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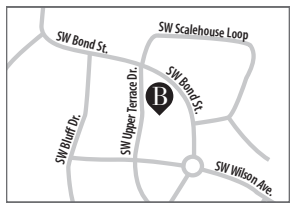
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

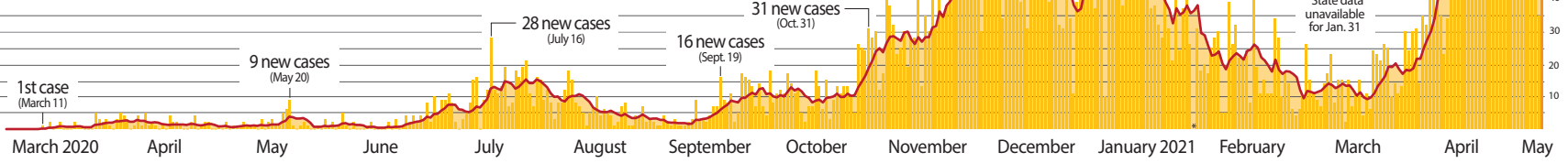
LOCAL, STATE & NATION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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

COVID-19 data for Monday, May 10:
Deschutes County cases: 8,759 (56 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 74 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 1,076 (3 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 20 (zero new deaths)
Jefferson County cases: 2,174 (4 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 34 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 191,774 (388 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 2,533 (3 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Monday: 39 (6 in ICU)

What is COVID-19? A disease caused by a coronavirus. Symptoms (including fever and shortness of breath) can be severe, even fatal, though some cases are mild.
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 6 feet from others and wear a face covering or mask. 5. Cover a sneeze with a tissue or cough into your elbow. 6. Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Pfizer shot cleared for young teens

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD AND CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press

COVID-19 vaccines finally are headed for more kids as U.S. regulators on Monday expanded use of Pfizer's shot to those as young as 12, sparking a race to protect middle and high school students before they head back to class in the fall.

Shots could begin as soon as a federal vaccine advisory committee issues recommendations for using the two-dose vaccine in 12- to 15-year-olds, expected Wednesday. Pfizer's vaccine is being used in multiple countries for teens as young as 16, and Canada recently became the first to expand use to 12 and up. Parents, school administrators and public health officials else-

where are anxiously awaiting the shot to become available to more kids.

"This is a watershed moment in our ability to fight back the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior vice president who's also a pediatrician.

The Food and Drug Administration declared the Pfizer vaccine is safe and offers strong protection for younger teens based on testing of more than 2,000 U.S. volunteers ages 12 to 15. The study found no cases of COVID-19 among fully vaccinated adolescents compared to 18 among kids given dummy shots. More intriguing, researchers found the kids developed higher levels of virus-fighting antibodies than earlier studies measured in young adults.

Portland mass vaccination site closing

Portland's mass vaccination site is expected to close June 19 after giving hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 inoculations, organizers said Monday.

The All4Oregon site, which was set up by four of the city's major hospitals in a joint vaccination effort, has been running since Jan. 20 at the Oregon Convention Center. As of Friday, the site had administered 465,000 shots.

The site began offering self-scheduling and walk-in appointments for the first time last week, but organizers said a drop in volume made it clear that demand for a mass vaccination site is waning as shots become more widely available elsewhere. Many retail pharmacies now offer walk-in appointments.

—Associated Press



FROM LEFT: Grant County Judge Scott Myers, county resident Rex Blackstone and County Commissioner Sam Palmer at a recent County Court meeting. Blackstone questioned Myers as to why he could not have his sign, which included phrases like "NO More Masks" and "Down With Brown," in the room.

GRANT COUNTY RESIDENTS SLAM LOCKDOWNS ... but misinformation muddies the waters

BY STEVEN MITCHELL

Blue Mountain Eagle
Tensions are flaring over COVID-19 — and so is misinformation.

Several residents in Grant County recently urged local leaders to publicly proclaim the county would not comply with Gov. Kate Brown's executive orders designating "extreme risk" and banning indoor dining at restaurants and bars in multiple counties, including Grant, to slow a spike in COVID-19 infections at the April 28 county court meeting.

Letters of opposition were sent to Brown by Republican lawmakers, including U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, state Sen. Lynn Findley and state Rep. Mark Owens. A letter spearheaded by the Association of Oregon Counties and the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association was signed by a group of Oregon county commissioners, including Deschutes County's Tony DeBone and Patti Adair and Grant County's Sam Palmer and Jim Hamsher.

"Respectfully, enough is enough," the commissioners wrote, citing the impact on small businesses and stating no evidence has shown that small businesses spread COVID-19 while following the public safety measures.

The frustration expressed at the county, state and national levels was evident at the meeting, presided over by County Judge Scott Myers. Bill Newman, of Monument, told the county commission that if residents want to get their country back it would need to start in the county.

When County Court members explained the county could get sued if it failed to follow the guidelines and could lose state funding for schools, hospitals and other programs, Newman asked if the money was worth it. "Somebody has got to grow a spine and stand up," he said. "Regardless of whether you expect results from it or not."

Despite echoing many of the opinions that were expressed in the letters to Brown, many of the arguments made in Grant County also relied on misinformation.

Masks and the 'Stanford study'

Newman said he could not find a "solitary example" that masks help prevent the spread of the virus but claimed to have seen "tamped down" studies showing they are ineffective. Palmer incorrectly cited a Stanford University study, stating masks are detrimental to long-term health.

However, according to Stanford's Senior Manager of Media Relations Lisa Kim, the study's author, Baruch Vainshelboim, had no affiliation with the university when the journal, dubbed "Medical Hypothesis," published the article. "Stanford Medicine strongly supports the use of face masks to control the spread of COVID-19," she said.

She said Vainshelboim was a one-term, one-year visiting scholar in 2016 for "matters unrelated" to the 2020 article about face masks.

Palmer, a registered nurse, said the study looked like medical journals he reads to stay current with changes in medicine. "Maybe I should have done a

little more homework," he said. "But I'll own what I did."

Palmer issued an apology to Myers, Hamsher and Grant County's residents for quoting the debunked study.

Still, as a "health care advocate," Palmer said he does not believe masks are the answer to curbing the spread of COVID-19.

COVID-19 vs. influenza

Newman said the pandemic is a "ruse to gain power." Myers pointed out the vi-

rus had been a "deadly ruse, for millions" COVID-19 has left at least four dead in Grant County, more than 580,000 dead in the United States and over 3.2 million dead around the world, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

Newman said there is no question that a "bug" is making people sick but suggested it is on par with the common cold or flu. However, in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports the flu claims between 12,000 to a maximum of 61,000 lives each year.

Dr. Anthony West, a senior research specialist at the California Institute of Technology, said in an email May 2 that a clear indicator that COVID-19 is not like the common cold or flu is the repeated episodes of hospitals becoming overwhelmed by people with COVID-19 that have severe symptoms.

Dr. Andrew Pekosz, a leading virologist who works on both the flu and COVID-19 at Johns Hopkins University,

said COVID-19 is much worse than the flu "in almost every parameter of comparison."

He said a lack of preexisting immunity to the virus, compared to the flu, also makes COVID-19 a more significant burden on the population. Additionally, the long-term effects outpace the flu as well. Those effects include shortness of breath, trouble focusing and kidney and heart problems, he said.

Newman also suggested the flu was being misdiagnosed as COVID-19 and asked what happened to the flu this year.

In 2021, health officials estimate the U.S. has only seen upwards of 900 cases this year as of January.

However, Eili Klein, associate professor of emergency medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, said the significant decrease in flu cases this year is proof of the safety measures to curb COVID-19 work. In a press release, he said physical distancing, masks and hand-washing have slowed the transmission of the flu.

Attention Parents of 2021 Grads!

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