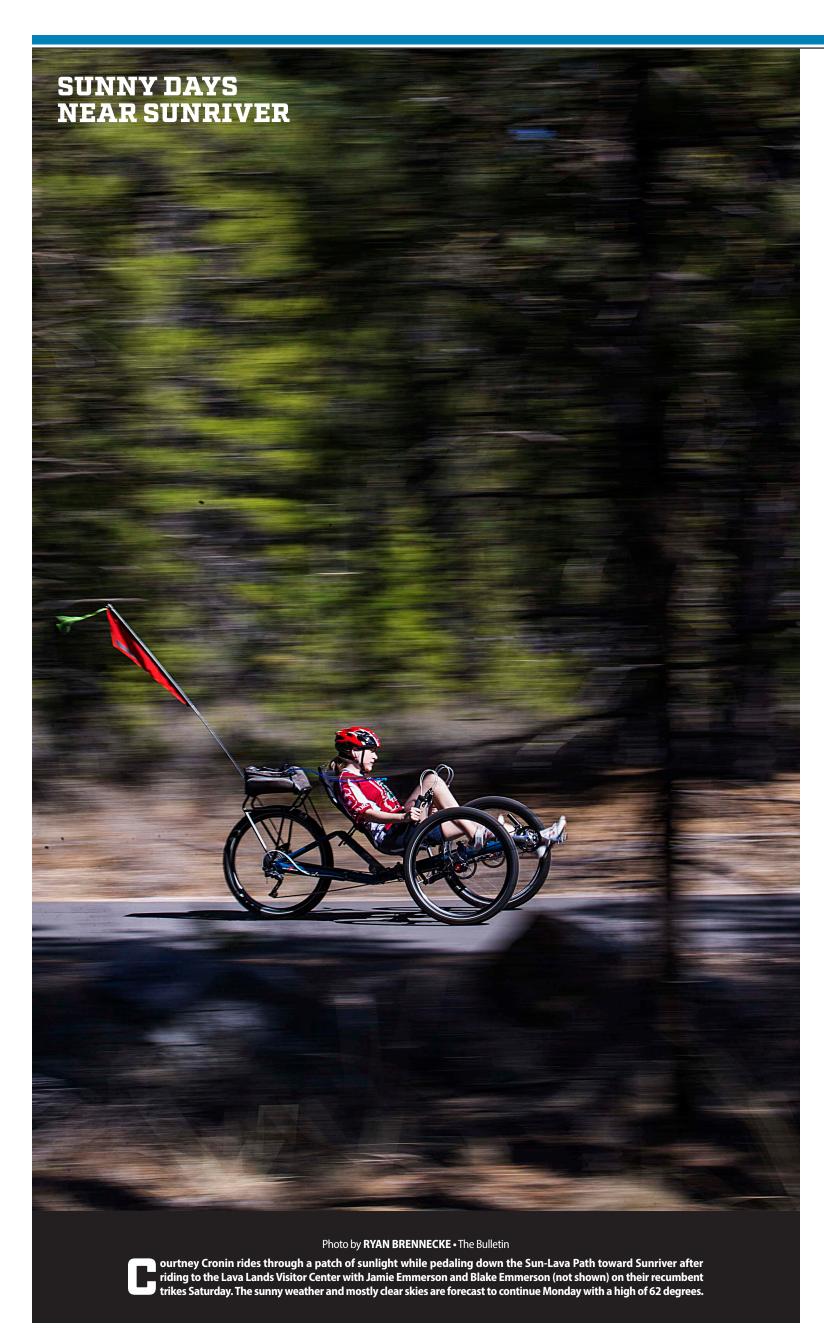
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'Morale is very low' amid state hospital shortages

BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN The Oregonian

Oregon State Hospital employees were hit with bad news at the end of March.

An unprecedented 20% of the hospital's full-time nursing staff was out on leave, marking the latest effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. And beginning April 1, another wave of workers from throughout the hospital would be required to assist with the day-to-day care and supervision of patients — roles for which many staffers had limited experience and training.

Employees have since reported increasingly dangerous working conditions as they have sustained frequent and severe from patients and suffered exhaustion and burnout from working overtime. They've also started pressuring hospital leaders to take immediate action to ease the strain.

Meanwhile, administrators asked a judge Tuesday to halt new admissions for two weeks, citing a spike in people waiting to be admitted into the hospital.

State hospital administrators said they're aware of staff com-



Oregon State Hospital, located in Salem, is the state's psychiatric hospital.

plaints, and said they continue to focus on quality care and safety.

But employees say they're growing increasingly concerned with conditions.

"It's all been like sticking your

finger in the holes in the dam," said Kim Thoma, an administrative specialist and president of a union that represents many hospital employees.

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COVID-19 in the U.S.

Vaccine push hits halfway mark

Halted J&J shot could be back in use this week; worldwide, virus has killed at least 3 million

BY HOPE YEN AND JONATHAN MATTISE **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Half of all adults in the U.S. have received at least one COVID-19 shot, the government announced Sunday, marking another milestone in the nation's largest-ever vaccination campaign but leaving more work to do to convince skeptical Americans to roll up their sleeves.

Almost 130 million people 18 or older have received at least one dose of a vaccine, or 50.4% of the total adult population, the Centers for Disease Con-

Percentage of

U.S. adults who

have received at

trol and Prevention reported. Almost 84 million adults, or about 32.5% of the population, have been fully vaccinated. The U.S. cleared the 50%

least one dose mark for adults just a day of a COVID-19 after the reported global vaccine death toll from the coronavirus topped a staggering 3 million, according to totals compiled by

Johns Hopkins University, though the actual number is believed to be significantly higher. In other developments, the nation's top infectious diseases expert indicated Sunday the government will likely move to resume

use of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine this week, possibly with restrictions or broader warnings after reports of some very rare blood clot cases. Dr. Anthony Fauci, in a series of news

show interviews, said he expects a decision when advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention meet Friday to discuss the pause in J&J's single-dose vaccine. "I would be very surprised if we don't

have a resumption in some form by Friday," he said. See Vaccines / A4

Corvallis

Every day counts, even in a pandemic

How 2 Oregon doctors helped shorten quarantine guidelines

BY TROY SHINN

Albany Democrat-Herald

Did you ever wonder why the federal guidelines for COVID-19 quarantines decreased last year from 14 days to 10? You might be surprised to learn that two Oregon doctors had a hand in it.

It can be easy to miss "Corvallis, Oregon" on the list of dozens of cities on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website. A study published online shows the names of doctors and where they work, noting who contributed to the data that ended up shortening the length of COVID-19 quarantines.

Corvallis appears twice: Once for Oregon State University's Dr. Doug Aukerman, a senior associate athletic director for sports medicine; and once more for Dr. Adam Brady, an infectious disease expert and member of Samaritan Health Services' coronavirus task force.

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