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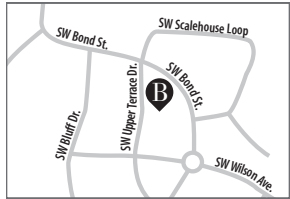
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

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 Tuesday, May 11:

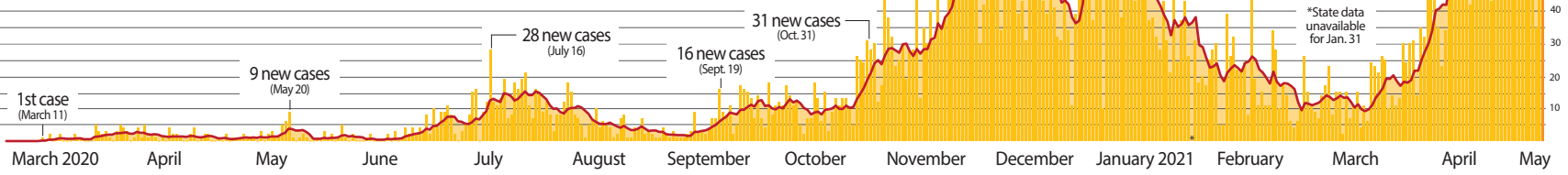
Deschutes County cases: 8,821 (64 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 74 (zero new deaths)

Crook County cases: 1,086 (10 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 21 (1 new death)

Jefferson County cases: 2,176 (5 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 34 (zero new deaths)

Oregon cases: 192,416 (660 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,549 (16 new deaths)

COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Tuesday: 39 (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.

Remote testimony could be here to stay at the Oregon Capitol

BY CHRIS LEHMAN

The Oregonian

At the south entrance to the Oregon Capitol sits a kiosk. With the building closed to the public, the kiosk has one job: to allow people who walk up to the Legislature to testify virtually before a committee.

The public hasn't exactly jumped at the chance to talk to lawmakers by standing outside of the Capitol and speaking into a camera. According to the Legislative Policy and Research Office, the kiosk has been used just four times since it was installed last year.

But what Oregonians have taken to is the chance to testify from their living rooms. So far this session, with committee hearings held entirely on

virtual platforms, people have signed up to address legislative committees more than 14,000 times. That's already well over the number who sought to testify in person in 2019, with more than six weeks remaining in this year's session.

"Most of the changes to our lives that we've seen during COVID are ones that we would prefer to leave behind, but this is not one of them," said Mary Kyle McCurdy, the Deputy Director of 1000 Friends of Oregon. "It really has opened up meetings and hearings and public decision-making to so many Oregonians."

More than 1,200 committee hearings have been conducted using video-conference technology since the beginning of

this year's session. According to the Legislature's Information Services Department, roughly 98% have been free of technical problems that have resulted in an interruption of the meeting.

Lawmakers are considering a bill that would require both the Legislature and local governments to offer remote testimony as an option, even when the pandemic is in the rear-view mirror. House Bill 2560 has already been approved in the House and awaits a vote on the Senate floor. The measure would allow testifying via telephone to count as remote testimony.

No one is publicly suggesting that once COVID-19 protocols are relaxed, lawmakers continue to use remote hearings

exclusively. There are more than a dozen hearing rooms sitting unused at the Capitol, and lawmakers are just as eager as everyone else to see people in-person again. Floor sessions are held in-person, but without any members of the public in attendance.

But the horse is out of the barn when it comes to allowing people to have their say from the comfort of their homes.

"There have been fewer trips over the Cascades in dangerous weather conditions," said Misty Mason Freeman, the director of the Legislative Policy and Research Office. "It's given folks the opportunity to testify from a space that's comfortable to them, including being able to testify with kiddos at home."

Lawmaker said to have let protesters into Capitol skips hearing

BY CHRIS LEHMAN

The Oregonian

An Oregon state representative accused of allowing armed protesters into the locked Capitol in December did not appear in court Tuesday morning during a scheduled arraignment on two charges, including first-degree official misconduct. An attorney for Rep. Mike Nearman, R-Independence, spoke briefly with a judge at the Marion County Circuit Court Annex in Salem, but did not enter a plea on Nearman's behalf. The attorney, Jason Short of Salem, had notified the court on Monday that Nearman would not be appearing. Nearman told a Portland radio station last week that he'd been diagnosed with COVID-19. A group of about two dozen supporters gathered outside the courthouse prior to Tuesday's hearing, many holding signs in support of Nearman. "I think Mike did the right thing that day," said Tom Madison of Salem. "It was a brave thing to do." But Peter Starzynski, the executive director of Accountable Northwest, said Nearman should serve time behind bars. Technically, a person convicted of first-degree official misconduct can be sentenced to a year in jail, but jail time for misdemeanors is not the norm. "He literally opened the door for violent rioters to attack the Capitol," said Starzynski.



Nearman

Salem ice storm recovery continues

BY WHITNEY WOODWORTH

Salem Statesman Journal

The city of Salem has spent months recovering from the February ice storm that left thousands without power and blocked roadways, but it's expected to take several more months at a total cost of more than \$4.5 million to repair infrastructure and clear downed trees.

As of April 21, a total of \$1.3 million had been spent on the city's response and recovery efforts.

According to a report submitted to Salem City Council, the total estimated cost of the city's recovery efforts is expected to be \$4.6 million.

While more funds are needed, a significant portion of the storm recovery costs is expected to be reimbursed through insurance or federal funds, according to city officials.

The agency's decision is pending, but if the Federal Emergency Management Agency determines the ice storm was a disaster, the city's spending on recovery will be eligible for reimbursement.

Marion County officials said they expect to spend about \$4 million in storm recovery efforts. The county landfill col-



Abigail Dollins/Statenman Journal

A long line of vehicles forms at the debris drop-off site at Salem's Woodmansee Park in February.

lected more than 70,000 yards of material free of charge in the month following the storm.

Although the city's public works deactivated its emergency operating center April 2, recovery remains underway. Damaged trees, downed limbs and debris are still being removed at city parks and on right-of-ways.

Storm maintenance personnel are also continuing to clear

streams and creeks of debris to reduce the chance of flooding during spring rains, and street maintenance staff are working to repair sidewalks, fences, handrails and streetlights damaged by downed trees.

Recovery by the numbers

- **86:** Traffic signals impacted by outages
- **400:** Tons of sanding rock applied to roads during the storm
- **4,115:** Tree assessments completed by the city's urban forestry staff
- **1,192:** Calls for service to public works dispatch in the week after the storm
- **6,050:** Tons of wood chips created from downed trees and limbs made available for free to the public at Bush's Pasture Park and the Oregon State Fairgrounds.
- **214:** Tons of logs and timber cut from the downed trees.
- **20,600:** Vehicle/trailer loads of debris brought to collection sites following the storm.
- **31,000:** Cubic yards of debris collected at the sites.



Partners In Care

Community Education— A Virtual Presentation

Opening to Grief in a Pandemic

In this one-hour workshop, participants will identify how Covid-19 has impacted our lives and discover three resources to help understand and deal with grief. Presented by Claire B. Willis clinical social worker and co-founder of the Boston nonprofit Facing Cancer Together.

May 21
Friday
noon-1pm

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