

Harris will lead immigration response

Associated Press
President Joe Biden has tapped Vice President Kamala Harris to lead the White House effort to tackle the migration challenge at the U.S. southern border.

Biden made the announcement as he and Harris met at the White House on Wednesday with Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandra Mayorkas and other immigration advisers to discuss

the increase in migrants, including many unaccompanied minors, arriving at the border in recent weeks.

Biden is hoping to show Americans he's taking the border situation seriously after facing stiff criticism from Republicans as the flow of migrants has increased since he took office in January. The growing humanitarian and political challenge at the U.S.-Mexico border threatens to overshadow the administration's ambitious legislative agenda.

Harris is tasked with overseeing diplomatic efforts to deal with issues spurring migration in the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, as well as pressing them to strengthen enforcement on their own borders, administration officials said. More broadly, though, she's tasked with implementing a long-term strategy that gets at the root causes of migration from those countries.

North Korea ramps up missile launches early in Biden era

Bloomberg News
North Korea fired its first ballistic missiles in a year, Japan said, providing an early test for President Joe Biden as he forms his Korea policy.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said North Korea fired two ballistic missiles early Thursday in breach of United Nations resolutions, according to remarks streamed on public broadcaster NHK. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff separately said North Korea fired two projectiles from a province along its east coast into waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

"These missile launches, the first in roughly a year, pose a threat to the peace and security of our country and

the region," Suga said.

The White House didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.

Details of the type of missile have yet to be released. Since 2019, North Korea has extensively tested short-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and striking all of South Korea, where about 28,500 U.S. military personnel are stationed.

The first North Korean ballistic-missile launch since Biden took office serves as a reminder that Kim Jong Un's nuclear arsenal remains among the U.S.'s biggest foreign policy challenges despite former President Donald Trump's unprecedented face-to-face summits with the North Korean leader.

COCC

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"When I asked the college campus to do that, it's also my responsibility to do that within my team and say, where can we find inefficiencies?" she said. "Where can we re-distribute duties in a way that makes sense?"

According to an email Chesley sent to COCC staff Jan. 12, she said the college initially planned to eliminate McCoy's position in December. However, a second email from Chesley, dated March 17, said McCoy's last day would actually be that day.

When asked about this abrupt change, Chesley said



"Having a position whose unadulterated focus is on meeting the needs of our outlying communities is an important strategic decision."

— Laurie Chesley, COCC president

she wanted to get a head start on tinkering with COCC's administrative department.

"It was a desire to speed up the timeline so we could start moving faster with some of our reorganization plans," she told The Bulletin.

The elimination of McCoy's position has no connection with COCC beginning an independent investigation into its Public Safety Department starting March 9, Chesley said.

"This was a long time in the making, and a result of lengthy discussions that have nothing to do with campus public safety," Chesley said.

Chesley emphasized that McCoy did nothing to cause the termination of his position. During his 23 years at the college, McCoy helped lead multiple bond campaigns, helped establish COCC's three branch campuses, and more.

"I recognize ... the many

contributions that Matt has made for the college over the years, and they are significant and substantial," Chesley said. "The board and the college and I are grateful for those."

Erica Skatvold, chair of the COCC board of directors, said she and the rest of the board respect Chesley's decision to terminate McCoy's position.

"We all really like Matt, and it's hard when you eliminate a position like that," she said. "But we support (Chesley), and we're excited about ... bringing more services to our other campuses."

McCoy could not be reached for comment.

■ Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com

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present them, with vouchers attached, to the Administrator at 204 SE Miller Ave, Bend, OR 97702, within four months after the date of March 11, 2021, the first publication of this notice, or the claim may be barred. Additional information may be obtained from the records of the court, the Administrator, or the lawyer for the Administrator, Patricia Nelson.

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Dated and first published: March 25, 2021
JANIS M. PALERMO, Personal Representative c/o ALISON A. HUYCKE, OSB #063751
FRANCIS HANSEN & MARTIN LLP
1148 NW Hill Street
Bend OR 97703

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William Byron Miller II has been appointed Administrator of the estate of William Byron Miller, deceased, by the Circuit Court, State of Oregon, Deschutes County, Case No. 21PB01686. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Administrator at 204 SE Miller Ave, Bend, OR 97702, within four months after the date of March 11, 2021, the first publication of this notice, or the claim may be barred. Additional information may be obtained from the records of the court, the Administrator, or the lawyer for the Administrator, Patricia Nelson.

Oregon

Continued from A1
Oregon received over 34,000 doses earlier this month and counted on the one-shot inoculations to rapidly increase the number of people in the state who are considered vaccinated.

Oregon continues to receive about 200,000 doses per week of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which require two shots spaced about a month apart. The dependence on the two-shot regimen means the state has actually fully vaccinated just over 500,000 people.

That is the number of residents who will be newly eligible on March 29. Another more than half million people — including front-line and essential workers — are eligible April 19. The remainder of the population can seek shots as of May 1.

Allen said dates when newly eligible groups start seeking vaccinations create "pinch points" where demand outstrips supply.

"We heavily depend on there being Johnson & Johnson in the state," Allen said.

The presence of the "L.A. Variant," known to scientists as B.1.429, has been increasingly detected in wastewater samples statewide in recent months. It has been found in about 20% of wastewater samples taken around the state, but has not shown up in positive tests in people as yet.

Allen said the variant is estimated to be 20% more transmissible than the original COVID-19 virus.

The variant can also have a "moderate impact" on vaccines and "significant impact" on some treatments for people who become infected with COVID-19, Allen said. Existing vaccines are projected to be effective at preventing severe illness or death from the variants.

Moderna and other companies are already working to fight the variants through small changes in the composition of vaccines or increasing the amount given as a booster.

Allen said public health officials in California reported declining infection rates despite the presence of the variant. The officials say it's likely due to social distancing, mask wearing, hygiene and other preventative measures.

"The same tools we use without variants are the same ones that work with variants," Allen said.

Allen confirmed that the Oregon Health Authority vaccination notification center that handles the three-county area around Portland had erroneously sent messages to 11,000 ineligible people that it was their turn to come to the mass vaccination facility at the Oregon Convention Center.

The people contacted are in the group that isn't supposed to be able to sign up for vaccinations until April 19. Allen said the invitations will be honored, and OHA will have to revise its

For U.S., spring break poses big risks

White House officials expressed optimism Wednesday about the pace of COVID-19 vaccinations while also voicing worries that partying on spring break at sunny tourist destinations could fuel outbreaks.

The level of daily new infections hovers around 55,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, far below the winter surge but still too high to resume regular life.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said the agency is monitoring the potential impact of spring break trips and stressed "hanging in there" for a few more weeks. Walensky said that while 24% of the population has received one dose and 13% of the population is fully vaccinated, it will require another couple of months to approach herd immunity where the spread of COVID-19 is limited.

— Bulletin wire reports

plans, but that no additional vaccine would be sent to the center because of the mishap.

Allen said OHA was currently on track to meet a goal of having 75% of all those age

65 and older vaccinated by April 1. He said the lack of an influx of Johnson & Johnson vaccine could make that goal more difficult. He also pointed to southwestern Oregon and

areas of the state where vaccination of seniors is lagging. OHA wants to make sure the issue is not access to vaccine. But Allen said reports from the field also showed the area had a higher percentage of seniors who did not want to be vaccinated.

"There's probably a ceiling on seniors" seeking inoculation in some counties, Allen said.

Allen said OHA was keeping its eye on the average number of cases per week. He had told the committee the prior week that there is some concern that the long decline since January has plateaued and may even go up.

"If it does go up, it will be slight," Allen said.

■ gwamer@emediagroup.com

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