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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

Coronavirus in Oregon

Every county to get J&J vaccine this week

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

Every Oregon county will receive 100 doses this week of the new Johnson & Johnson single-shot COVID-19 vaccine that President Joe Biden said Tuesday is a key part of vaccinating all Americans before summer.

"We're now on track to have enough vaccine supply for every adult

in America by the end of May," said Biden at a press conference in Washington on Tuesday.

Biden likened the effort to ramp up production of vaccines to efforts by manufacturers to join together during World War II.

The key to cutting the timeline for inoculating the public is the introduction of the Johnson & Johnson one-

shot vaccine. Biden announced a deal with pharmaceutical giant Merck to commit two of its manufacturing facilities to making the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Biden said he will invoke the Defense Production Act to help ready Merck's facilities and to ensure it gets the raw ingredients required for making the vaccine.

Along with increased orders of the

previously approved two-shot Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, enough doses will be available to suppress the virus, which has killed over 515,000 Americans over the past year, including more than 2,200 in Oregon.

Scientists with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have said that suppressing the virus as quickly as possible will limit the con-

tinued mutations, some of which have proven to be more contagious and virulent than the original virus.

In early February, the timelines for inoculating all American adults was as long as early 2022 in some estimates. Recently, the increase in Moderna and Pfizer vaccines shortened estimates to the end of summer.

See **Vaccine** / A13

Newport Avenue in Bend

\$26M street repairs to start March 21



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Traffic on NW Newport Avenue looking east from the roundabout at NW Ninth Street on Monday.

Roundabout at Ninth Street to close beginning in April

BY BRENNNA VISSER

The Bulletin

A \$26 million project to fix an aging, collapsed stormwater pipe under Newport Avenue that could lead to flooding if not addressed will prompt multiple detours and closures for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, for the next several months.

Starting March 21, the city of Bend will

begin work on the busy road between Ninth Street and College Way, rebuilding failing and aging stormwater infrastructure, replacing water distribution pipes and installing new sidewalks and other amenities in this area. The work is expected to last until the fall of 2022.

The timing for the project is driven by the fact there is an existing stormwater pipe under Newport Avenue that is structurally compromised, said George Franklet, a principal engineer with the city. This is due to the fact the pipe is more than 50 years old and has had more

cars driving over it, and more frequently, than it was originally designed for, he said.

"We don't want to do it on a schedule where (the city is) reacting to something that isn't operational any longer," Franklet said.

If the pipe wasn't fixed, there could be flooding issues, Franklet said.

The project will also improve the quality of and reduce the amount of stormwater discharged into the Deschutes River, according to the city's website.

See **Repairs** / A4

MCKAY PARK IN BEND

Parking restrictions may become permanent

Pilot program deemed success by parking services manager, area residents

BY BRENNNA VISSER

The Bulletin

Before the parking restrictions took effect two years ago around McKay Park in Bend, local optometrist Patrick Ayres would regularly arrive at his office off Shevlin Hixon Drive to find vans parked on the street plugged into the side of his building, siphoning off power.

On top of that, much of the parking around his business was being used by campers instead of his customers and employees. It's a problem that had been plaguing businesses in the area for years.

But ever since the city of Bend put in and enforced four-hour parking limits in this area as a part of a pilot project two years ago in response to these complaints, Ayres said the problems have decreased by 99%.

"It's helped a lot. It was much needed," Ayres said, referring to the parking time limits. "Before the restrictions, this was turning into a campground unfortunately down here."

See **Parking** / A4

ST. CHARLES

Court upholds technicians walkout plans

BY SUZANNE ROIG

The Bulletin

A federal judge ruled Tuesday that his court did not have jurisdiction to place a temporary halt on the scheduled walkout of St. Charles Bend technicians, technicians and therapists and urged both parties to get back to the bargaining table.

In the ruling in U.S. District Court in Eugene, the judge said the law is clear this matter remains in the hands of the National Labor Relations Board.

St. Charles filed lawsuits in Deschutes County and U.S. District Court to stop Thursday's planned walkout of 154 employees. The workers joined the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals union in September 2019. Soon after, the union began negotiating a contract for the workers, with both sides meeting 28 times since then.

See **St. Charles** / A4

OREGON POLITICS

March arrives with virus, voting and political turmoil

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

"In like a lion, out like a lamb" may be true for March weather, but the saying is unlikely to apply to this month's political scene in Oregon. Percolating political issues could make the end of the month more like a shark than a sheep.

Capitol in virus hot zone

The Legislature returns to Salem this week, with the Senate and House

each meeting once in the Capitol. The statehouse is in the middle of the 97301 ZIP code, which has the highest number of COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began: 3,362.

Last week, it was No. 2 in new cases at 65. The Legislature has only met a handful of days since the first virus case was reported in Oregon on Feb. 28, 2020. But the calendar gets busier this month with an average of two floor sessions a week. In April, there is no cap on meetings.

So far, there are no reported infections among Oregon's 60 House and 30 Senate members. Through Feb. 25, there have been 177 state-of-ficeholders around the country who have been infected with COVID-19, with eight deaths.

Walkout worries

Democrats have supermajorities in both the House and Senate to pass legislation, including taxes without Republican votes. But for a third

straight year, the specter of GOP walkouts over anything they don't like hangs over the Capitol. Republicans boycotted the Senate floor session Thursday, denying a quorum to do any business.

Oregon is one of only four states that require more than a majority of lawmakers to be present to constitute a quorum. Oregon requires two-thirds of lawmakers must be present to do any business.

See **Politics** / A13

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly sunny
High 64, Low 35
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