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The Register-Guard

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Tammy Berry's Pepperberries Kitchen Store features cooking and kitchen supplies. CHRIS PIETSCH/THE REGISTER-GUARD

Officials promote vaccine for whooping cough

Oregon hits record high of 1,475 cases of disease

Isabel Funk
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oregon Health Authority officials are urging people to make sure they are up to date on whooping cough vaccinations amid declining rates and an increase in cases.

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, has reached an all-time high number of cases in Oregon. Since the outbreak began in spring 2024, Oregon has had a record 1,475 reported cases this year and 1,252 cases in 2024. The previous record, 1,420, was set in 1950, according to OHA.

Babies are at especially high-risk of serious illness, hospitalization and death in case of infection. OHA recommends anyone who will regularly interact with a baby get vaccinated at least two weeks before the baby is born. Pregnant people are encouraged to get a dose of the vaccine during their third trimester, as babies cannot be vaccinated until they are at least two months old.

"I worry people may not fully appreciate the risk pertussis poses as case counts are rising, especially for babies and older adults," said Dr. Howard Chiou, medical director for communicable diseases and immunizations at OHA's Public Health Division. "Unfortunately, we've seen a statewide decline in maternal Tdap vaccination rates in Oregon, which is a dangerous trend."

Statewide, an estimated 69% of pregnant people received the vaccine in 2024. In Marion County, about 70% were vaccinated and in Polk County, about 66% were vaccinated.

This year there have been 87 report-

SHOP LOCAL!

Where to buy gifts for bookworms, gardeners and more

Hannarose McGuinness
Eugene Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each year, the holiday shopping lists seem to grow longer while the season, against all reason, somehow feels shorter.

With so much to do and only a few weeks to do it all, shopping during the holidays can be stressful. What is the perfect gift for your spouse? Do your friends like the books you buy them, or do they sit, unread, on a dusty shelf? What do kids even like these days?

If you're worried about finding great gifts for those special people in your life,

read on. Here's where to shop locally to find something perfect for the people you're exchanging gifts with this year.

For the cook, visit Pepperberries Kitchen Store

Every chef needs tools to work with and locating the perfect item is daunting.

Or rather, it can be daunting, unless you're shopping at Pepperberries Kitchen Store, where over 30 years of expertise and a tremendous amount of kitchen supplies provide plenty of fodder for finding crown jewel gifts for consummate chefs.

Pepperberries Kitchen Store, located at 2538 Willakenzie Road, has been around for 40 years and is now Eugene's only kitchen store. Caroline Strano, manager, said Pepperberries provides quality products with an emphasis on the customer, noting that, "We're a candy store for a lot of people," who just want to come in and browse.

Strano said baking tools have skyrocketed in popularity in the past few years and the trend continues this holiday season. She said the store offers everything a baker could need,

See **GIFTS**, Page 5A

House panel Democrats release Epstein photos showing Trump, Clinton

Bart Jansen, Sarah D. Wire and Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – House Democrats received another trove of 95,000 pictures from accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein's estate and released 19 images Dec. 12 that show Presidents Donald Trump and Bill Clinton and other high-profile figures.

It was not immediately clear why Democrats on the House Oversight Committee chose to release these particular 19 photos, which included im-

ages of sex toys and, separately, snapshots of various VIPs whose past associations with Epstein were already widely known.

The photos were provided without any captions identifying or providing the occasions, dates, locations or context of the famous people shown in them.

One picture shows Trump, who had a long friendship with Epstein in the 1990s and early 2000s, posing for a photo with women whose faces are blacked

See **EPSTEIN**, Page 3A



A protester holds up a photo of Donald Trump with financier Jeffrey Epstein at an Aug. 2 rally in Augusta, Georgia. Epstein, a convicted sex offender, died in a New York jail cell while awaiting trial in 2019. KATIE GOODALE/AUGUSTA CHRONICLE FILE

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