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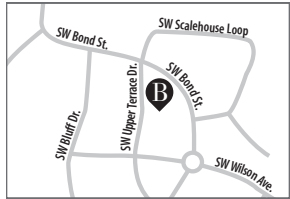
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No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Phone 541-385-5809 Fax 541-598-3150 Email obits@bendbulletin.com

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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 Thursday, Feb. 4:
Deschutes County cases: 5,484 (17 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 47 (1 new death)
Crook County cases: 702 (zero new cases)
Crook County deaths: 15 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,801 (13 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 25 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 145,320 (730 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 1,998 (7 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Thursday: 11 (2 in ICU)

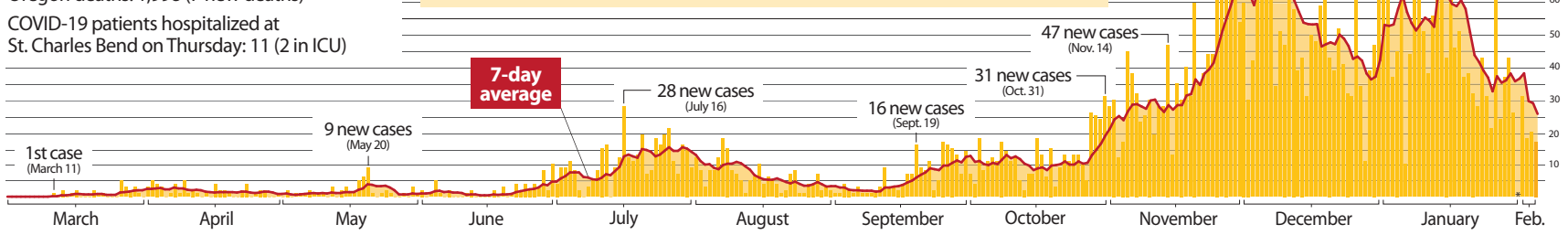
LOCAL VACCINATIONS

22,516

Number of vaccinations given by St. Charles Health System

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.



Coronavirus

Oregon's vaccine equity group expected to meet in secret, again

BY FEDOR ZARKHIN

The Oregonian

Oregon's coronavirus vaccine equity group was expected to meet in secret Thursday after holding a different closed-door session this week in which some members questioned how health officials will put the group's recommendations into practice.

State health officials created the Vaccine Advisory Committee to help decide who should be inoculated against the coronavirus after health care workers, senior care residents and workers, teachers and seniors.

The group's meetings had been public until this week. State officials say the committee finished its official work Jan. 28, sending recommendations to the Oregon Health Authority, and the latest sessions are not subject to public meetings law. State officials originally said Tuesday's meeting would be to "discuss implementation issues" but later changed the agenda to list only "a brief and evaluation." The session appeared to be an opportunity for members to more freely air their concerns.

Thursday's two-hour meeting will be an "unofficial



Oliver Pelayo, an OHSU registered nurse, prepares vaccine doses during a drive-thru clinic at the Portland International Airport on Jan. 24.

wrap-up," said Erica Heartquist, a health authority spokeswoman.

The health authority has taken pains to portray the meetings as pro forma debrief sessions. According to minutes from Tuesday's meeting, the group discussed vaccine access, information access and the need to combat disinformation, according to a summary provided by the Oregon Health Authority.

The summary also listed a few bigger-picture questions, such as, "How will OHA demonstrate to community how racial equity is guiding

vaccine distribution?"

But the health authority has changed course and said it will not record Thursday's meeting, take minutes or put together a transcript.

One committee member, Musse Olol, said the Tuesday meeting included language questioning the process and outcome — precisely the reason he said he thinks Thursday's meeting should be public.

"For the first time, we are talking about how things went down. This would be a good opportunity for the public to know," Olol said. "There should be no secret."

Attempted dognapping foiled when workers, friends track down stolen van full of pooches

BY KALE WILLIAMS

The Oregonian

Sunni Liston was doing what she usually does at the end of her work day: returning dogs to their owners in downtown Portland.

Liston and her husband, Rick Liston, run Coopers Dogpatch, a doggy day care service that picks up pooches in Portland and takes them to their rural Clackamas County property near Damascus before ferrying them back to the city at the end of the day.

The drop-off was going according to plan Monday evening. The van was loaded up with 12 kennels and at least one owner had completed a pickup and another had just arrived when Liston got out of the driver's seat to open the rear doors. She was at the back of the van when she noticed the interior lights turn on.

Someone had just started the engine.

Liston slammed the rear doors shut and started banging on them. "But within seconds, it was rolling," she told The Oregonian.

Along with the 12 dogs in the van, including her own Corgi-heeler mix named Howard, was her purse and cellphone. She had no way to contact anyone. Her heart sank.

"I've been skydiving before when my parachute failed, and I had to use the reserve," she said. "I've always stayed calm, but this time, I panicked."

A number of Liston's clients work nearby, and she said one of the owners coming to get their dog alerted the business, which sent out an email pleading for help. Liston said a small army of dog-lovers responded

quickly and "was ready to hit the streets."

Meanwhile, Liston used someone else's cellphone to call her employees, Katelynn Border-Collins and Alicia Bennet, back at home.

Border-Collins and Bennet brought up a "find-my-phone" app on a computer and, on the screen, tracked the van as it circled around downtown for more than 40 minutes as Liston contacted the police.

Eventually, the van came to a stop in the parking lot of an apartment building near where it was taken, and Bennet contacted a friend who lived nearby to go and keep it from leaving. The friend spotted the van hidden behind another large vehicle and blocked the exit so the friend could go and flag down a police officer.

By the time the friend returned, the would-be dog-nap-

per had fled along with Liston's purse and keys, but the dogs, all of them including Howard, were safe and sound in the van.

"When I got there, some of them were asleep," Liston said, the animals seemingly unaware of the ordeal they'd just gone through. A spokesman for the Portland Police Bureau said police got a call about the situation, but it had been resolved before officers arrived.

Liston said she was humbled by the experience, the way the community quickly rallied to help find the van full of pilfered pooches and the friend who tracked the van to where it was found.

She was especially grateful for the quick thinking of her employees who helped to track the van full of priceless cargo.

"If it wasn't for the community," Liston said, "we might have lost them all."



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State authorized to start vaccinating inmates soon

BY NOELLE CROMBIE

The Oregonian

Gov. Kate Brown has authorized the Oregon Health Authority to provide the state prison system with 10,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine for its inmate population beginning next week, a top agency official said Wednesday.

Brown plans to provide prisons with enough COVID-19 vaccines "until our job is complete," Dr. Warren Roberts, chief medical officer for the Oregon Department of Corrections, told lawmakers.

Oregon's prisons currently house nearly 12,600 inmates.

The first allotment of 5,000 doses is expected next week and will be used to start clinics for medically vulnerable inmates, Roberts said.

That will be followed by another shipment of 5,000 the week after.

"We have an aggressive vaccination plan and are ready to operationalize that plan as soon as the vaccines arrive," said Colette Peters, director of the prison system.

The vaccines will be offered to inmates but won't be required, corrections officials said.

The timeline came into sharper view after U.S. Magistrate Stacie F. Beckerman on Tuesday ordered all inmates in Oregon's prisons be prioritized for the vaccinations.

Her ruling addresses the explosive rise of the virus in the prisons, where the infection rate is 28% compared to 3.3% of the rest of the population.

"Currently," Beckerman wrote, "an individual in (state) custody is nearly 10 times more likely to contract COVID-19 than the average Oregonian."

STATE BRIEFING

Man pleads not guilty to 31 charges in Portland hit-and-run rampage

Paul Rivas ducked out of sight as he appeared briefly Thursday morning in a Multnomah County courtroom and his lawyer entered not guilty pleas on his behalf to a 31-count indictment in the hit-and-run rampage in southeast Portland last week that killed one woman and injured seven others.

Rivas, with only his cuffed

hands visible through much of the arraignment, told his lawyer he was "feeling sick."

Rivas' next court date was set for March 19. He was represented by court-appointed attorney Jonathan Sarre.

The indictment charges Rivas with second-degree murder and failure to perform the duties of a driver in the Jan. 25 killing of Jean Gerich, 77, a pedestrian who was hit twice and then dragged for a block.

— Bulletin staff report

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