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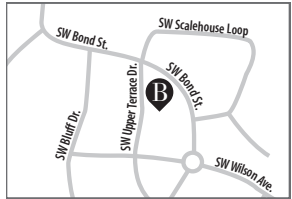
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, BULLETIN GRAPHIC

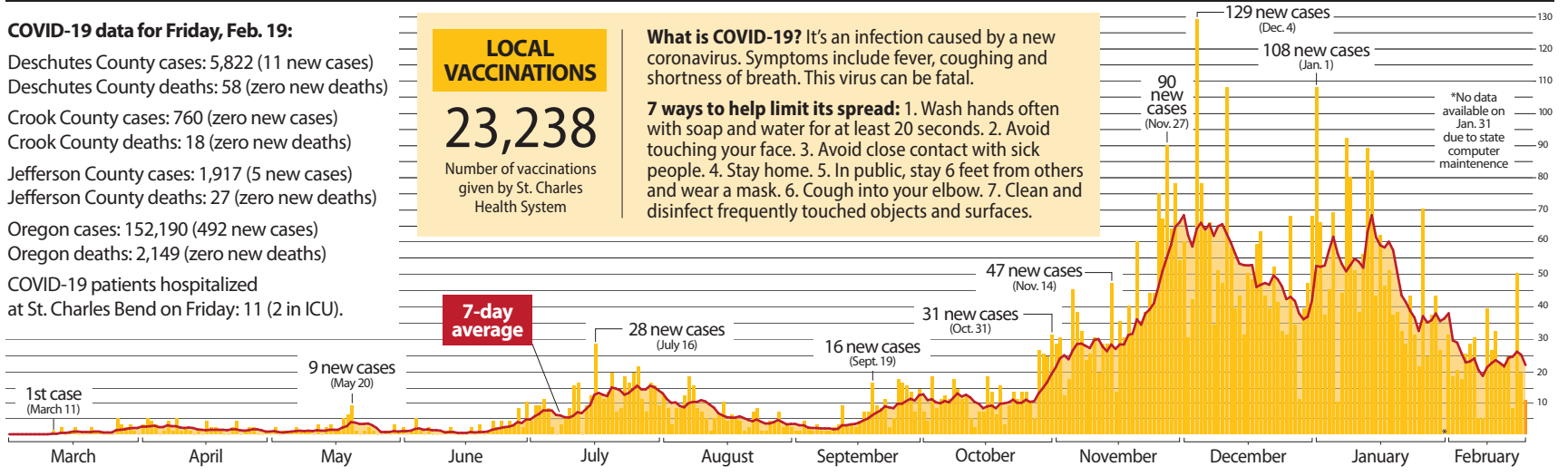
COVID-19 data for Friday, Feb. 19:
Deschutes County cases: 5,822 (11 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 58 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 760 (zero new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,917 (5 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 27 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 152,190 (492 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,149 (zero new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Friday: 11 (2 in ICU).

LOCAL VACCINATIONS

23,238
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.



COVID-19 in Oregon

Dramatic drop in cases reported

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau
Fewer infections and more vaccine is giving Oregon a boost in its fight against COVID-19, Gov. Kate Brown said Friday.

"Holy smokes, it's been quite a week," Brown said during a press conference.

Brown was remarking on winter storms that cut off energy to large swaths of Oregon, while also delaying COVID-19 vaccine shipments and canceling inoculation events.

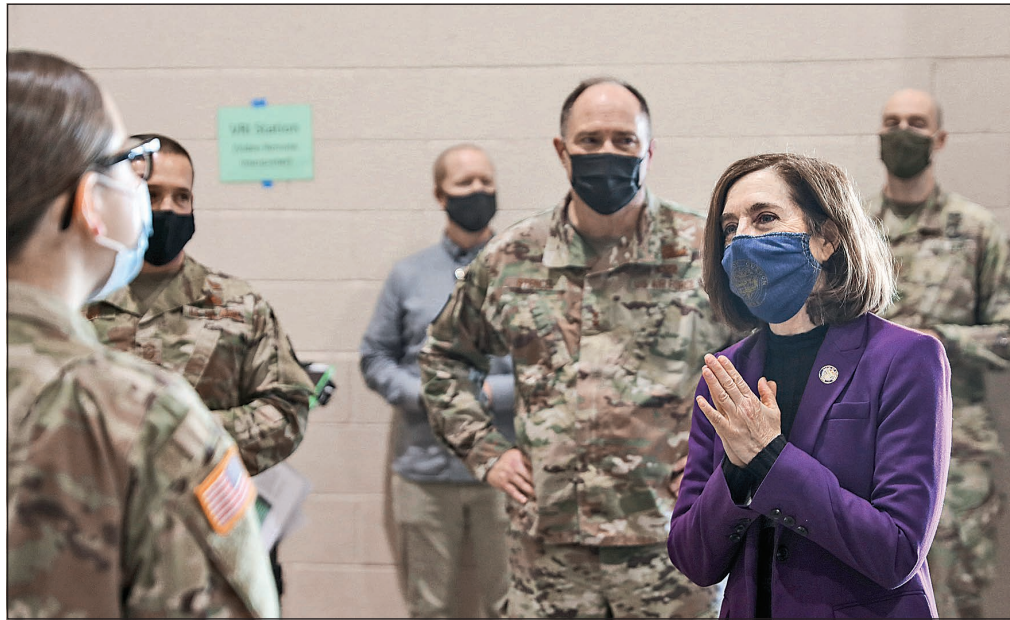
Oregon Health Authority Director Pat Allen said severe winter storms across the country delayed a shipment of 72,000 doses to the state. The late-arriving doses will be added on to the total expected to arrive next week.

Brown's press conference came as the United States is on pace to pass 500,000 deaths from COVID-19 next week. Worldwide, there have been just under 2.45 million deaths.

Besides the storms and anniversary, Brown and health officials had mostly upbeat news about the current COVID-19 situation in the state.

A sharp rise in cases over the winter holidays that threatened to overwhelm the state's hospital system has dramatically abated, with recent daily case totals at lows not seen since October.

Oregon's number of daily new cases has fallen 66% since Jan. 1. On Friday, OHA re-



Gov. Kate Brown visits with National Guard members at the Marion County and Salem Health COVID-19 vaccination clinic Jan. 13 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem.

ported 492 new cases, bringing the pandemic total to 152,190 cases. There have been 2,149 deaths in the state.

Looking ahead, Oregon has a positive test rate of 3.4%, a number that if maintained will lead to a steady decline in infections.

The New York Times reported Friday that Oregon's daily infection rate of 9 cases per 100,000 people ranked it 49th out of 50 states for spread of the virus. Only Hawaii is lower.

Brown said the infection rates in much of Oregon would mean a growing number of

schools will be able to reopen to in-person or hybrid learning.

Currently 19 counties meet the advisory metrics for teaching in classrooms.

About 130,000 students — 20% of the state total — are spending at least part of the day at school.

"That's double last week," Brown said. "Our kids will benefit greatly from these efforts."

Brown made the controversial decision to give priority for vaccinations to 150,000 teachers, school staff and day care workers ahead of the 675,000

residents who are over 65 and do not live in nursing homes.

The education group was eligible for inoculations Jan. 25, two weeks before a vaccination of older Oregonians began Feb. 8. The first group included only those over age 80. Eligibility then dropped five years of age each week until everyone over 65 could sign-up on March 1.

Local officials around the state have been inundated with complaints from seniors and their families trying to navigate systems to schedule the first shot. When they can get through, appointments times

are already booked solid for weeks.

The senior groups must share the limited overall supply of vaccine doses with health care workers and educators who haven't finished their shots.

"There is going to be a little bit of a traffic jam," Allen said.

Oregon is currently giving about 14,000 shots per day, and hopes to steadily increase the number.

Since December, about 12% of Oregonians have received shots — more than 755,000 doses when counting both the first and second shots in the vaccine regime.

More than 233,000 people have received both shots — about 5% of the population.

Oregon's inoculation numbers put it at, or just ahead of the national average in both counts.

Allen said the only thing keeping Oregon from vaccinating more people is vaccine. Demand from around the country is outstripping supply. The staff needed to give the shots is waiting.

"Please be patient, the vaccines are limited," Allen said.

Brown said a final decision on who would be in the next priority group had not been finalized.

There was also no date as yet for when eligibility will reopen following the last age-based group on March 1.

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LOCAL BRIEFING

Grants available for Jefferson County small businesses

NeighborImpact, a non-profit service organization in Central Oregon, is providing grants to small businesses in Jefferson County that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization was given \$135,000 from the city of Madras, which was awarded the federal funds through the Ore-

gon Community Development Block Grant program. About \$22,000 is still available for interested businesses.

Grants have ranged from \$2,500 to \$20,000, depending on the number of jobs created and retained through the support, according to NeighborImpact.

The goal of the program is to reduce job loss from the pandemic.

Eligible applicants must demonstrate the ability to retain their employees.

Grant applications are available online at www.neighborimpact.org/get-help/sbma-grant-program/.

Museum opening new exhibit on space rocks

Volcanic rocks from Lava Butte and asteroids from the moon and Mars are quite similar, and High Desert Museum visitors will get to see those similarities up close starting March 6.

On that Saturday, the High

Desert Museum is launching its new temporary exhibit, "Cosmic Microscapes: Seeing Into Rocks from Oregon & Space," according to a museum press release. Not only will the exhibit showcase actual lunar and Martian rocks, but there

will also be art pieces showing the correlations between asteroids and cooled lava from the caldera in our backyard.

The exhibit will be displayed through Sunday, July 18, the release stated.

— Bulletin staff reports

COVID-19 | Multnomah County jail

Judge limits jail booking criteria to help control virus outbreak

JAIMIE DING

The Oregonian
Multnomah County officials are working to reduce jail populations after a recent COVID-19 outbreak by limiting new arrests, releasing some inmates early and delaying sentences.

The outbreak has infected more than 140 inmates at the Multnomah County Inverness Jail since the beginning of the year, leading to an outcry from inmates and public defenders.

The county reduced the overall population at the downtown Multnomah County Detention Center and

the Northeast Portland Inverness Jail by 30% at the start of the pandemic, but inmates and staff still reported a crowded environment that did not allow for adequate social distancing.

An order signed Feb. 11 allows police officers to issue a citation in place of an arrest for all misdemeanors, excluding ones with mandatory arrest requirements. The order, signed by Presiding Judge Stephen K. Bushong of Multnomah County Circuit Court, took effect immediately and will remain until March 15.

The order excludes so-called

"person" misdemeanors that include crimes committed against another person, such as stalking, driving under the influence of intoxicants, fourth-degree assault and menacing.

Sheriff Mike Reese sent out a special order to deputies and partnering agencies reinforcing the court guidelines.

According to the order, officers will not book anyone into jail unless they are charged with an offense in a list of certain felonies and misdemeanors that are crimes committed against other people, excluding charges like car theft.

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