# The Bulletin

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# LOCAL, STATE & REGION

#### New COVID-19 cases per day SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES ESCHUTES COUNTY 📥 BULLETIN GRAPHIC 29 new cases (Dec. 4) COVID-19 data for Wednesday, Feb. 3: What is COVID-19? It's an infection caused by a new 108 new cases Deschutes County cases: 5,468 (20 new cases) LOCAL coronavirus. Symptoms include fever, coughing and VACCINATIONS 90 new Deschutes County deaths: 46 (1 new death) shortness of breath. This virus can be fatal \*No data Crook County cases: 702 (7 new cases) Cases (Nov. 27) 7 ways to help limit its spread: 1. Wash hands often 22,481 Jan. 31 Crook County deaths: 15 (zero new deaths) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. 2. Avoid touching your face. 3. Avoid close contact with sick due to state Je<sup>~</sup> erson County cases: 1,788 (7 new cases) Number of vaccinations people. 4. Stay home. 5. In public, stay 6 feet from others Je<sup>~</sup> erson County deaths: 25 (zero new deaths) given by St. Charles Health System and wear a mask. 6. Cough into your elbow. 7. Clean and Oregon cases: 144,605 (649 new cases) disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Oregon deaths: 1,991 (10 new deaths) COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles 47 new case Bend on Tuesday: 15 (4 in ICU). 31 new cases (Oct. 31) 7-day 28 new cases (July 16) averad 16 new cases 9 new cases (May 20) 1st case rch 11) May March April July Septembe October November December Feb. June August January

# Judge: Inmates to be prioritized for vaccine

The Associated Press Gov. Kate Brown's office said Wednesday that Oregon will soon begin offering COVID-19 vaccinations to as many as 11,000 inmates in the state's 14 prisons — one day after a federal judge ordered it.

The court's decision is clear, and the state has decided not to appeal," said Charles Boyle, a spokesman for the governor's office, in an email Wednesday.

Boyle didn't offer a date when vaccinations will commence.

But on Tuesday, U.S. Magistrate Stacie Beckerman ruled that inoculations must begin immediately.

Some Oregonians have worried this will slow the administration of shots to Oregon's oldest residents and day care,

preschool and K-12 employees as part of Phase 1b because of the already overburdened rollout in Oregon. But the governor's office said it should not.

"We do not anticipate that these adjustments will alter our timelines for beginning Phase 1b vaccinations, including vaccines for educators or seniors-however that is dependent on the weekly vaccine supplies we receive from the federal government," Boyle said.

In all, the state estimates there are 152,000 educators currently eligible for inoculations. From Feb. 8 to the first week of March, up to 767,000 seniors will become eligible, although state officials say the true number is smaller because a small portion have already

been vaccinated because they qualified for reasons including they work in the health care industry or live in long-term care facilities.

In comparison, there are about 12,600 inmates in custody of the Oregon Department of Corrections. About 1,600 of them have already been vaccinated.

Most of them are over age 60 or are medically vulnerable and were inoculated because of a miscommunication, Beckerman wrote in her ruling.

Beckerman called for all inmates to be offered the vaccines after lawyers for several inmates argued the state's prisons were disregarding virus safety protocols and inmates were falling ill and dying at disproportionate rates.

### 30 people infected in Josephine County jail outbreak

GRANTS PASS — More than two dozen people have been infected with COVID-19 at the Josephine County jail in Southern Oregon, authorities said

Josephine County Undersheriff Travis Snyder said Tuesday in a news release the outbreak at the jail in Grants Pass was discovered last week after some inmates reported flu-like symptoms.

The individuals were separated from the general population and tested for COVID-19 with six positive cases as of Friday, he said.

The county Public Health Department was notified and a plan was formulated to test the entire jail population and staff with rapid tests. The jail was then notified of 19 additional positive results, according to the sheriff's office.

On Tuesday, all inmates and staff present were tested again using rapid tests, which returned five additional positive results.

At the recommendation of public health officials, everyone in the jail will be tested again next week, according to Snyder.

The facility has been placed on modified programs until containment and treatment can be verified to decrease the further chances of exposure, he said.

— The Associated Press

# State blocks public access to vaccine equity group's meeting

### **BY FEDOR ZARKHIN**

The Oregonian Oregon's coronavirus vaccine equity group was scheduled to meet in secret Tuesday to evaluate the group's work over the last month after the state shut down public access following weeks' of open meetings.

Oregon's Vaccine Advisory Committee was charged with recommending who should be vaccinated after the governor's priority groups, with an em-phasis on tackling health disparities that stem from "structural racism." But the group's final recommendations last week appeared rushed and some committee members expressed frustration with the process. A spokesman for the health Members of Oregon's 27-member vaccine advisory committee are seen meeting by teleconference in this photo taken Jan. 2 in Portland. The committee advises Democratic Gov. Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority on the phases of vaccine distribution. its original function at its Jan. 28 session.



cination order to the Oregon Health Authority, spokesman Rudy Owens said in an email Tuesday. "OHA is now working on planning for implementation of the committee's recommendations. OHA will conduct an evaluation with VAC members of the committee process."

The committee has met publicly eight times, including a meet and greet Jan. 5 that open to the public and i corded for public viewing. "The committee has an optional meeting on Feb. 2 to discuss implementation issues," the health authority announced in a news release Friday. But state official now say that's not the intended subject of Tuesday's meeting. An agenda for the 5:30 p.m. session lists only "debrief and evaluation." Cowie said the state will release a summary of the Tuesday discussion.

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

authority defended the decision to prohibit media or members of the public from viewing Tuesday's 5:30 p.m. meeting, saying the group accomplished

Man sentenced for 2020

The man who shot

at a stranger behind

a Bend steakhouse

while experiencing

noia" received five

years in prison on

Wednesday for that

case and an earlier

"meth-induced para-



Guerra

domestic violence arrest. Vicente Guerra, 44, was sentenced in Deschutes County Circuit Court for two cases his lawyer says share a common theme: meth.

On the night of Jan. 20, 2020, Guerra approached a 2003 Infiniti G35 in the parking lot behind Okawa Steakhouse & Grill at 1180 SE Third St. and fired twice from a .22-caliber handgun, grazing one of the two occupants of the car. Guerra took off on foot, stopping briefly at nearby Binky's video poker lounge, where he told a friend hed just "shot at people."

Bend Police tracked Guerra in the snow, finding him two hours later in a rocky canal nearby. Paramedics treated him for cold exposure.

The other case involved a woman he was in a relation-

ship with in December 2019. She was scared of Guerra and trying to move out, and he was upset about it, according to the prosecution. He blocked her path to prevent her from leaving and when she attempted to walk past

him, he grabbed her by the neck and covered her mouth. In another instance, he pinned her to the bed, covered her mouth and told her, "You will learn to respect me."

Both cases arise from paranoia and other negative effects of Guerra's long-term use of methamphetamine, his lawyer Shawn Kollie, told the court.

'The evaluation that was conducted on Mr. Guerra really shows that he can go through long periods of sobriety where he does exceptionally well," Kollie said.

In court Wednesday, Guerra apologized for his conduct before Judge Ray Crutchley, who asked him several questions. Guerra told the judge he first used meth when he was 17.

"I went through rounds of full-blown addiction, feel guilty and stop using," he said. "It's kind of a tragic situation."

LOCAL BRIEFING

The committee "has com-

pleted its official duties and

## Bend man eludes police, causes power outage

A 19-year-old Bend man was arrested Tuesday after eluding police, crashing into two patrol cars and causing a power outage.

Bend Police responded at about 10:38 p.m. to a report of a 1990 silver Toyota pickup truck revving its engine and doing cookies in a parking lot at Central Oregon Community College. Officers found the truck, driven by Jonathan Chance Erickson, at NE Third Street and NE Kearney Avenue. Erickson refused to stop and drove on the sidewalk to elude officers, according to police.

Erickson then speeded toward NW Wall Street and the southbound Bend Parkway ramp. He drove the wrong way on the parkway, heading north in the southbound lanes, then nearly struck two vehicles head-on, according to police.

Erickson left the parkway

and reached NE Division Street

fulfilled its purpose of making

recommendations" about vac-

he crashed into a tree. He then reversed and crashed into a power box, causing a power outage in the area, police said.

toward the Newport Avenue Bridge, where he lost control of his truck. Officers attempted to block Erickson on the bridge, but he drove in reverse and rammed two Bend Police cars, causing damage.

and NE Harriman Street, where

Gillian Flaccus/AP file

Erickson continued

Erickson kept driving recklessly toward NW Regency

Street, where he left his truck and ran into his apartment. As officers prepared a search warrant, Erickson came out of the apartment and was arrested.

He was booked into

**Erickson** 

Deschutes County jail on charges of reckless driving, reckless endangering, hit and run, attempted assault, eluding police and criminal mischief. -Bulletin wire reports

