



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin file

In December 2020, students at Sisters Elementary School walk apart, guided by pictures of horseshoes on the floor.

Sisters

Continued from A1

Current enrollment this year is 323 students.

If voters don't pass the bond, class sizes at Sisters El-

ementary School will simply have to balloon, said Scholl. And small class sizes increase student achievement, particularly in grades K-2, he said. "If we don't have the classroom space, the only way you

can serve the kids is adding more kids to each classroom," Scholl said.

School officials say a new building is simply needed for a city where new families keep arriving. Sisters' population grew by nearly 35% between 2010 and 2018, from 2,038 people to 2,747, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. It's a growth rate comparable to Bend.

The new elementary would also be built next door to Sisters high and middle schools, Scholl said. This makes it easier for the district to consolidate resources, and helps education specialists who work with students of all grades, he said.

If voters approve the bond, Scholl hopes the new elementary school will welcome its first students by September 2023.

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WORLD BRIEFING

Israel, Hamas escalate fighting; no end in sight

Israel stepped up its attacks on the Gaza Strip, flattening a high-rise building used by the Hamas militant group and killing at least three militants in their hideouts on Tuesday as Palestinian rockets rained down almost nonstop on parts of Israel.

It was the heaviest fighting between the bitter enemies since 2014, and it showed no signs of slowing.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to expand the offensive, while Gaza militants unleashed a fierce late-night barrage of rockets that set off air-raid sirens and explosions throughout the densely populated Tel Aviv metropolitan area.

Five Israelis, including three women and a child, were killed by rocket fire Tuesday and early Wednesday, and dozens of people wounded. The death toll in Gaza rose to 35 Palestinians, including 10 children, according to the Health Ministry. Over 200 people were wounded.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, a 26-year-old Palestinian was killed during clashes with Israeli troops that entered al-Fawar refugee camp in southern Hebron, the ministry said.

The fighting between Israel and Hamas was the most intense since a 50-day war in the summer of 2014.

— The Associated Press

Attack

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Around 3:45 a.m. Aug. 5, Arce and Matthew Dean Ortiz broke into the home of Zachary Tucker on SW Roosevelt Street.

Arce was shirtless and armed with a .357 revolver, according to the probable cause affidavit from his arrest. Arce woke Tucker and repeatedly asked, "Where is she?"

Tucker denied knowing what Arce was talking about, going as far as laughing and telling him the situation was "ridiculous," according to court records.

At this, Arce went into the kitchen, took a knife and "sliced" Tucker's face and stabbed him in the leg.

Before fleeing the home, Arce pointed his pistol at Tucker's head and pulled the trigger three times quickly, with nothing happening.

After police arrived, they found a woman in a locked back bedroom at the residence. She told them she'd been "trying to stay out of trouble," and had slept through the violent encounter in Tucker's home.

"I knew (the woman) was not being honest," Madras Police officer Ryan Kathrein wrote in his report, court records show.

Arce and Ortiz were later arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit assault and other counts.

Ortiz was sentenced in February to 30 days in jail for his role in the attack.

The maximum sentence Arce could have received was nearly 21 years in custody.

Judge Daina Vitols additionally assigned him three years post-prison supervision.

First-degree assault is a Measure 11 offense in Oregon, and as such, Arce is not eligible for some prison programs nor early release for good behavior.

Also on Tuesday, Arce pleaded guilty in a related case and was sentenced to six months in custody for tampering with physical evidence. That sentence will run concurrent with Arce's prison term.

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Vaccination

Continued from A1

Deschutes County reported 542.6 cases per 100,000 people this week, the second highest of Oregon's larger counties behind only Klamath County.

Allen said that high vaccination rates were more important than high infection rates in determining progress against COVID-19. Even if infection rates are high, vaccination rates above 65% mean that cases were unlikely to result in severe illness or death.

On the flip side, if the state reaches a 70% overall vaccination rate, even counties such as Umatilla and Malheur, where vaccination rates are at the low end of the statewide scale, would move out of the restrictions along with all other counties.

Asked if meeting the 70% vaccination goal would likely mean that the Pendleton Round-Up could be held in September, Brown was upbeat. "Let 'er buck," Brown forecast.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may suggest some mask re-

quirements, most likely the event would go off much closer to normal than forecast earlier. The Round-Up was canceled last year because of COVID-19 concerns.

Brown said the moves were possible because data showing the most recent spike in cases over the past month has begun to fade.

"It looks like we've crossed the tipping point of the fourth surge," Brown said. "Our hospitalization rates have stabilized. Our infection rates are on a downward trajectory.

And in the race between vaccines and variants, our efforts to vaccinate Oregonians are taking the lead."

Brown said she was confident the statewide vaccination goal to reopen the entire state by mid-June was in reach if residents stepped up to get vaccinated and help others get their shots, too.

Oregon is increasing walk-in and local clinic efforts in an attempt to get what national infectious disease officials call "impulse vaccinations" by people who did not want to deal with the burden

Updated COVID-19 risk levels of Oregon counties

Gov. Kate Brown released the now-weekly list of COVID-19 risk levels for Oregon's 36 counties Tuesday.

Though the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations has remained above 300 this week, the most restrictive "extreme risk" limits were waived again because cases did not increase by 15%.

Any changes to status announced Tuesday would go into effect on Friday, May 14.

For more information, go to covidvaccine.

oregon.gov or call 211.

Current county risk levels as of Friday, May 14:

LOWER RISK (8)

- Gilliam
- Harney
- Lake
- Morrow
- Sherman
- Union
- Wallowa
- Wheeler

MODERATE RISK (7)

- Coos

- Curry
- Grant (Moved from High)
- Hood River
- Lincoln (Moved from High)
- Tillamook
- Wasco (Moved from High)

HIGH RISK (21)

- Baker
- Benton
- Clackamas
- Clatsop
- Columbia
- Crook
- Deschutes
- Douglas
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Josephine
- Klamath
- Lane
- Linn
- Malheur
- Marion
- Multnomah
- Polk
- Umatilla
- Washington
- Yamhill

of prior online registration.

After achieving 70% statewide vaccination of those aged 16 and older, Oregon may continue requiring some use of masks and physical distancing, Brown said, as the CDC and Oregon Health Authority monitor conditions.

All other health and safety requirements for counties under the state's risk level frame-

work would be lifted, and counties would no longer be assigned risk levels.

Oregon public schools would still follow the state's "Ready Schools, Safe Learners" protocols, which will be updated before the upcoming return to school in the fall with an eye on removing those restrictions where possible with CDC guidance.

Brown's comments came as the University of Oregon and Western Oregon University announced this week that students would have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to attend classes in person this fall. Oregon State University and Portland State University had announced the same policy earlier.

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