

# VIRUS CASES DROP IN OREGON

STATE REPORTS DRAMATIC DECLINE • A2

# The Bulletin

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## DESCHUTES COUNTY

### Marijuana producers advance after court battles

*Commission declines to appeal case to the state Supreme Court*

BY BRENN A VISSER  
The Bulletin

After roughly two years of legal battles, two marijuana producers can move forward and establish their businesses in rural Deschutes County.

The Deschutes County Commission this month decided to not appeal a decision from the Oregon Court of Appeals, which affirmed a Land Use Board of Appeals ruling last month that said Deschutes County can't stop marijuana production near "youth activity centers" because the term is too ambiguous.

The two applications were denied by the commission initially because they were too close to what the county called "youth activity centers." One application was rejected because it was near facilities that host "youth oriented equestrian activities" and "4-H agricultural activities," according to court documents. The other was denied because the commission believed it would be too close to Sundance Meadows Ranch.

Because the commission is not appealing this decision to the state supreme court, that means both applicants will be able to move their land use applications forward. The county's community development department has already issued administrative approvals, said Adam Smith, an attorney with the county.

The decision to not appeal marks the end of a debate about a term that became a sticking point in multiple marijuana land use cases in Deschutes County. Commission Chair Tony DeBone said that one "could deduce" a shift of leadership on the County Commission led to the decision to not appeal. When both applications were before the commission, DeBone was the only person to vote against denying either application on the basis of the youth activity center rule.

He was outnumbered by Commissioner Patti Adair and former Commissioner Phil Henderson, who was voted out and replaced by Commissioner Phil Chang in November.

See **Marijuana** / A7

## COVID-19 | Central Oregon

# Vaccinations fan out for different populations



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Sam Hester, a family practice medical assistant supervisor with Mosaic Medical, administers the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine into the arm of Julie Stamper, the kitchen coordinator at Family Kitchen, during a vaccination clinic Friday at Bethlehem Inn in Bend.

BY SUZANNE ROIG • The Bulletin

**F**rom Warm Springs to Bend, medical professionals are ramping up COVID-19 vaccinations. In Central Oregon, the Department of Veterans Affairs asked for special approval to fly 144 doses of the vaccine from Portland to Redmond to be issued on Friday. Mosaic Medical workers left their clinic to vaccinate residents and workers at the Bethlehem Inn. And the three Central Oregon counties are banding together to streamline sign-ups for new vaccines coming in weekly.

These are just a few of the steps health officials are trying to get the vaccines out to Central Oregon residents. According to the Oregon Health Authority's dashboard, 47,523 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in Deschutes County. Jefferson County has administered 4,158 doses, according to the data. And Crook County has administered 3,480 doses.

Louie Pitt, the director of Government Affairs & Planning for Warm Springs, said 566 people have been fully vaccinated on the Warm Springs Reservation as of Thursday. That's about 18% of people on the reservation that are eligible for the shot, said Pitt.

See **Vaccinations** / A7



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Life Flight Network personnel transport COVID-19 vaccine Thursday that was flown in from Portland to be used at the vaccine clinic in Redmond. Separately, the Veterans Administration flew in vaccine for use at the clinic in Bend.

### More Information

Winter weather across the country has delayed a shipment of COVID-19 vaccinations scheduled on Sunday and first-dose appointments on Monday to Deschutes County. Health officials are saying that appointments should be rescheduled for the same time on Thursday. Patients will be notified via their St. Charles My Chart via email of their appointment time change.

Patients unable to make that rescheduled time should call 541-699-5109, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The county was allocated 3,140 first-doses for next week, but now no new first-dose appointments will be accepted until the county receives an update on expected delivery.

Gina Peniche and her sons, first grader, Anthony Hernandez and Leo Hernandez, 1, leave Barnes Butte Elementary School in Prineville. Peniche moved to Prineville so Anthony could attend in-person learning.

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin



# Crook County schools buck trend as enrollment grows during COVID-19

BY JACKSON HOGAN  
The Bulletin

In a world without COVID-19, Gina Peniche's son, Anthony Hernandez, would've started first grade last fall inside an Elmonica Elementary School classroom in Beaverton. But by late Jan-

uary, Anthony was still learning from home. This deeply frustrated Peniche.

When the Beaverton School District emailed parents on Jan. 28 to announce a delay of in-person learning to April, Peniche decided she'd had enough. Four days later, Anthony was

learning in-person at Barnes Butte Elementary in Prineville.

"I was like, 'This is insane,' so I decided, I'm going to bring him out (to Prineville), because my sister lives out here," Peniche told The Bulletin.

See **Crook County** / A7

