

Executive Editor: Rob Collins, 548-8163, rcollins@enidnews.com
 Associate editor: Kevin Hassler, 548-8143, enidnews@enidnews.com
 News Editor: David Christy, 548-8141, davidc@enidnews.com
 Online editor: Violet Hassler, 548-8152, violet@enidnews.com
 Obituaries: 548-8140, obits@enidnews.com

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COVID-19

Continued from Page A1

“You will be able to download the screening and Vaccine Information forms from the sign-up link below, and we encourage you to pre-fill them out and bring them with you to the vaccination site,” he said in the email.

Health care workers and first responders are the initial groups that will receive the vaccine in Points of Dispensing Sites, or PODS, according to the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

“We’re excited to have the opportunity to expand our vaccine distribution efforts in Oklahoma,” said Dr. Lance Frye, Oklahoma commissioner of health. “PODS will help us provide more efficient access points as we open up the vaccine to larger populations as we continue to gradually move into phase 2 priority groups and beyond.”

Oklahomans who are 65 and older also will be able to receive the vaccine at PODS locations in the coming weeks, as OSDH transitions into phase 2 of its vaccine distribution. Individuals should watch for local public

messaging, including via news and social media, to find out when they’re eligible to receive the vaccine. Additionally, an online scheduling tool is expected to go live in the upcoming weeks to help Oklahomans in each priority group find their ability to get the vaccine, as well as the nearest PODS locations, to schedule an appointment when it’s their turn.

Daily OSDH report

An Enid man and an Alva woman were two of 22 COVID-19-related deaths reported Tuesday on a day when the overall number of new cases was lighter than recent reports.

Oklahoma State Department of Health reported 1,194 new cases on Tuesday, with a seven-day rolling average at 2,594.

New cases in Garfield County increased by only three, with 491 of those active, a single-day decrease of 79, according to OSDH. There have been 4,816, or 90%, who have recovered and 43 who have died in the county.

Of those cases, 4,739, or nearly 89%, have been in Enid, where 400 remain active, a decrease of 65, according to OSDH data on

Tuesday. There have been 4,298 in the city who have recovered and 41 who have died.

Statewide, the increase in cases takes the overall total to 283,781, with 32,628 of those active, a decrease of 2,900, and 248,748 recovered, including 4,072 since Monday’s OSDH report.

There have been 2,405 Oklahomans who have died either due to COVID-19 or complications from the virus, according to OSDH data.

In addition to the Garfield County man and Woods County woman, 17 other deaths reported Tuesday in the 65 and older age range: three men and three women from Oklahoma County; two men and a woman from Tulsa County; a man and a woman from Cleveland County; men from Creek, Grady, McCurtain and Pontotoc counties and women from Kay and McClain counties.

Other deaths were a Love County woman and an Oklahoma County man in the 50-64 age group and an Oklahoma County man in the 18-35 age group, according to OSDH.

Cumulative COVID-19-positive hospitalizations in Oklahoma climbed by 90 to 16,426, according to the OSDH on Tuesday.

Of those, 1,916 were hospitalized, a single-day decrease of 11, with 486 of those in intensive care, a decrease of 13, according to the OSDH Tuesday evening Executive Report.

Adult ICU bed availability in the state was at 5% and medical/surgical beds were at 13% availability statewide, with a 98% hospital response rate, according to the Executive Report. There were 1,014 individuals seen in hospitals in the 24 hours prior to the report who self-quarantined.

Locally, there were 18 COVID-19 patients and no new deaths at Integris Bass Baptist Health Center, a spokeswoman said on Tuesday. St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center’s public information officer will not be available this week to report data, according to the facility. There were 85 COVID-19 cases hospitalized in the OSDH Northwest Region, a decrease of 12 from the prior day’s report.

Other Northwest Oklahoma county case increases on Tuesday included 22 in Woods, 11 in Woodward, three each in Alfalfa and Major and two in Kingfisher. Blaine, Grant and Noble did not have any new cases reported, according to OSDH.

SKELETON CREEK WIND

Continued from Page A1

Base and other stakeholders, Elinore Beitler, project developer for NextEra Skeleton Creek, said the total Skeleton Creek project represents about \$600 million in new NextEra energy investments in the state.

The 250 megawatts of new wind energy generated by Skeleton Creek, and the solar and energy storage components once commercial, will help further diversify WFEC’s generation portfolio. After completion of the solar and energy storage phase of the project are completed, WFEC’s planned generation portfolio will consist of 623 megawatts of solar generation, 957 megawatts of wind

generation and 268 megawatts of hydroelectric generation.

In addition to the clean energy it generates, the Skeleton Creek Project is expected to stimulate the local economy through the creation of hundreds of construction jobs, and through millions of dollars in lease payments to landowners and tax payments to the local communities.

The wind project created approximately 200 jobs during the construction phase and will add an additional 150 during the construction of the solar and energy storage site. The entire project will provide approximately \$105 million in payments to the

county governments over its projected 30-year operational life, and approximately \$90 million in payments to local landowners.

Getting the project from blueprint to construction has been a long process, and included building a new working relationship with the Air Force and Department of Defense.

The project, which has been planned since 2015, originally was scheduled for completion by the end of 2019. But, it was pushed back a year over concerns the wind farm might conflict with airspace used by Vance. Those concerns potentially pitted two massive indus-

tries against each other: wind power, which accounts for about a third of the state’s energy production, and the military, which is the state’s largest employer.

But, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Anthony Rock said in August that potential conflict turned instead into a productive relationship, where both sides worked hard to “cooperate, collaborate, innovate and compromise,” and found ways to get to “yes, if” instead of focusing on “no, because.”

Rock, who served as inspector general of the Air Force before his retirement, was brought in by NextEra as a consultant to help deconflict the wind developer’s building

plans with the Air Force’s airspace needs.

“We’ve definitely had a ton of stakeholders involved throughout this process,” Rock said. “The amount of approval we’ve gotten has been amazing, but it took a lot of teamwork to get there.”

Rock specifically credited former 71st Flying Training Wing commander Col. Corey Simmons, who now is commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., with working to find a “beneficial outcome for all.”

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative is a generation and transmission cooperative that provides essential electric service to 21 member cooperatives, Altus Air Force Base and other power users. These members are located primarily in Oklahoma and New Mexico, with some service territories extending into portions of Texas and Kansas. With offices in Anadarko and Moore, WFEC owns and maintains over 3,800 miles of transmission line to more than 330 substations and switch stations.

DRINKING & DRIVING CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE IN JUST ONE SHOT

Don’t risk your life or the life of someone else. If you plan on drinking, plan ahead and choose a designated driver or call a taxi service for a ride home.

The statistics are startling: Nearly 11,000 people die each year in America in DUI-related traffic accidents, accounting for 31% of all traffic deaths. An additional 254,000 suffer injuries in alcohol-related accidents.

A drunk driver kills someone approximately every 48 minutes.

Studies show that even small amounts of alcohol can impair a person’s ability to drive. Even at a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .02% – as little as one drink – a person’s abilities to see and multi-task are compromised.

Statistics from NHTSA, MADD and The Century Council.

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