

STATE BRIEFS

Crash injures two Round-Up contestants, kills one

UMATILLA COUNTY — A crash Thursday night, Sept. 16, injured two Pendleton Round-Up contestants and killed another.

Oregon State Police reported the crash occurred at 8:15 p.m. on the east-bound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 193 where a Volkswagen Jetta ran into the rear of a potato truck.

Jate Frost, 20 of Randlett, Utah, was driving the Jetta east with passengers Richard Schleicher, 24, of Stockton, Oklahoma, and Jesse Hopper, 21, of Magnum, Oklahoma. Ediberto Ramirez Carrillo, 31, of Hermiston, was driving the commercial vehicle hauling potatoes.

The Jetta rear ended the truck, and Frost suffered serious injuries. An emergency helicopter flew him to Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Washington.

Hopper was in the rear seat and also suffered serious injuries. He was transported to Oregon Health & Science University Hospital, Portland.

OSP reported Schleicher was in the front passenger seat and suffered fatal injuries.

Carrillo was not injured.

All three occupants of the Jetta were contestants at the Pendleton Round-Up, according to Oregon State Police.

Wolves injure one calf, kill another in Umatilla County

UMATILLA COUNTY — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported wolves in late August in Umatilla County injured one calf and killed another.

While checking cows, a livestock producer found an injured calf the evening of Aug. 28 in a large private forested pasture in the Horseshoe Ridge area.

The calf was 4 months old, weighed around 400 pounds and was intact. The calf was injured that evening, according to the ODFW report.

The morning of Aug. 29, several cow/calf pairs returned to the livestock producer's camp and one calf had an open wound above the right hock. This calf was 3 months old and weighed around 300 pounds.

During the investigation that day, the producer was unable to restrain the calf for close examination. On Aug. 31, the calf was restrained and examined, and ODFW estimated the injury occurred six days prior.

"These two separate depredation events are attributed to the OR30 Wolves," ODFW reported.

Hundreds protest vaccine, mask mandates in Salem

SALEM — At Oregon's Capitol hundreds gathered to protest Gov. Kate Brown's COVID-19 vaccine and mask mandates.

The Statesman Journal reported that on Saturday, Sept. 18, people at the rally lined both sides of Court Street in front of the Capitol building, and filled the first block of the mall during about two hours of speeches, then marched through downtown Salem during the peaceful event.

Protesters identified themselves as health care workers, teachers, emergency services workers and state employees.

Gov. Kate Brown has ordered those groups to be vaccinated by Oct. 18. She ordered a statewide outdoor mask mandate on Aug. 24.

The rally was organized by Oregonians for Medical Freedom, a political action committee that works to protect vaccine exemptions.

— EO Media Group and The Associated Press

Survey: Politics a leading indicator of vaccination rates

One in five Oregonians not planning to get vaccinated against COVID-19, according to new survey

By ALEXANDRA SKORES
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — One in five Oregon adults say they are not planning to get vaccinated against COVID-19, according to a new survey of Oregonians by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

This population tends to be under the age of 55, socially and ideologically conservative, with no college degree and living in rural or rural-to-suburban parts of the state.

The survey underscores how politics has become one of the leading indicators of vaccination rates in a highly polarized environment. Just one in 25 registered Democrats reported that the vaccine was "not for me," according to the survey of 1,154 Oregon adults, versus more than one in three Republicans and more than one in four independent or other voters.

The Oregon Values and Belief Center, an independent, nonprofit research firm, conducted the polling Aug. 9-17, before full approval to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and Gov. Kate Brown's outdoor masking requirement. The survey found that the most-

trusted source of information no matter political affiliation was scientists and doctors.

"We hope that it will help inform Oregonians about how other people that live in their state feel, but that most of them are not so different from you and have a lot of the same thoughts, feelings and concerns that you do," Amaury Vogel, associate executive director of the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center, said of the survey.

"It's helpful for Oregonians to know what else other people are thinking too, because sometimes the loudest voices are the ones that dominate the conversation," Vogel added.

Few Oregonians expressed initial hesitancy with wanting to get the vaccine, with 62% of respondents saying they got vaccinated as soon they could. An additional 17% said they were initially skeptical but have or will soon get vaccinated, while 21% said vaccination was not for them.

Oregon respondents younger than 45 are the most likely to report warming to vaccinations, alongside people of color, social moderates and people with a high school



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Shannon White, regional testing liaison for Grand Ronde Hospital gives directions to Doug Ross for a self-administered COVID-19 test in the Bi-Mart parking lot in La Grande on Friday, Aug. 27, 2021.

degree or less.

A majority of Oregon adults support employers being able to require vaccinations among employees. Fully 70% of respondents said they think medical facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities, should be allowed to require employee vaccinations. For all employers, the rate of support for allowing required employee vaccinations was slightly lower, at 66%.

COVID-19 vaccinations are not yet available for children 11 and younger, but 56% of surveyed parents with kids in that age group said they would have their child inoculated if a federally approved vaccine was available today. One third of respondents said they would not. Parents with college degrees were far more likely to say

they would vaccinate their children.

The survey also looked at where Oregonians get vital information about things such as COVID-19. The No. 1 trusted source? The frontline workers relaying the information.

Some 80% of respondents said they trusted scientists and doctors, far higher than the 60% rate for science agencies.

Below scientists and agencies, media organi-

zations came into play for varying demographics of respondents. Roughly half of college-educated respondents trusted National Public Radio or similar programming, while roughly half of people with high school educations or less trusted family and friends.

Meanwhile, respondents were asked to categorize COVID-19 as a fact, belief, concept or fiction. Fully 6% of respondents said it was fiction, with nearly all of those people lacking a college degree.

Five out of six Oregonians have experienced negative physical or emotional impacts of COVID-19. Fully 40% said those impacts were slight, 27% said they were significant and 17% said they were dramatic.

Compared to problems of the day — such as climate change, racial discrimination and forest fires — respondents expressed optimism that humans will solve communicable diseases such as COVID-19.

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