

COVID-19 pandemic

Restrictions will be lifted statewide by Wednesday

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau Oregon will lift pandemic limits in place for over a year no later than next week, Gov. Kate Brown said Friday.

When Oregon reaches 70% or by Wednesday, June 30, we will lift the

safety programs we have relied on and open our economy," Brown said. When the deadline passes or the goal is met, the county-by-county risk level system will be dissolved.

"Effectively, Oregon is 100% open for business," she said.

Brown had announced last month that mandates on masks, social distancing and capacity limits of restaurants and venues would be lifted as soon as 70% of all eligible adult Oregonians had received at least one shot of COVID-19 vaccine.

As of Friday morning, Oregon was less than 1% short of the target, with 31,264 more first-time shots required to meet the goal.

But with vaccinations slowing to fewer than 3,000 per day and record temperatures across the state expected to slow inoculations even more, Brown decided to add a cut-off date to go with the percentage goal.

To back the plan, Brown revoked five executive orders dealing with COVID-19 restrictions.

See Pandemic / A4

Central Oregon weather

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS BRACE FOR HEAT WAVE



CHLORINE SHORTAGE Bend asks residents to reduce water use

BY BRENNA VISSER The Bulletin

In response to a chlorine supply shortage, the city of Bend is asking residents to voluntarily reduce their water use immediately.

A critical chlorine supply issue throughout the West Coast may affect Bend, according to a city press release. The shortage was caused by an equipment failure at a Longview, Washington-based chlorine manufacturing facility. The Westlake Chemical company plant restarted production Wednesday after it received a spare part from a local business, according to an Associated Press report.

Drinking water coming out of the tap in Bend remains safe to use, according to Michael Buettner, Bend's Utility De partment director. Dan Dennings, the city's water conservation manager, said the call to reduce water is a preemptive measure, given that the unusually early heat wave hitting Central Oregon this week is expected to drive the demand for water up around the city. Similar conservation messages go out every summer, Dennings said, but usually later in July or August. "We're seeing those peak season triggers happening earlier than normal," he said. The city has enough chlorine to last through August if current restricted use remains in place, Dennings said. But the longer the city can keep the demand for water lower, the longer the city's chlorine supply can last. "We're not going to run out of chlorine tomorrow. But it could get out of hand if we don't put the messaging out and things continue like normal and we see a ramp up in demand." See Water / A7

Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Morgan Schmidt, a pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Bend, makes a welcoming sign while preparing an area in the church for the public to take shelter from temperatures over 100 degrees that are expected to continue into the middle of next week. See the forecast, Page A8.

BY SUZANNE ROIG • The Bulletin

entral Oregon doctors say heat exhaustion is a real condition for anyone spending any amount of time outdoors without enough water, sunscreen and shade as temperatures climb into the triple digits this weekend. Staying cool isn't only about comfort.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are real conditions that anyone with prolonged exposure to these scorching temperatures can expect, say Central Oregon medical professionals.

The National Weather Service predicted on Friday that temperatures could be "dangerously hot" ranging from 105 to 111 through July 1. Saturday will be the start of many hot days, but peaking

Monday or Tuesday, according to the weather service forecast.

St. Charles Bend is already at capacity, said Dr. Nathan Ansbaugh, an emergency room physician. "People are pent up and are

traveling and out doing stuff," Ansbaugh said. "We hope not to see a lot of people coming in with heat-related illnesses, but we're prepared."

See Heat / A4

Researchers trace ancient obsidian in Lake Huron to Central Oregon

BY KYLE SPURR

The Bulletin

A research team studying an underwater archaeological site at the bottom of Lake Huron in Michigan recently discovered flakes of obsidian, black volcanic glass, that originated from Central Oregon.

The two small flakes, each nearly a centimeter long, are the oldest and farthest east obsidian has ever been found in the United States. The discovery reshaped how researchers understand civilization 9,000 years ago, when caribou hunters used obsidian as stone tools during the last Ice Age. The research team from the University of Texas at Arlington was left with several questions: How did the obsidian make it 2,000 miles east? And how much more exists outside the West Coast? See Obsidian / A7



A scuba diver with a research team from the University of Texas at Arlington looks for artifacts in 2015 at the bottom of Lake Huron in Michigan.

Correction

In a story with the headline "Big building projects at universities get key OK to use bonds," which appeared Friday, June 25, on Page A1, the amount of money raised by student fees for the Student Success Center at Oregon State University-Cascades was misstated. Student fees will raise \$5 million. The Bulletin regrets the error.

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