years, a decision that

can hold enormous sway over the distribution of power in the state.

Republicans also have increased their influence in how to divide the state into six congressional districts, rather than the current five, if Oregon is awarded an additional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives as expected.

But Democrats have retained a backstop, too — particularly when it comes to legislative districts. If lawmakers fail to successfully pass new legislative boundaries by late September, the task will fall to Secretary of State Shemia Fagan, a progressive Democrat who few Republicans would want to see in charge of that process.

Should lawmakers fail to come to an agreement on new U.S. House districts, the matter would be settled in the courts.

## Groups sue to halt post-fire logging in forest

SALEM — Seven environmental groups have filed a lawsuit to halt post-fire logging in the Santiam State Forest.

The suit filed Wednesday seeks to stop the Oregon Department of Forestry from current logging and bar it from moving forward with timber sales and hazard tree removal across 3,000 acres of state forest burned by September fires around the Santiam Canyon, The Statesman

Journal reported. The groups cited concerns over recreation, drinking water and forest health in asking a Multnomah Circuit Court judge to issue an injunction at an April 30 hearing.

If successful, all logging would stop until the case was decided. That delay is important because burned and killed trees only remain viable for wood products for a short time, meaning any delay could impact the timber's

market value.

It's the latest action in an increasingly contentious battle over how to manage the more than 1 million acres of forest burned in the Labor Day fires. Environmental groups say officials are being too aggressive in clearing burned forest that should regenerate naturally. Timber interests highlight turning burned forest into wood products that create jobs and helps communities rebuild.

### STATE BRIEFING

#### Nearly half of students are back in the classroom

Nearly half of Oregon's public school students have returned to the classroom, figures released Tuesday show.

As of last week, more than 270,000 students, or 47% of those enrolled in public K-12 schools, were regularly getting

in-person instruction, according to the new Oregon Department of Education data.

That's 40,000 more than the previous week and about 124,000 more than the week before spring break. And it comes as Portland-area middle and high schools prepare to open their doors for hybrid learning.

— The Oregonian

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