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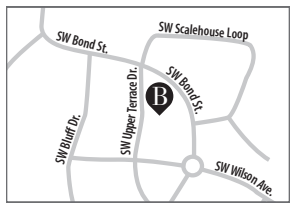
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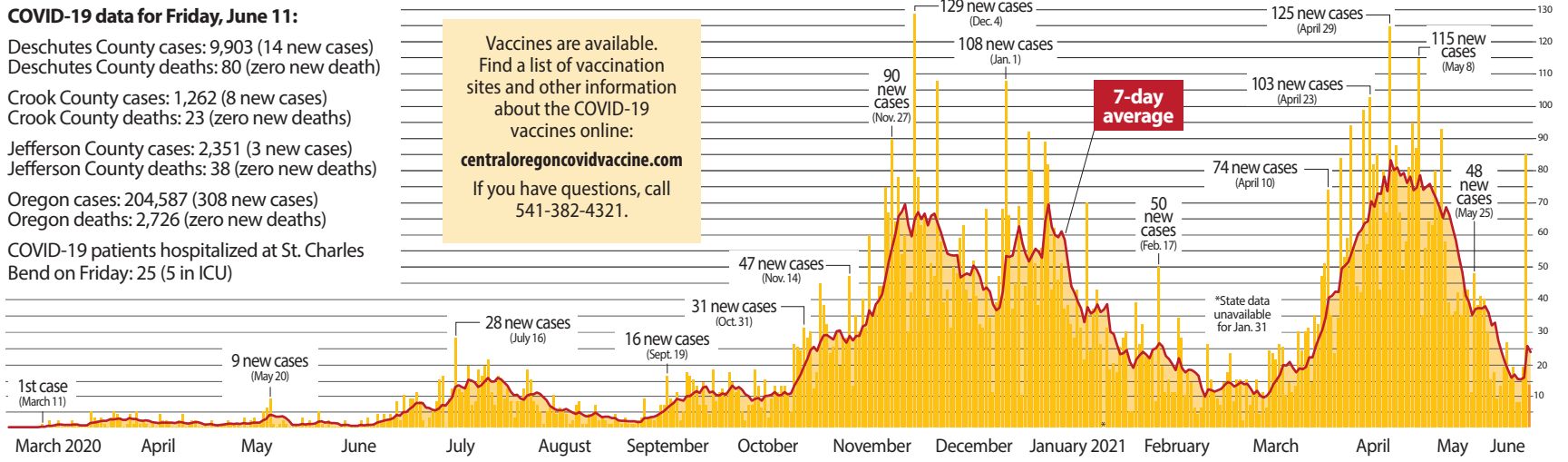
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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



DEC. 21 CAPITOL BREACH

Oregon House expels Nearman

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau
Rep. Mike Nearman became the first state legislator to be expelled in Oregon's 162 years of statehood for his part in aiding anti-lockdown protesters, some of them armed, to breach the closed Capitol during a Dec. 21 special session of the Legislature.

On a 59-1 vote Thursday night, the House concluded that Nearman, a Republican from Independence, engaged in "disorderly behavior" when he opened a door and allowed some protesters to enter the Capitol's northwest vestibule. Police eventually ejected them and blocked their second attempt to breach a different entrance to the Capitol later that day. Several people were arrested.

Nearman was the lone vote against his expulsion. The other 22 Republicans joined the 37 Democrats to expel him.

Some protesters gathered near one of the Capitol entrances as the House debated for 45 minutes. One of them attempted to break down a door, but it has a metal cover that shields the glass.

Nearman, 57, was identified through video surveillance footage during an investigation by Oregon State Police. A second video surfaced last week during which Nearman, five days before the Dec. 21 session, advised potential protesters



State Rep. Mike Nearman was the lone vote against his expulsion. The other 22 Republicans joined the 37 Democrats to expel him.
Submitted photo

how to reach him via text message and "someone" would allow them to enter the Capitol.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, a Democrat from Portland who appointed a special committee to consider the expulsion resolution she introduced earlier in the week, had this to say afterward:

"The facts are clear that Mr. Nearman unapologetically coordinated and planned a breach of the Oregon State Capitol. His actions were blatant and deliberate, and he has shown no remorse for jeopardizing the safety of every person in the Capitol that day."

"Given the extraordinary circumstances, this was the only reasonable path forward. Safety — for the public, build-

ing employees, legislators and their staff — continues to be my top priority in managing this extraordinary session."

Earlier Thursday, when the special committee met for about two hours, Nearman read a statement but said he would decline to answer questions based on his lawyer's advice. He faces two criminal charges in Marion County Circuit Court that are unaffected by the House vote.

"I know you have all made your decision. This has not been a fair process," he said.

He instead laid blame on Kotek, Senate President Peter Courtney, and the six members of the special committee, among others for the Capitol closure.

"The easy thing is to expel me," he said. "I suspect that is what you are going to do. But to be clear, I am going to be expelled for letting the public into the public's building."

He made similar arguments Thursday night during a 3-minute speech to the full House. He mentioned the constitutional requirement that legislative proceedings be open, but the Oregon Constitution allows the Legislature to define how it will do so. He said while other public places have gradually reopened — mostly because COVID-19 vaccinations have increased and infection rates have dropped — the Capitol remains closed.

"You can let this be tried in

the media and come down to summary judgment on the floor, like we are doing here," he said. "You can choose to skip the House committee and just do it now. There is no reason to hear both sides and have at least something resembling due process."

Legislative Counsel Dexter Johnson, in response to a question by Rep. Duane Stark, R-Grants Pass, advised lawmakers that the closure of the Capitol during the pandemic "is not an arbitrary or unreasonable decision, and does not go beyond what is reasonably necessary to enable the Legislature to make urgent policy decisions pertaining to the state's response to the virus and other urgent matters."

House District 23 cuts through Polk, Yamhill, Marion and Benton counties.

Nearman's seat will be filled by appointment of commissioners from the four counties, weighted by their share of district voters, after Republicans nominate three to five candidates.

There is nothing in state law that prevents Nearman from being nominated or appointed. The Constitution prevents the House from expelling him for the same offense.

Given that the 2021 session is scheduled to close by June 27, it is unlikely that the seat will be filled before adjournment.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Central Oregon history project needs your photos

The Bulletin and the Deschutes Historical Museum are compiling photos from the 1950s to 2000s for a pictorial history book about Bend and Deschutes County due out this fall.

"We're asking longtime residents to dig into their closets, basements, garages for photos from this period and bring them to The Bulletin to be part of the project," said Editor Gerry O'Brien. "We are especially interested in the large events from these decades and scenes that would lend themselves to before-and-after photos."

Photo scanning sessions will be held at The Bulletin, 320 SW Upper Terrace Drive, Sat-

urday. Staff will be on hand to coordinate and speed the effort. Photos will be scanned on-site and handed back to the owners.

Photo submission forms are also available online at HelloBend.PictorialBook.com. The sessions are Saturday, 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo announces free concert lineup

The Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo is offering its summer concert series for free with admission to the fair.

The summer concert series, from July 28 to July 31, will be held outside the First Interstate Bank Center, rather than inside the center. The outdoor set-

ting will better accommodate people and allow for social distancing as a precaution for the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the fairgrounds.

Tickets for the 2021 Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo will go on sale online July 5.

The concert series will feature the following performers:

- Wednesday, July 28: rock band Skillet
- Thursday, July 29: country music singer Chris Janson
- Friday, July 30: Grammy-award winning rapper Nelly
- Saturday, July 31: country rock band Reckless Kelly.



Nelly

Statue of Black hero of Lewis & Clark trip defaced

PORTLAND — A statue commemorating York, an enslaved Black member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was defaced this week in Portland.

The Oregonian reported that while the bust itself was unmarked, symbols and words, including "love not hate," were spray-painted in purple lettering onto the gray pedestal underneath.

A plaque describing York had also been spray-painted over and then removed, leaving behind a blank square framed in purple.

The bust mysteriously appeared in February on a pedes-

tal in a park in southeast Portland where a statue of Harvey Scott, a well-known conservative and longtime editor of The Oregonian who opposed women's suffrage, stood until it was torn down. It still isn't clear who created or placed the bust of York.

After the Lewis and Clark Expedition was over, everyone but York was rewarded with money and land. York demanded freedom as a reward for his services on the expedition, historian Stephen E. Ambrose wrote.

But Clark refused. Clark later claimed to a friend that he'd freed York. Historians haven't been able to verify that.

— Bulletin staff and wire reports

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