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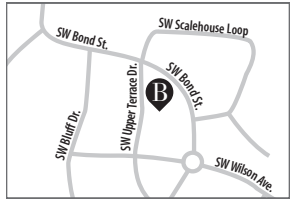
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

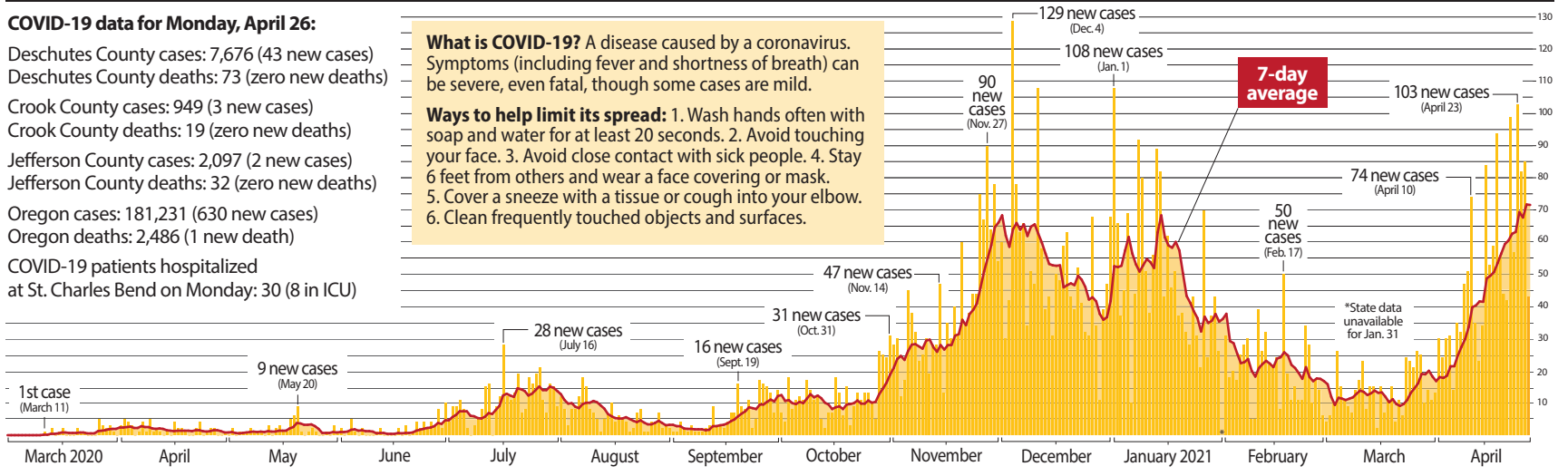
LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

COVID-19 data for Monday, April 26:
Deschutes County cases: 7,676 (43 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 73 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 949 (3 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 19 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 2,097 (2 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 32 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 181,231 (630 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,486 (1 new death)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Monday: 30 (8 in ICU)

What is COVID-19? A disease caused by a coronavirus. Symptoms (including fever and shortness of breath) can be severe, even fatal, though some cases are mild.
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 6 feet from others and wear a face covering or mask. 5. Cover a sneeze with a tissue or cough into your elbow. 6. Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Oregon lawmakers face backlash — and threats — over gun bills

BY SARA CLINE

PORTLAND — Ahead of the Oregon Legislature's final vote on two contentious gun bills, lawmakers from both parties have received death threats, intimidating messages and faced recall petitions.

While lawmakers say it is not uncommon for Democrats to receive threats for supporting and sponsoring gun bills, this session some Republicans are seeing a backlash for just showing up to work.

In March, the state Senate voted in favor of Senate Bill 554, which would ban guns from the Capitol and other state buildings and allow local jurisdictions to decide whether people with a concealed handgun license can bring guns into public buildings.

During the floor session, the seats of five Republican senators were empty. Walkouts have become an increasingly common tactic by the minority party to prevent a vote from taking place by denying quorum. Unlike past walkouts, a majority of the Republicans, six, attended the floor session, all of whom voted against the bill and filed multiple motions on the floor for more than six hours.

But not everyone was happy with the GOP lawmakers' decision to show up to work at the Capitol that day, as each of the six senators have received threatening messages.

One email to the lawmakers wished that they would "become victims of criminals who use violence" and in another message the senators were called "traitors" and the "enemy."

"We've gotten some very nasty emails," Athena Republican Sen. Bill Hansell, who attended the vote, told the East Oregonian. "Even to the extent that we've had to turn some of the emails to the state police because we were threatened to be shot."

The harassment didn't stop there. Hansell said his constituents had been contacted to gather signatures to recall him, and a Molalla resident filed a prospective



Connor Radnovich/Statesman-Journal via AP, file
A group including three Democratic senators stand among the empty desks of Republican senators during a Senate floor session at the Oregon Capitol in Salem in 2019.

petition to recall Oregon state Senate Minority Leader Fred Girod. The petition said Girod "refused to use the single tool available to defend the people who elected him."

"I think it is pretty amazing that there would be a recall for a Senate Republican leader just because he stayed on for a vote," said Priscilla Southwell, a political science professor at the University of Oregon.

The petition is a reflection of a new reality for Republican lawmakers, who have repeatedly held walkouts since 2019 to block legislation they disagree with or know they can not defeat.

Dru Draper, the communications director for the Senate Republican Office, said walkouts are an important tool for the GOP, but they only delay bills from being passed by Democrats.

"We are focused on bringing back balance to the Legislature. Other Republicans should be too," Draper said.

Democrats also faced threats and intimidation over the gun measures.

Rep. Rachel Prusak, a West Linn Democrat,

was recently targeted in a series of flyers with antisemitic and holocaust imagery found in Clackamas County. At the bottom of the flyers is a website for a gun rights advocacy group.

"The hate symbols displayed were used to attack my identity while also attacking my commitment to pass gun safety legislation that will save the lives of Oregonians throughout the state," Prusak said.

Prusak, a victim of gun violence, is co-sponsoring a proposed House Bill 2510 — a storage law that would be among the toughest in the U.S.

Officials in the House Majority Office say the Democrat is one of many who have received intimidating messages this session surrounding proposed gun legislation. But for lawmakers, these threats are not new.

"To my knowledge, every legislator who works on gun safety receives threats from the small minority of extremist gun enthusiasts," said Sen. Ginny Burdick, a Portland Democrat.

LOCAL & STATE BRIEFING

Butler Market, Purcell intersection to close

The intersection of NE Butler Market Road and NE Purcell Boulevard in Bend will be closed starting Saturday for the construction of a new roundabout.

The closure, which is a part of a larger effort to improve the Empire Avenue corridor in northeast Bend, will last through mid-September.

People who live on NE Wild Rivers Loop, NE Cradle Mountain Way, NE Purser Avenue, NE Cruise Loop, NE Jonahs Court and NE Castle Avenue can access their neighborhoods from Purcell Boulevard to the north, according to the city.

For more information or for detour routes, visit www.bendoregon.gov/empire or call 541-200-6979.

Few takers for vaccines at Baker County drive-up

The Baker County Health Department had more than 1,100 doses of COVID-19 vaccine available during a free drive-thru clinic Saturday at the Baker County fairgrounds. But just 62 people showed up to be inoculated.

"It was extremely disappointing," said Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett, who is also the county's incident commander during the pandemic.

Almost one-third of the county's 16,800 residents are fully vaccinated (4,401 people).

— Bulletin staff and wire reports

Kruse Farms fined by DEQ for burning plastic cloth

Capital Press

ROSEBURG — A farm owned by former state Sen. Jeff Kruse was fined \$12,236 for illegal burning more than a year ago near the South Umpqua River. According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Douglas County firefighters responded to an open burn complaint at

Kruse Farms, of Roseburg. Crews arrived and extinguished the fire, which included approximately 233 cubic yards of polyester fabric used as a soil cover between rows of sugar beets.

State law prohibits open burning of plastics, which can create both noxious odors and toxic air pollutants. Kruse Farms is appealing the fine.

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