

# The Bulletin

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**SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8**

## State halts use of vaccine from Johnson & Johnson

*Health officials await 'green light' before resuming distribution*

**BY GARY A. WARNER**  
Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregon has paused using the Johnson & Johnson one-shot COVID-19 vaccine even though none of six newly reported severe reactions to the vaccine occurred in the state, health officials said Tuesday. The U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention urged states to temporarily stop using the vaccine given to 6.8 million people after six women who received the vaccine became seriously ill and one died.

"This appears to be extremely rare," Dr. Paul Cieslak, Oregon Health Authority's medical director for acute and communicable disease and immunizations, said during an afternoon press call.

The CDC said the six women were aged 18 to 48. They became ill from one to

three weeks after their vaccination. The cause appeared to be a rare blood clot disorder.

The state has given about 82,000 Johnson & Johnson shots, a tiny fraction of the 2.3 million vaccine doses administered since December. OHA said about 212,000 doses are on hand in 225 locations around the state and can be kept in regular refrigeration units for later use when federal officials lift the advisory.

See **Vaccine** / A4

## COVID-19 could get worse until it gets better in Central Oregon

**BY SUZANNE ROIG**  
The Bulletin

Cases of COVID-19 could continue to climb over the next couple of weeks, but warmer weather, and more vaccinations, could thwart the spread.

As COVID-19 weariness weighs on everyone, with young people returning to sports and social activities and bars and restaurants opening up, more people are lowering their guard,

health officials say. But the risk could be outweighed if more people were vaccinated. Starting Monday, anyone 16 and older in Central Oregon can sign up for a vaccine.

"It's very frustrating to have a conversation like this because it's such a fluid and unknown environment right now," said Michael Johnson, St. Charles Health System senior data scientist. "Every model I've looked at shows

it getting worse before it gets better. But we don't know the magnitude."

In the past two weeks, Deschutes County has seen daily case counts rise. On Tuesday, 34 new positive cases of COVID-19 were reported in the county three days after officials raised the risk level from moderate to high, which limits the amount of people who can gather inside and outside.

See **COVID-19** / A4

**Construction continues Monday on new apartments at SW Shevlin Hixon Drive and SW Bradbury Way near McKay Park.** Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin



## APARTMENTS TAKE SHAPE AFTER DISPUTE

**Developer scaled back design from four stories**

**BY BRENNIA VISSER** • The Bulletin

A new apartment building is coming to fruition near McKay Park in Bend.

The building, which sits between the Colorado Avenue bridge and the Bend Park & Recreation District's Pavilion, will eventually be home to 141 apartments. The building will be called The Eddy Apartments, according to the developer's website.

The project received significant backlash from neighbors, who lined nearby sidewalks to protest the idea of a four-story building, and from community members.

See **Apartments** / A12

## Oregon Legislature lurches into second half of session

*Lawmakers deal with slowdowns, shutdowns and death threats*

**BY GARY A. WARNER**  
Oregon Capital Bureau

Disease, dysfunction and deadlines are challenging the Oregon Legislature as it starts the second half of the 2021 session.

Friday was the 80th day of the 160 days the Oregon Constitution allows lawmakers to meet this year. The session has been marked so far by shutdowns and slowdowns.

Senate Republicans walked out for the third session in a row, but just for a day to protest Democrat's lock on the agenda.

But some GOP senators would receive death threats from gun control opponents for not walking out on a bill to bar concealed weapons in state buildings.

One email had a subject line "SELLOUT" and a chilling one-line message: "You should be shot."

Oregon State Police are investigating the threats.

All the turmoil has played out against the roller-coaster ride of falling, then rising COVID-19 numbers.

As of Monday, the House had passed 115 bills since gaveling to order Jan. 19. It currently has a backup of 122 bills scheduled for a final vote.

"The tension has started earlier," House Speaker Tina Kotek said last week. "I think it is really hard to tell what is happening."

Committees in both chambers were scurrying to slide under the Tuesday night deadline to have legislation approved by committees and sent to the floor of the originating chamber (House or Senate). Otherwise, the mass majority die.

"A number of those bills at the end of the day will not be ready for deadline," Kotek said. "Things are pretty fluid."

What survives will still have a daunting road to the governor's desk due to a basic partisan split on the direction of the session.

See **Legislature** / A12

## OSU-Cascades chief could take lead in Corvallis

*Board of Trustees considers Johnson as interim president after Alexander resigned*

**BY JACKSON HOGAN**  
The Bulletin

Becky Johnson, the leader of Oregon State University-Cascades, could become the temporary leader of the entire Oregon State University system.

The OSU board of trustees is considering hiring Johnson,

the vice president of OSU-Cascades, to be OSU's interim president. The board will vote on this promotion during its public meeting Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

"Dr. Johnson ... is most qualified to guide and help advance the priorities and momentum of the university,"

wrote board Chair Rani Borkar in a letter sent Tuesday to the OSU community. "Under her leadership, OSU-Cascades is known as one of the most innovative, new residential university campuses in the nation."

Borkar could not be reached for comment Tuesday afternoon.

If Johnson is chosen, she would resign as OSU-Cascades' vice president and begin a one-year term as interim

president of OSU on May 1, according to university spokesperson Steve Clark. Johnson would fill the post that opened when F. King Alexander resigned March 23 after reports showed he mishandled sexual misconduct cases during his time as the president of Louisiana State University, where he worked before coming to



Johnson

Corvallis. Provost and Executive Vice President Ed Feser is serving as acting president until an interim is chosen.

Borkar picked Johnson after a two-week period of chatting with OSU students, faculty, staff and alumni from both the Bend and Corvallis campuses, Clark said.

See **OSU** / A4

