

# CRIME,

Continued from page A1

College. Upon arriving at the scene, deputies determined that the victim had "sustained serious injuries and likely did not survive the collision."

The body of the victim and the vehicle were no longer at the scene and deputies learned that the red Honda Civic had left the area at a high rate of speed.

A caller around 3:30 a.m. reported finding a red Honda Civic with a deceased person inside near Wheatland and Brooklake roads just north of Keizer. Investigators determined that the deceased male was the same pedestrian that had been involved in the earlier crash.

Armando Rodarte Jr., 26 of Salem, was identified as the driver of the red Honda Civic and was located around 6:00 a.m. walking in northeast Salem. Rodarte was taken into custody without incident and was lodged in the Marion County Jail.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office press release on Dec. 25 did not include how the body of the victim ended up in the car.

"The investigation is still ongoing at this time. When we are able, more information will be released," said Sr. Deputy Ethan Griffith, spokesperson for the sheriff's office, said on Dec. 27.

Lt. Trevor Wenning, spokesperson for the Keizer Police Department, said the department's only involvement with the incident was helping deputies at the initial crash site on Lancaster Drive.

Rodarte is being charged with manslaughter in the first degree, failure to perform duties of a driver to injured persons,

reckless driving and abuse of corpse in the second degree following an arraignment hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 28.

He is also being charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants and on a suspended license.

Rodarte pleaded guilty on May 6 to driving under the influence of intoxicants after being pulled over on Jan. 23 with a blood alcohol content of .19. Rodarte was sentenced to 18 months of probation and had his license suspended for one year.

On Oct. 23, 2021, Rodarte rear ended another vehicle while driving on a suspended license. On Nov. 22, Rodarte was granted a release agreement by the Marion County Circuit Court and under the agreement that he would appear in court on Dec. 22. On Dec. 22, Rodarte was scheduled to go before the judge on Jan. 11, 2022.

Rodarte also previously pleaded guilty in Marion County Circuit Court to driving under the influence of intoxicants in 2016.

Rodarte is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 11, 2022 to face the six charges against him. His current bail is \$500,000 and he is listed as a public safety and flight risk.

## Oregon's first fungal infection at Salem Hospital

BY RACHEL ALEXANDER  
Of the Salem Reporter

Health authorities are investigating an outbreak of a serious fungal infection

that's sickened three patients at Salem Hospital this month.

The cases of Candida auris, a type of yeast that can be resistant to multiple antifungal drugs, are the first ever reported in Oregon, the Oregon Health Authority said in a Tuesday afternoon news release.

The first patient was identified at the hospital Dec. 11, the release said, and had recent exposure from international travel. The hospital confirmed the case on Dec. 17, Salem Health spokeswoman Lisa Wood said.

Two other hospital patients then caught the infection, the release said. Those patients were identified on Dec. 23 and Dec. 27.

"Candida auris is an emerging pathogen of concern because it can cause serious infections, particularly in those with serious medical problems, and can be resistant to the antifungal drugs we have to treat it," said Rebecca Pierce, who manages the Oregon Health Authority's healthcare-associated infections program, in a statement. "Fortunately, the organism we're dealing with in this outbreak appears to respond to existing treatments. Nonetheless, it's critical that we prevent the spread of the infection."

The fungus poses a low infection risk to healthy people, including health care workers, according to the CDC. The risk of infection and serious complications is highest for patients who have been hospitalized for long periods, have weakened immune systems or have a central catheter or other lines and tubes in their bodies.

More than 1,150 clinical cases of Candida auris have been identified in the

United States since 2013, the release said.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a rise in multi-drug resistant organisms around the world and nationwide, and Salem is not immune," said Jasmin Chaudhary, medical director of infection prevention at Salem Health, in a statement.

Chaudhary said the hospital is taking steps to avoid the spread of infection including "aggressive eradication measures" that have been successful in other hospitals.

The health authority and Salem Health are also contacting facilities that have recently accepted discharged patients from hospital units affected by the outbreak.

Wood said three hospital units were affected and did not respond to a question about how many patients were exposed. Since Dec. 17, no patients have been discharged from the affected units as testing is conducted, Wood said.

The health authority has identified 23 other health care facilities that may have received exposed patients who were discharged from Salem Hospital after the first patient arrived but before the fungal infection was confirmed.

All facilities and potentially affected patients have been notified, Wood said.

"We are working with OHA to conduct testing of patients who may have been exposed and will continue to follow their guidance. Due to the low risk to employees, OHA and the CDC are not recommending testing of staff or the environment at this time," Wood said in an email.

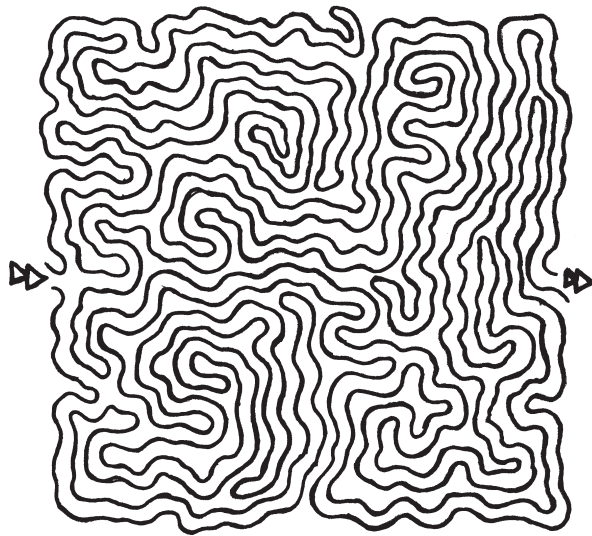
## brainfood

### sudoku

	6	1	8			7		3
								1
5			1		4		9	
7		9				3	6	
1			9		6			2
	4	5				9		8
	1		6		8			4
2								
3		6			9	1	8	

Enter digits 1-9 into blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, & every 3x3 square.

sudoku answers pg A9



maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

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