

The Bulletin

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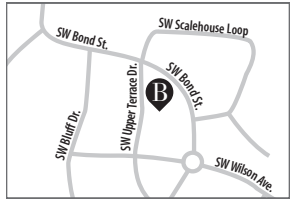
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• Home delivery and E-Edition.....\$7 per week
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No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Phone.....541-385-5809 Fax.....541-598-3150 Email.....obits@bendbulletin.com

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

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

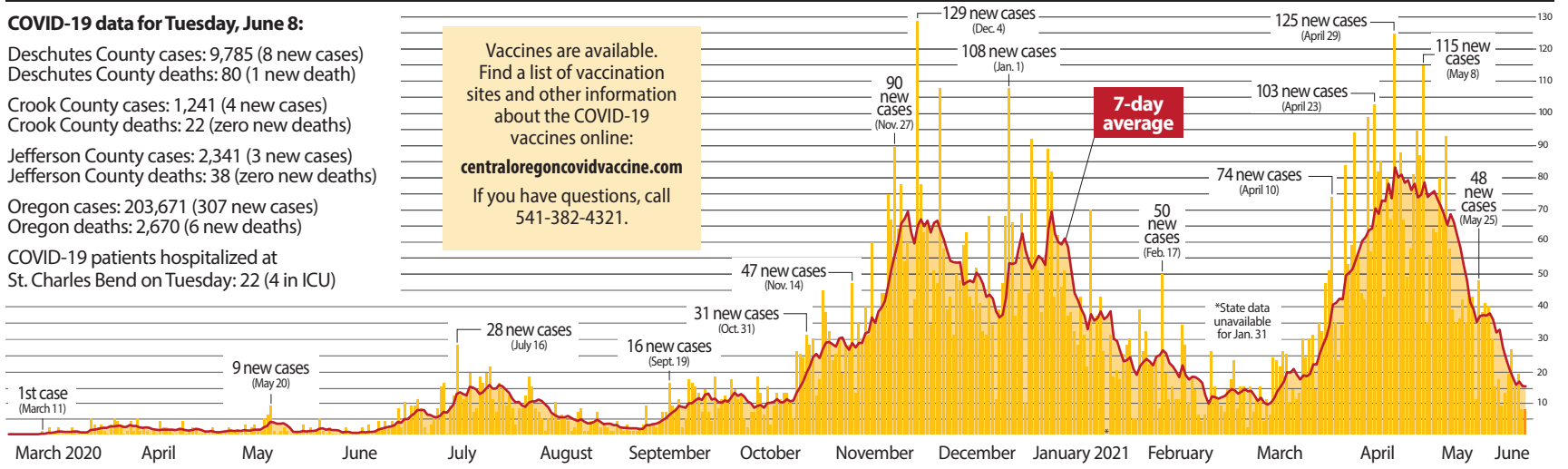
DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

COVID-19 data for Tuesday, June 8:

Deschutes County cases: 9,785 (8 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 80 (1 new death)
Crook County cases: 1,241 (4 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 22 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 2,341 (3 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 38 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 203,671 (307 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,670 (6 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Tuesday: 22 (4 in ICU)

Vaccines are available. Find a list of vaccination sites and other information about the COVID-19 vaccines online: centraloregoncovidvaccine.com If you have questions, call 541-382-4321.



OREGON HOUSE | Lawmakers face sanctions

Panel to probe Nearman's role in state Capitol breach

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau
A special committee of the Oregon House is now empowered to carry out its investigation of Rep. Mike Nearman in aiding anti-lockdown protesters to breach the closed Capitol during a Dec. 21 special session — and consider a recommendation for his expulsion from the House.

Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner, D-Portland, took place Tuesday.

Kotek, a Democrat from Portland, also introduced a resolution that would expel Nearman on grounds of “disruptive behavior” under the Oregon Constitution. A two-thirds majority, 40 members, of the full House is required for expulsion, which has never happened in Oregon’s 162 years of statehood.



Nearman

The House voted 43-16, with Nearman the only member excused, to give authority to the special committee named by House Speaker Tina Kotek. The action was required because most committees have been deactivated as the 2021 Legislature nears its scheduled June 27 adjournment.

The vote on the motion by

in Oregon’s 162 years of statehood. A recommendation by the special committee would put the resolution directly to a vote of the House. The committee had not yet scheduled a meeting.

All 37 Democrats were joined by six Republicans on the vote.

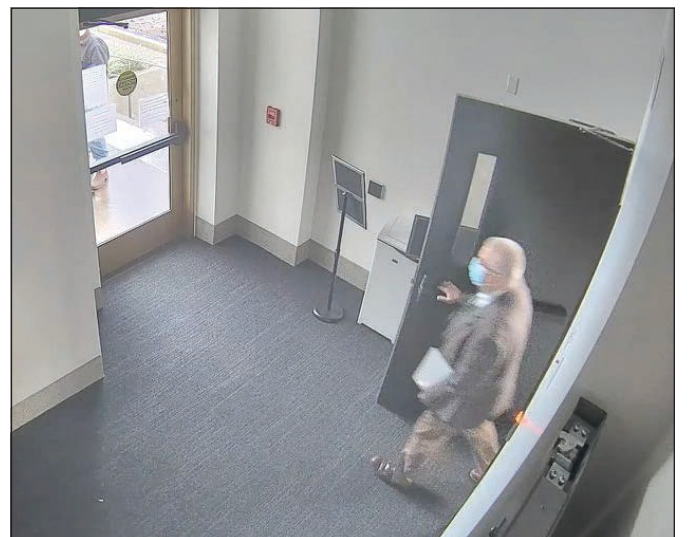
Kotek, Smith Warner and nine representatives of color — all Democrats — already had urged Nearman to resign.

Twenty-two Republicans, in a letter released Monday, also called on Nearman to resign. They did so after the disclosure last weekend of video footage, during which he gives out his cellphone number to would-be protesters days before the planned special session and says “someone” might enable them to enter the Capitol from a specific door if a text message is sent.

Nearman, 57, is a retired software engineer who lives outside Independence.

Criminal charges

Nearman is already under indictment in Marion County Circuit Court on one count of first-degree official misconduct



Security video obtained by The Oregonian shows state Rep. Mike Nearman, R-Independence, opening two doors to the Capitol during a Dec. 21 special legislative session, allowing violent demonstrators who were protesting immediately outside the door to illegally enter the building.

and one count of second-degree criminal trespass in connection with his opening a door and allowing anti-lockdown protesters to enter the Capitol.

Both are misdemeanor charges, maximum penalties for which are one year in jail

and a fine of \$6,250. Misdemeanor convictions, unlike felonies, do not result in automatic expulsion from the Legislature.

The criminal proceeding is separate from the House’s own disciplinary process.

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Speaker removes Witt from committees after deadlock

Removal was related to text messages sent to Rep. Vikki Breese Iverson of Prineville

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau
State Rep. Brad Witt has been removed from three Oregon House committees on which he had common membership with state Rep. Vikki Breese Iverson after she filed a complaint about text messages between them.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, announced the action Monday after the House Committee on Conduct deadlocked on proposed disciplinary actions against Witt. The committee, split between

two Democrats and two Republicans, concluded last week that Witt violated a legislative rule against creating a hostile work environment with the text messages.

Under House rules, the speaker has the authority to name, remove and reassign members and leaders of most committees.

Witt, 68, is a nine-term Democrat from Clatskanie who represents parts of Clatsop, Columbia and Washington counties that are within District 31. Breese Iverson,

46, was initially appointed in 2019 to the District 55 seat vacated by Mike McLane, who became a circuit judge. She was elected to a full term in 2020. She owns a real estate business in Prineville. District 55 covers Crook County, plus parts of Deschutes, Jackson, Klamath and Lake counties.

Witt already had yielded his leadership of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee after Breese Iverson filed her complaint. Rep. Zach Hudson, a first-term Democrat from Troutdale, now leads the committee.



Witt

Kotek removed Witt from that committee, plus the Business and Labor Committee and the Water Committee. She appointed him to the Economic Recovery and Prosperity Committee and the Gen-

eral Government Committee; Breese Iverson sits on neither panel.

As a practical matter, with the 2021 Legislature scheduled to end its session on June 27, most committees are no longer hearing bills or acting on them.

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LOCAL BRIEFING

Pedestrian killed in Bend

A pedestrian was hit by a vehicle and killed Monday night in Bend.

Police have not released much information about the

fatal incident, which took place around 11:22 p.m. near NE Third Street and Mervin Samples Road.

More will be released later, Bend Police said in a statement.

—Bulletin staff report

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