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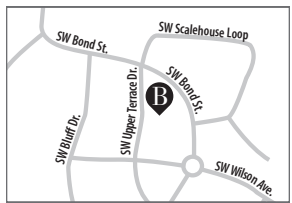
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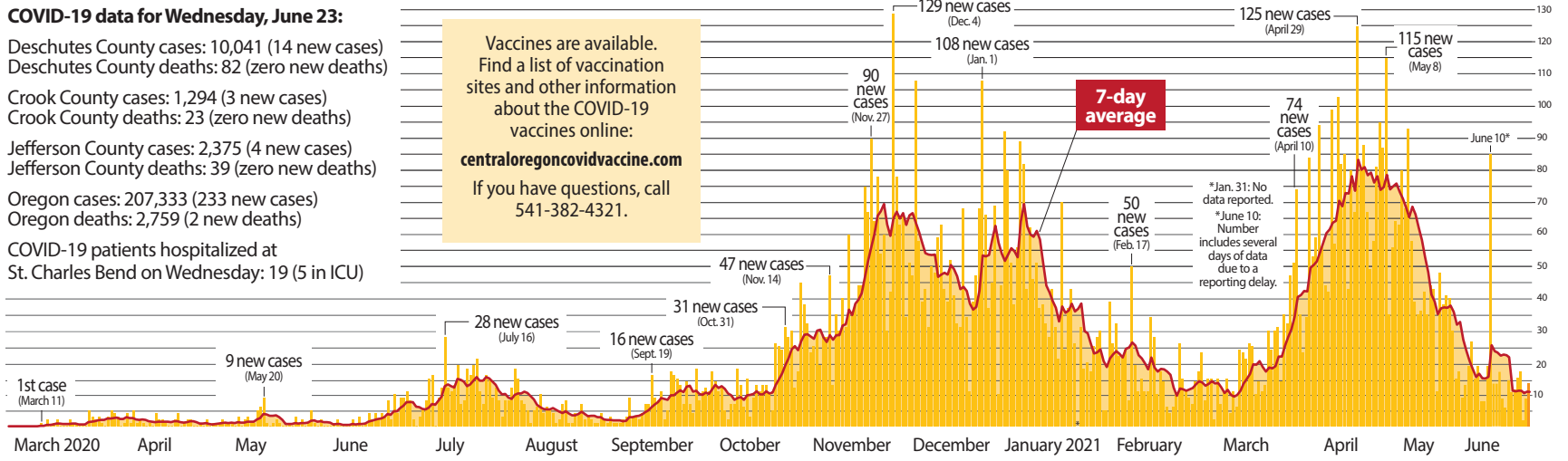
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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



Legislature on track to fund 4K preschool slots

BY HILLARY BORRUD
The Oregonian

Oregon lawmakers plan to spend more than \$67 million over the next two years to significantly expand publicly funded preschools, under a bill moving forward in the final days of the legislative session.

The proposal would pay for more than 4,000 new preschool slots in public and private programs. It comes as lawmakers speak of the importance of high-quality early childhood education to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and support mothers who disproportionately exited the workforce during the pandemic.

Although sizable, the potential expansion under Senate Bill 5513 is roughly two-thirds as large as Gov. Kate Brown proposed for the two-year

budget that begins in July. Brown called for more than \$100 million to add approximately 6,000 openings for pre-school students.

On Tuesday, the governor's deputy communications director Charles Boyle described the Legislature's plan as a step in the right direction.

"It's critical that we make investments now for our working families and children, particularly after a pandemic that has disproportionately impacted working families from historically underserved communities," Boyle wrote in an email. "This is a great start that we will need to build on in future years."

Oregon only serves 30% of the children and families who are eligible for publicly funded early childhood programs, according to the education department.

Your chances of winning Oregon's vaccination jackpot? 1 in 2.2M

BY AIMEE GREEN
The Oregonian

What are the odds of winning Oregon's \$1 million vaccination lottery drawing on Monday? With roughly 2.2 million adults vaccinated in Oregon so far, it's currently one in 2.2 million.

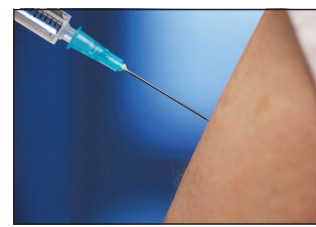
In other words, you have a better chance of getting struck by lightning — 1 in 500,000 in any given year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The prizes — \$1 million, three dozen \$10,000 awards, five \$100,000 college scholarships and a smattering of cash prizes in a limited number of counties — are only available to Oregonians who've received at least one shot of COVID-19 vaccine by 11:59 p.m. June 27.

Winners are expected to be announced in the first week of July.

The odds get a lot more interesting when it comes to the state's \$10,000 prizes.

Oregon will award \$10,000



123RF
Oregon counts itself among many other states offering cash prizes to residents who get vaccinated for COVID-19.

to one person for each of its 36 counties — regardless of the county's population size. That means up until recently the odds of pocketing \$10,000 were the best in Oregon's smallest county — Wheeler, population 1,440 — where one lucky person out of about 600 vaccinated adults will take home the prize.

In recent days, however, 11 other Oregon counties have added to the prizes offered to their residents, using millions of dollars of federal coronavirus money allocated by the vaccination rollout. Now the

chances of pocketing some significant cash are best in Gilliam County, population 1,990, where 11 of approximately 676 vaccinated adults will win \$10,000 each.

"I'd say your odds of winning \$10,000 are excellent," said Patrick Johnson, a spokesman for the Oregon Lottery, which is assisting the governor's office and the Oregon Health Authority in randomly drawing winners.

But the odds look considerably less impressive in Oregon's largest county — Multnomah — where county officials aren't supplementing the state's prizes with more awards. More than 470,000 adults in the county have received at least one dose of vaccine. You guessed it: That puts residents' chances of taking home the cash at about 1 in 470,000.

The odds are approximate because state officials don't publish the precise county-by-county numbers of residents 18 and older who've been inoculated.

Lawmakers OK dental equivalent of physician's assistant

BY PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

A new class of dental therapists, working under the supervision of dentists, would provide basic services to patients under a bill that is headed to Gov. Kate Brown.

Oregon lawmakers passed House Bill 2528 — the House by a 45-11 vote Wednesday and the Senate by a 20-9 vote the previous day — after they narrowed the scope of practice and expanded training opportunities, according to its chief sponsor.

Rep. Tawna Sanchez, a Democrat from Portland and the Legislature's only tribal member, said dental therapists would provide services to low-income people and rural residents who often lack access to it.

"This bill would create a mid-level dental care provider that would deliver appropriate dental care, with the scope of their training approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation."

— Rep. Tawna Sanchez, D-Portland

"This bill would create a mid-level dental care provider that would deliver appropriate dental care, with the scope of their training approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation," she said. "A licensed dental therapist would be supervised by a dentist to provide care that will allow many health care crises to be avoided and to ensure rural Oregonians they have the services they need."

Dental therapists are akin to physician assistants in medicine. They will undergo the special training to perform the basics of dental care, such as exams, fillings and simple extractions of teeth. They will work under the supervision of a dentist. They will differ from dental hygienists, who clean teeth and perform exams.

Licenses for dental therapists who complete accredited programs will be issued by the

Oregon Board of Dentistry starting in 2025. They would have to spend at least half their time working with underserved populations, or in areas with shortages of health professionals.

The Oregon Dental Association took no stand on the bill. But the Legislature's two dentist members opposed it.

One of them, Rep. Cedric Hayden, R-Lowell, complained about recent cuts by the Oregon Health Authority in payments for dental care.

Hayden, a dental surgeon and rancher, voted for the bill in committee, but against it both times in the full House.

"I have concerns about that rare occasion that could take place when the dentist isn't in the building and that patients

being provided (service) in our low-income or rural areas, as this bill specifically calls out, do not have the equity in health care that they would have had if the OHA hadn't cut the budget."

As a nurse practitioner, Rep. Rachel Prusak, D-West Linn, said she has seen patients administered antibiotics and painkillers to combat infection and alleviate pain until they can obtain dental care.

"We have to pass this bill that has been worked on for years," Prusak, who leads the House Health Care Committee, said. "It is going to increase access to dental therapy in this state."

Eight states now license dental therapists.

■ pwong@pamplinmedia.com

47% of lawmakers say they have a COVID vaccination

Approximately 47% of Oregon lawmakers indicated they've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to a survey of all 89 members of the Legislature.

None was willing to say they were unvaccinated. But 7% declined to answer the question, and 46% didn't respond at all.

The divide across party lines

was stark. Of the Legislature's 55 Democrats, 41 — or 75% — said they'd been fully immunized. Meanwhile, just one of the 33 Republican lawmakers — or 3% of the party's elected members in Salem — said he had.

That lone Republican — Sen. Bill Kenemer of Canby — said: "It's good for me and my family, ... and I think as a senator, I have some responsibility to be a role model."

— The Oregonian

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The music that captures our experience from sea to shining sea

Plus: GENE SIMMONS, P. 2