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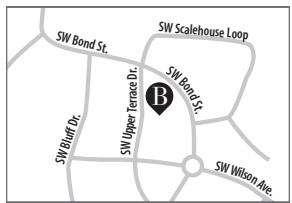
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

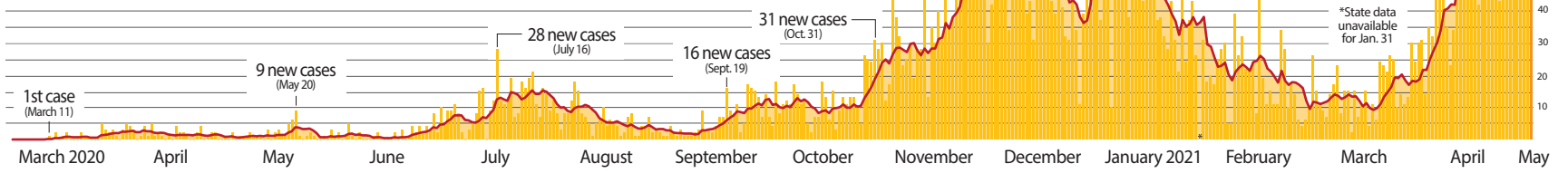
LOCAL, STATE & NATION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

COVID-19 data for Wednesday, May 5:
Deschutes County cases: 8,370 (81 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 73 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 1,031 (16 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 20 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 2,146 (3 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 33 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 188,417 (808 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,509 (1 new death)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Wednesday: 31 (6 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.



State Senate vote sends gun bill to Brown

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau
Gov. Kate Brown is the final stop for the Legislature's major gun legislation of 2021. The Senate voted Wednesday to accept the House version of a bill that combines requirements for locks and safe storage of firearms with a narrowed ban on concealed-handgun license holders bring firearms into some public places, notably the Capitol and the Portland airport.

The vote was 17-7. Sen. Betsy Johnson of Scappoose was the lone Democrat to join six Republicans in opposition to the revised Senate Bill 554. Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, was among the "no" votes. Five Republicans and one independent were recorded as excused or absent.

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the bill follows the principles laid out by a 2008 U.S. Supreme Court decision. The court for the first time concluded there was an individual right to bear arms under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, but that right can be regulated.

"What we do know is that reasonable regulations can be placed on these individual rights we have," Prozanski said. "The

bottom line is that we have a bill that does in fact address certain areas that we feel as a state need to be regulated."

Oregon would join 11 other states with some form of requirements for locks and safe storage of firearms, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

As for the narrower scope of the ban on guns in some public places, Prozanski said it was a compromise. The original Senate version would have left it to all local governments to decide restrictions for themselves; the final version limits the option to school districts, community colleges and state universities. The option for cities, counties and special districts was removed.

The ban still applies to the Capitol in Salem and the passenger terminal at Portland International Airport.

As a state representative in 1995, Prozanski voted for a law that preempts local governments from regulating firearms, other than discharging them in public. "But I will tell you that even though I thought it was the best decision I could make at that time, today is a different day," he said.

State of Safety Action, a nonprofit that advocates prevention of gun violence, issued a statement of support after the vote.

"Safe storage saves lives, helping prevent unintentional shootings and firearm suicides," Henry Wessinger, the group's president, said. "It will make it harder for potential school shooters to obtain a gun, and it will support responsible gun ownership."

Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod of Lyons took issue not only with the restrictions but also the process that allowed the House to merge its safe-storage bill with the original Senate version, which dealt with firearms in public places.

"This is an example of how bad this building can get," he said. "We were locked out of the process in this bill."

But like his counterpart in the House, Republican Leader Christine Drazan of Canby, Girod also took issue with the way some gun rights advocates lobbied in opposition to it. The Senate's March 25 vote on the original version prompted threats against some Republican senators, and a recall effort aimed at Girod, because they did not walk out to call a halt to Senate business.

"There is a fringe group out there that is sure not welcome in my office," Girod said. "It is not OK to threaten people's lives, their staff. It's not an appropriate way to lobby."

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What's in the Oregon gun legislation

Key provisions of the revised Senate Bill 554:

- **Guns must have** trigger or cable locks, be stored in a locked container or in a gun room. An offense is a Class C violation, which carries a maximum fine of \$500, unless someone under age 18 obtains access, in which case it is a Class A violation with a maximum fine of \$2,000. No jail time is imposed for violations.

- **Stolen firearms** must be reported to police, generally within 72 hours.

- **Initial filing fees** for concealed-handgun licenses are increased from \$50 to \$100, and for renewals, from \$50 to \$75.

- **The Oregon Capitol and the Portland airport passenger terminal** are off-limits to all firearms, including those borne by holders of concealed-handgun licenses, except for law enforcement. (The bill specifies airport terminals with annual passenger counts of 1 million; Eugene and Medford were at those thresholds in 2019 prior to the coronavirus pandemic. Sponsors say that the ban applies only to Portland.) Violations are considered Class A misdemeanors with maximum punishments of one year in jail and a fine of \$6,250.

- **Firearms bans for license holders** are optional at the discretion of the governing boards of Oregon's 197 school districts, 17 community colleges, seven state universities and Oregon Health & Science University. Notices must be posted online, and at entrances to buildings and grounds.

- **The final version** removes optional bans by cities, counties and special districts. Firearms bans already apply to state courts, which often are in buildings maintained by counties.

As pandemic ebbs, an old fear is new again in America: Mass shootings

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press
PORTLAND — After a year of pandemic lockdowns, public mass shootings are back. For many, the fear of contracting an invisible virus is suddenly compounded by the forgotten yet more familiar fear of getting caught in a random act of violence.

A database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University that tracks mass killings — defined as four or more dead, not including the shooter — showed just two public mass shootings in 2020. Since Jan. 1, there have been at least 11.

Yet while mass shootings dropped out of the headlines, the guns never went away. Instead, even as the U.S. inches toward a post-pandemic future, guns and gun violence feel more embedded in the American psyche than ever before. The fear and isolation of the past year have worked their way into every aspect of the U.S. conversation on firearms, from gun ownership to inner-city violence to the erosion of faith in common institutions meant to keep us safe.

More gun owners, and different

More than 21 million people completed a background check to buy a gun last year, shattering all previous records, and a survey found that 40% identified as new gun owners — many of whom belong to demographics not normally associated with firearms, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a firearm industry trade association. Purchases of guns by Black Americans increased 58% over 2019 and sales to Hispanics went up 46%, the group says.

Gun advocates tie this increase to pandemic anxiety and a loss of faith in the ability of police officers and government institutions at all levels to keep the public safe amid what at first was a little-understood, invisible menace. The eruption



Firearms trainer Kevin Burke, left, instructs new gun owner Troy Deuzman at Maxon Shooter's Supplies and Indoor Range in Des Plaines, Illinois, on Friday. More than 21 million people completed a background check to buy a gun last year.

of sustained racial injustice protests after the police killing of George Floyd and calls to reduce police funding also contributed to more interest in firearms.

The dramatic rise in firearms ownership represents a "tectonic shift in the conversation on guns," says Mark Oliva, the shooting sports foundation's director of public affairs.

"For these people, gun ownership and gun control was until now a rhetorical debate. It was something you could discuss at a cocktail hour, but they had no skin in the game — and then they bought guns," he says.

Gun rights advocates feel good about what this could mean for gun policy, with a broader swath of society seeing themselves when they hear about gun control efforts.

At the same time, gun-related homicides in midsized and big cities in America have

skyrocketed during coronavirus, and criminologists believe the pandemic and the socioeconomic loss in many communities are factors driving that trend.

A study by the Council on Criminal Justice tracked a 30% increase in homicides overall in a sample of 34 U.S. cities in 2020 as well as an 8% increase in gun assaults.

Portland, a city of just over 650,000, is a stark example.

Last year, there were more homicides than in any of the previous 26 years. This year, the city had tallied more than 340 shootings by late April — an average of about three a day — and was on track to blow past last year's homicide record. The shootings are mostly impacting the city's historically Black neighborhoods and lower-income areas where coronavirus has taken a heavy toll.

"It's the way that we all feel as people who have careers

and homes and jobs and how emotionally unstable we've felt over this past year. Now imagine all that in people who are in hopeless situations," says Sam Thompson, a Black resident who started a neighborhood group last summer to try to find solutions.

More politics than ever

When it comes to the gun control debate, Americans seem "more entrenched than ever," and those divisions are playing out in state legislatures around the nation, says David Kopel, a law professor at the University of Denver and research director at the Independence Institute, a Libertarian think tank in Colorado that favors gun rights.

In conservative America, mask mandates and economic shutdowns have been lumped together with gun control legislation as examples of vast government overreach.

In Oregon, armed protesters angry that the state Capitol was closed to the public due to COVID-19 tried to storm the building late last year in a foreshadowing of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. In response, Democrats used their supermajority to pass advance a bill that would mandate safe storage for firearms and make it illegal to bring a gun into the state Capitol. The state Senate approved the bill Wednesday.

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