

TODAY

It's Saturday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2021. There are 293 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In 1933, banks in the U.S. began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1639, New College was renamed Harvard College for clergyman John Harvard.

In 1781, the seventh planet of the solar system, Uranus, was discovered by Sir William Herschel.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure prohibiting Union military officers from returning fugitive slaves to their owners.

In 1925, the Tennessee General Assembly approved a bill prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution. Gov. Austin Peay signed the measure on March 21.

In 1934, a gang that included John Dillinger and "Baby Face" Nelson robbed the First National Bank in Mason City, Iowa, making off with \$52,344.

In 1938, famed attorney Clarence S. Darrow died in Chicago.

In 1947, the Lerner and Loewe musical "Brigadoon," about a Scottish village that magically reappears once every hundred years, opened on Broadway.

In 1969, the Apollo 9 astronauts splashed down, ending a mission that included the successful testing of the Lunar Module.

In 1996, a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself.

In 2018, President Donald Trump abruptly dumped Secretary of State Rex Tillerson — via Twitter — and moved CIA Director Mike Pompeo from the role of America's spy chief to its top diplomat.

Ten years ago: The estimated death toll from Japan's earthquake and tsunami climbed past 10,000 as authorities raced to combat the threat of multiple nuclear reactor meltdowns while hundreds of thousands of people struggled to find food and water. The NCAA men's basketball selection committee released its 68-team draw which included a record 11 teams from the Big East, the deepest conference in the nation.

Five years ago: A Kurdish woman blew herself up in a car at a busy transport hub in Ankara, Turkey, killing 37 people in an attack claimed by TAK, also known as the Kurdish Freedom Falcons.

One year ago: President Donald Trump declared the coronavirus pandemic a national emergency, freeing up money and resources for state and local governments to fight the outbreak. Stocks clawed back some of their losses on Wall Street and in Europe a day after the market's worst session in more than three decades.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Roy Haynes is 96. Songwriter Mike Stoller is 88. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 82. Opera singer Julia Migenes is 72. Actor William H. Macy is 71. Comedian Robin Duke is 67. Actor Dana Delany is 65. Rock musician Adam Clayton (U2) is 61. Jazz musician Terence Blanchard is 59. Actor Annabeth Gish is 50. Actor Tracy Wells is 50. Rapper-actor Common is 49. Rapper Khujjo is 49. Actor Danny Masterson is 45. Actor Emile Hirsch is 36. Tennis star Coco Gauff is 17.

— The Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

COVID-19 | Pilot program in Oregon

Some centers can vaccinate anyone

BY SARA CLINE
AND GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon made national headlines when it placed teachers ahead of its oldest residents in the line for a scarce supply of COVID-19 vaccine and then again when a committee advising the governor on vaccine equity flirted with making race a determinant for when a person could get inoculated.

Now, three months into the vaccine rollout, the state has begun a pilot program that allows some federally qualified health centers to offer shots to anyone they serve, even if that patient does not fall into any currently eligible categories. These centers must still prioritize patients who are currently eligible under Oregon rules, but the pilot program gives health care providers for the most at-risk populations more latitude and resolves a conflict between federal and state priorities on vaccine equity.

The Biden administration last month began distributing vaccine to federally qualified health centers under a program designed to get shots into the arms of the most economically and socially disadvantaged Americans — seasonal



Medical professionals from Oregon Health & Science University load syringes with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in January at a drive-thru vaccination clinic in Portland.

and migrant farmworkers and those Americans living in poverty, for example.

But those centers in Oregon and Washington found their hands tied because state rules on vaccine eligibility hadn't yet expanded to migrant farmworkers, those with pre-existing conditions or other vul-

nerable groups and so they couldn't give them shots.

The disconnect was "incredibly frustrating," but the pilot program in Oregon will resolve those issues, said Lori Kelley, senior director of quality at the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, which treats 180,000 patients a year in Eastern

Washington and Western Oregon. About one-third of those patients are seasonal farmworkers, she said, and the clinics offer treatment regardless of ability to pay.

"They are living in a congregate setting, four to six to a room, head-to-toe and they work, live, eat and sleep in co-

horts. If one person in their cohort gets sick, then they all miss work time," she said.

Kelley's organization is petitioning Washington state to create a similar pilot program.

In Oregon, those who can get a shot now include health care workers and first responders, teachers and early childhood educators and residents over age 65. Those over age 45 with a pre-existing condition, seasonal and migrant farmworkers, food processors, the homeless and those affected by last summer's wildfires will become eligible on March 29.

Rudy Owens, a spokesperson for the Oregon Health Authority, said the seven health centers are scheduled to receive a combined total of 3,700 doses per week from the state's vaccine allocation.

Owens said that the health centers have been given the "flexibility" to vaccinate any individual they serve — this includes anyone 16 and older — but the health authority is asking that the centers try to use the eligibility phases as guidelines when choosing who to vaccinate.

The health authority and the governor's office will review the outcomes from pilot project over the next several weeks.

State releases little about vaccinated Oregonians who tested positive

State cites 'patient privacy' about the 4 with COVID-19

AIMEE GREEN

The Oregonian

The Oregon Health Authority says two of the four Oregonians fully vaccinated against COVID-19 who later tested positive did not have any of the more contagious variants.

State officials declined to clearly answer questions about the other two cases, including whether samples were analyzed to determine if the individuals had coronavirus variants.

State officials announced the so-called "breakthrough cases" during a news conference Feb. 12, saying they were thought to be among the first identified in the nation.

Officials ordered genomic sequencing to determine if the vaccinated Oregonians had been infected with variants, with results expected within seven days.

But state officials in emails last week initially declined to answer any questions from The Oregonian about the four cases — including whether they had been infected with the viral

variants first detected in the United Kingdom or Brazil. Officials cited "patient privacy."

The news organization disagreed that doing so would breach patient privacy and argued that sharing information would further the public's understanding of the virus' behavior.

In response, agency leadership met and decided to release limited information, according to spokesman Tim Heider. The agency eventually said samples from two of the individuals had been analyzed "and there were no variants of concern detected."

He did not respond to questions about the other two cases.

Heider also declined to answer questions about the circumstances under which the four Oregonians were vaccinated, including the amount of time that had passed since their second doses, if they'd been exposed to the virus before the second dose had become fully effective, and if the virus had been in their systems for some time.

But state epidemiologist Dr. Dean Sidelinger had said during the Feb. 12 news conference that they had tested positive at least two weeks after

their second doses. Sidelinger and Health Authority Director Patrick Allen also said the cases were of national interest because they were among the first breakthrough cases to be reported in the nation.

Sidelinger had told reporters that the Health Authority was in the process of starting genome sequencing of samples taken from the individuals — indicating that scientists wanted to know if these were cases of the mutated virus slipping past the defense systems offered by the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or whether this was simply an expected, mathematical probability given that the vaccines aren't 100% effective.

Both vaccines have an efficacy estimated at close to 95%.

Two of the four Oregonians are from Yamhill County and two are from Lane County. They either had no symptoms or mild symptoms — evidence, Sidelinger had said, that the vaccines are working to ward off severe disease. He added that two of the cases were related — meaning they were infected from the same cluster of infections at a single location.

State officials have not provided more information.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Former principal arrested on suspicion of abusing students

JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
The Oregonian

A retired elementary school principal who was the subject of sexual abuse lawsuit last year by a former student was arrested Thursday on suspicion of molesting multiple children.

Jeffrey Hays was indicted by a Clackamas County grand jury Monday. He's accused of six counts of

first-degree sexual abuse and a single count of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration.

His bail is set at \$500,000.

Hays was the principal of Deep Creek Elementary School in the Gresham-Barlow School District from 2005 to 2009.

The agency said Hays' victims included four former students.

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Coming this **FRIDAY**

Don't miss the Spring edition of Pulse of Oregon inside The Bulletin this Friday, March 19.

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