

The Bulletin

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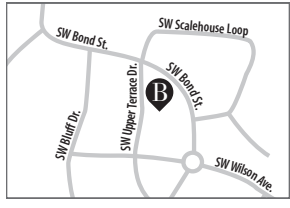
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

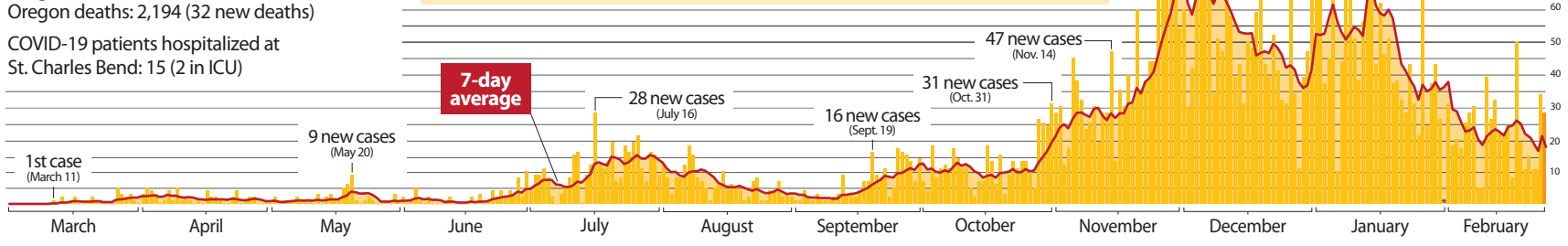
COVID-19 data for Wednesday, Feb. 24:
Deschutes County cases: 5,922 (28 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 58 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 779 (8 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 18 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 1,941 (7 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 27 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 154,062 (437 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,194 (32 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend: 15 (2 in ICU)

LOCAL VACCINATIONS

23,388
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.



Oregon economists predict \$571M 'kicker' tax rebate

The Oregonian
Oregon taxpayers are on track to get a kicker tax rebate worth a combined \$570.5 million next year, state economists told lawmakers in the latest quarterly forecast on Wednesday.

That is the upshot of aggregate incomes in the state exceeding economists' expectations well before the pandemic, as lawmakers assembled the current state budget.

State economist Mark McMullen told lawmakers "this massive helicopter drop of a massive amount of federal aid" played a key role in raising incomes, through stimulus payments to individuals and enhanced unemployment benefits. Absent that federal aid, Oregonians' aggregate income would essentially be flat, said state economist Josh Lehner.

"We haven't seen this in decades, this

level of income support coming from the federal government," Lehner said.

Taxpayers would receive the personal income tax rebate as a credit on their 2021 taxes when they file next year.

The forecast is good news for the state budget, with general fund and lottery revenues expected to come in \$642.7 million higher than expected as of November for the 2019-21 budget.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Jefferson County School District announces superintendent finalists

The Jefferson County School District has narrowed its search to replace retiring Superintendent Ken Parshall to three candidates.

Each candidate will interview with the school district and take part in a community Q&A session next week, according to a school district press release. The public can take part in these

three sessions — each from 7 to 8 p.m. — either through the school district's YouTube live-stream, or in-person at Madras High School's Performing Arts Center.

On March 2, candidate Jay Mathisen — the director of educational leadership at George Fox University — will be interviewed. Mathisen also recently served as the assistant and deputy superintendent of Bend-La Pine Schools.

On March 3, candidate Dan Koopman

will visit Madras. He is currently the instructional dean of career and technical education at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay.

On March 4, candidate Jeffrey Davis will be interviewed. He is the superintendent of the Onalaska School District in rural Washington.

Questions for the Q&A sessions must be sent by 5 p.m. Monday to tbailey@509j.net, the release stated.

— Bulletin staff report

Endangered turtle recovering after cold snap

BY KALE WILLIAMS

The Oregonian

A young endangered loggerhead turtle is recovering after it was found, stunned by cold ocean waters, on the Oregon Coast earlier this month.

A beach-goer found the turtle, a sub-adult female, on Nelscott Beach near Lincoln City on Feb. 7, according to the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Officials with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network sent a volunteer to keep watch over the creature so it could be picked up and brought to the aquarium in Newport.

Loggerheads are rare but not unheard of in Oregon's ocean waters. The population inhabiting the waters of the northern Pacific is protected under the Endangered Species Act and has declined by 50% to 90% over the last 60 years, according to federal data, though the population has stabilized somewhat more recently.

The large turtles are generally unsuited for the frigid winter waves off the Oregon Coast, however, and can lose the ability to eat and swim when stunned by cold water.

Experts at the aquarium learned the turtle's temperature was dangerously low — a typical temp is around 75 degrees; this one was down near 50.

Rehabilitating a cold-stunned turtle is not a quick endeavor. The aquarium's veterinarian staff began a series of increas-



Oregon Coast Aquarium

This photo from the Oregon Coast Aquarium shows a rescued loggerhead turtle that received help at the aquarium before being flown to SeaWorld San Diego for long-term rehabilitation.

ingly warm baths for the turtle, with the goal of raising its temperature by about 5 degrees per day.

The turtle soon began showing signs of stability, according to the aquarium, swimming, diving and foraging for food. About a week after it was discovered on the beach, the turtle had its first meal: a

salmon filet.

The aquarium wasn't equipped to care for the animal long-term and, with the animal showing good signs of progress, the vet staff made arrangements with a non-profit called Turtles Fly Too to have the creature flown to the San Diego Zoo on Saturday.

STATE BRIEFING

Man who worked as UPS driver pleads guilty in I-5 shootings

A Roseburg man who shot at cars along Interstate 5 in Southwest Oregon from his UPS vehicle has pleaded guilty to multiple charges, according to county officials.

Kenneth Ayers, 49, pleaded guilty to three counts of attempted murder, five counts of unlawful use of a weapon, three counts of reckless endangerment and multiple counts of criminal mischief, the Jackson County District Attorney's Office said in a news release Tuesday. The incidents, investigated by the Oregon State Police and local law enforcement agencies, happened from May into August 2020.

"During the investigation, a number of the victims reported traveling near a semi-truck when the shootings happened, some identifying the truck being a UPS double or triple

trailer," the district attorney's office said.

On Aug. 19, a woman was shot in the shoulder while driving on I-5 between Gold Hill and Central Point, and police arrested Ayers about 60 miles away. He was employed by UPS as a driver at the time.

No motive has been released. His sentencing has been set for March.

Murder charges filed after 1 killed, 2 hurt in Roseburg motel shooting

One person was killed and two others were injured in a shooting Monday at a motel in Roseburg, authorities said.

Court documents released Tuesday show Michael Benson, 36, was fatally shot while Spring Mack, 40, and Jessica Ashley, 44, were both injured.

A hospital spokesperson said Tuesday that Mack was in fair condition. Ash-

ley was transferred to Oregon Health & Science University in Portland with life-threatening injuries. Her condition was not available.

Devin McNamara, 33, was booked Monday into Douglas County Jail on suspicion of murder and two counts of assault. McNamara, of Roseburg, was being held on \$750,000 bail.

Police responded to the shooting just before 3 p.m. in the Budget 16 Motel parking lot. McNamara opened fire on the three victims with a handgun, ran out of bullets, fled to a nearby home and returned with two rifles, police said.

McNamara told an investigating officer that he had walked to the motel "in a rage" and fired the pistol into a group of people he did not know who were gathered outside one of the rooms, according to police.

— Bulletin wire reports

TODAY

Today is Thursday, Feb. 25, the 56th day of 2021. There are 309 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 25, 1986, President Ferdinand Marcos fled the Philippines after 20 years of rule in the wake of a tainted election; Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency.

In 1793, President George Washington held the first Cabinet meeting on record at his Mount Vernon home; attending were Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of War Henry Knox and Attorney General Edmund Randolph.

In 1901, United States Steel Corp. was incorporated by J.P. Morgan.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving Congress the power to levy and collect income taxes, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Philander Chase Knox.

In 1919, Oregon became the first state to tax gasoline, at 1 cent per gallon.

In 1950, "Your Show of Shows," starring Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca, Carl Reiner and Howard Morris, debuted on NBC-TV.

In 1964, Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) became world heavyweight boxing champion as he defeated Sonny Liston in Miami Beach.

In 1983, playwright Tennessee Williams was found dead in his New York hotel suite; he was 71.

In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, 28 Americans were killed when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Ten years ago: The Obama White House broke decades of tradition, naming Jeremy Bernard the first man to ever serve as social secretary in the female-dominated East Wing. Suze Rotolo, artist and girlfriend of singer Bob Dylan, who was his lyrical muse when he came to prominence in the early 1960s, died in New York at age 67.

Five years ago: Brawling from the get-go, a fiery Marco Rubio went after Donald Trump during their Republican debate in Houston, lacerating the front-runner's position on immigration, his privileged background, his speaking style and more; Ted Cruz piled on, too, questioning Trump's conservative credentials.

One year ago: U.S. health officials warned that the coronavirus was certain to spread more widely in the United States; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged Americans to be prepared. President Donald Trump, speaking in India, said the virus was "very well under control" in the U.S. Civil protection officials in Italy said the number of virus cases there had increased by 45% in a 24-hour period; Italy had confirmed a total of 11 deaths.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ann McCrea is 90. Former CBS newsmen Bob Schieffer is 84. Actor Diane Baker is 83. Actor Karen Grassle is 79. Former talk show host Sally Jessy Raphael is 79. Former professional wrestler Ric Flair is 72. Humorist Jack Handey is 72. Rock singer-musician Mike Peters (The Alarm; Big Country) is 62. Comedian Carrot Top is 56. Model and actor Veronica Webb is 56. Actor Tea Leoni is 55. Actor Lesley Boone is 53. Actor Sean Astin is 50. Singer Daniel Powter is 50. Latin singer Julio Iglesias Jr. is 48. Comedian-actor Chelsea Handler is 46. Actor Rashida Jones is 45. Country singer Shawna Thompson (Thompson Square) is 43. Actors James and Oliver Phelps ("Harry Potter" movies) are 35.

— Associated Press