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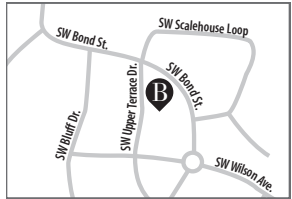
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

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 Friday, Jan. 22:

Deschutes County cases: 5,131 (28 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 40 (1 new death)
Crook County cases: 645 (14 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 11 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,727 (9 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 25 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 136,839 (877 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 1,865 (22 new deaths)

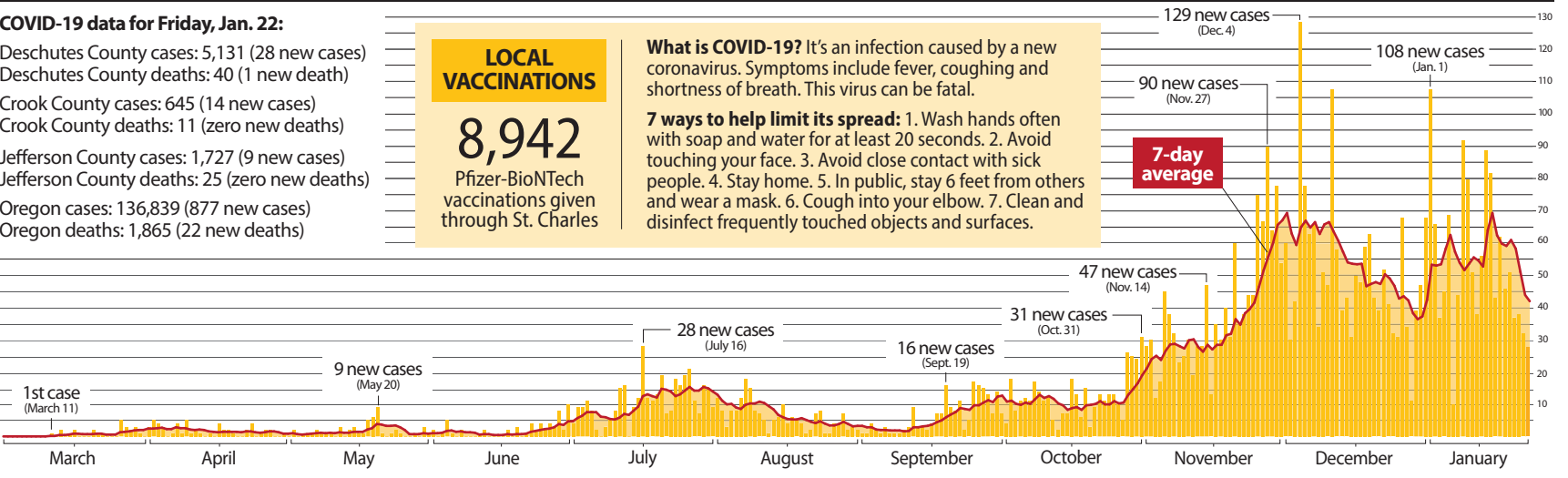
LOCAL VACCINATIONS

8,942

Pfizer-BioNTech vaccinations given through St. Charles

What is COVID-19? It's an infection caused by a new coronavirus. Symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath. This virus can be fatal.

7 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 home. 5. In public, stay 6 feet from others and wear a mask. 6. Cough into your elbow. 7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



COVID-19 | Failure to require masks

Doctor sues over license suspension

MAXINE BERNSTEIN

The Oregonian
The Oregon doctor who had his medical license suspended last month for failure to require staff and patients to wear masks in his office is now suing the Oregon Medical Board.

On Dec. 3, the board suspended Steven Arthur LaTulippe's medical license, finding that his Dallas-based practice presents a serious danger to public health and safety. The board found that he and his staff refused to wear masks in the clinic and urged people who came to the clinic wearing

masks to remove them.

LaTulippe on Thursday filed a federal lawsuit against the Oregon Medical Board, alleging the suspension violated his due process and free speech rights, contending he's been penalized due to a "mere difference in medical opinion."

He contends the admonition to wear masks to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic has been "largely disputed by reputable studies and medical experts," and claims he has harmed no one.

An investigator with the state medical board found

during a Dec. 2 visit to LaTulippe's clinic that neither patients nor health providers were wearing masks. There were no screening procedures — such as the taking of patient temperatures — before or upon entry to the clinic, and no hand sanitizer was made available in the waiting area. Instead, an article was posted in the public area of the clinic with a passage highlighted that claimed 94% of individuals who will experience serious effects of COVID-19 have co-morbidities, according to the board's suspension ruling.

The suit contends that LaTulippe's staff do not wear masks because they experience shortness of breath, claustrophobia, and panic attacks.

It alleges that the doctor's medical license suspension will lead to "irreparable harm," since many of his patients rely on him for pain treatment and prescriptions.

The suit said LaTulippe is the only doctor within a reasonable driving distance of Dallas who specializes in pain and addiction.

LaTulippe ran a family practice clinic called South View

Medical Arts in Dallas. He made anti-mask comments during a "Stop the Steal" election rally in Salem on Nov. 7. The video was posted on YouTube by the Multnomah County Republican Party.

The suit contends the board violated his free speech rights by referencing his comments at the political rally he attended.

The suit contends the doctor never prevented any patient from wearing a mask in the office, and that he never told any individual patient to remove their mask for any reason other than medical necessity.

Cat lost in Oregon makes it back to Arizona

BY CARISA CEGAVSKE

The News-Review

Lexi is an ordinary house cat who, as far as her family knew, didn't even know how to hunt.

So when the McMillan family of Gilbert, Arizona, lost her at Thielsen Forest Campground about 6 miles from Diamond Lake in August, they feared she wouldn't make it.

But somehow, this little gray-and-white, long-haired cat survived a grueling autumn in the wild. In September, she came within one mile of a raging wildfire that devastated the area. By November, she was clinging to life through a heavy snowstorm.

But this month, she was returned to her family in Arizona thanks to the actions of concerned citizens who stepped in to help a cat in need.

Lizzy McMillan said Lexi's a good traveler — she walks on a leash, rides in a backpack and happily stays in a camper — but she escaped while the adults were distracted. They were hoping in and out of the truck while attempting to execute a 45-point turn to pull their travel



Courtesy of Lizzy McMillan via The News-Review

Maxine, left, and Violet McMillan enjoy a reunion with their cat Lexi.

trailer out of a campsite that was just too small for it.

Lexi's people noticed the cat was missing a few miles down the road and returned to look for her, staying an extra day in hopes of finding her.

But they had no luck. But Lexi had one thing going for her. Her family had a microchip implanted when she had been spayed.

Exactly what Lexi did during the rest of August and September is unknown. But by late Oc-

tober, Oregon Department of Transportation workers based at the Lemolo maintenance shop off Highway 138 East about a mile away were reporting having seen a stray cat in the area.

Among his other duties, Oregon Department of Transportation maintenance crew member Chris Southwick is one of the people who runs those snowplows that keep the highway open in the winter.

Southwick said he and other employees who work at the

Lemolo shop started bringing food for the cat they knew was out there somewhere, but it never seemed to eat anything.

Then one day around Thanksgiving, Southwick saw tracks in the snow at the station — fresh cat tracks.

The tracks wandered off toward the corner of the yard where several pieces of equipment were parked. The tracks ended at a truck.

"So we opened up the hood of the truck that was there, and there it was sitting on top of the engine trying to get warm. So I grabbed it," he said.

Southwick brought her inside and gave her some food.

Lexi — who Southwick was calling "Snowy" — fit in well with his family and its two cats, two dogs, chickens and fish.

But Southwick thought about how sad his kids would be if it had been their cat who was lost. And he wondered if she might have a microchip that would identify the cat's owners. So he took Lexi to Saving Grace Pet Adoption Center to find out.

She did have a chip, and so

the next leg of Lexi's journey was about to begin.

Saving Grace Cattery Manager Brooke Winterholer said the animal shelter reached out to the McMillans.

Saving Grace volunteer Janice Quist, as it turns out, winters each year in Surprise, Arizona, about an hour from Gilbert, where the McMillans live.

Once they arrived in Surprise, Lizzy McMillan's husband, Andy McMillan, drove down to pick up Lexi. He put the cat into a clear cat backpack and hauled her out for the last leg.

In the months since they lost Lexi, the family had moved to a new home.

Waiting at home, unaware that Lexi had been found, were three children.

Maxine McMillan, 10, had received Lexi as her fifth birthday present. She and her brother Everett, 7, and sister Violet, 4, were not told the cat had been found.

"They were so excited and couldn't believe that she had been found," Lizzy McMillan said.

STATE BRIEFING

Salem Capitol protester arrested on attempted assault charge

SALEM — A man wanted for his alleged role in an attack on officers at the Oregon State Capitol in December has been arrested.

The Salem Police Department said in a news release that Richard Braatz of Eugene was arrested Thursday in Salem while participating in a rally to protest the presidential election results.

Braatz was lodged at the Marion County Correctional Facility on charges of second-degree attempted assault and riot in connection with a special legislative session on Dec. 21.

Demonstrators, some armed, attacked authorities that day with bear spray, broke glass doors and called for the arrest of Gov. Kate Brown. It wasn't immediately known if Braatz has a lawyer to comment on his case.

— Bulletin wire report

LOCAL BRIEFING

St. Charles identifies source of COVID outbreak

A COVID-19 positive patient who visited St. Charles Redmond has been identified as the source of the infection that spread to more than 30 caregivers at the health care facility.

The unnamed patient was admitted to St. Charles Redmond on Dec. 31 and tested twice for COVID-19 and both tests were returned as negative, according to a release

from St. Charles Health System. The patient was tested again on Jan. 6 and the results were positive.

The patient was not wearing a mask during the visit due to underlying health conditions that made mask wearing difficult.

St. Charles staff had been wearing specialized personal protective equipment during the visits, but the equipment was "overwhelmed by prolonged exposure to the highly symptomatic patient," according to the release.

"Negative COVID-19 test results are not foolproof," said Dr. Jeff Absalon, St. Charles chief physician executive. "In spite of negative test results, if a patient is highly symptomatic we need to treat them as if they are COVID-19 positive and aerosolizing, in which case the higher level of PPE is required."

One patient and 33 St. Charles caregivers at the Redmond hospital have tested positive for the COVID-19

due to the outbreak. The health system began its vaccination campaign on Dec. 21, so none of the 33 Redmond caregivers was fully vaccinated.

The hospital is now focused on contact tracing to ensure that everyone who may have been in contact with infected employees is aware of the situation and taking precautions. Testing is being offered to all St. Charles Redmond caregivers.

— Bulletin staff report

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