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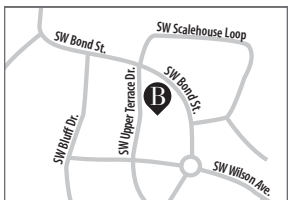
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

COVID-19 data for Wednesday, Jan. 19

Deschutes County cases: 36,193 (675 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 225 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 4,516 (93 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 62 (zero new deaths)

Jefferson County cases: 5,540 (49 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 70 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 549,942 (8,538 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 5,908 (15 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Wednesday: 58 (5 in ICU).

The Bulletin had been tracking the seven-day average case count based on state data since local cases were first reported, until the state stopped providing county-level data for weekends or holidays. When data is available, The Bulletin will continue to publish information about the pandemic.

NEWBERG SCHOOL BOARD

In early counts, 2 survive recall effort

BY GARY ALLEN

Oregon Capital Bureau

An early count of ballots cast in the recall efforts against Newberg School Board Chairman Dave Brown and Vice-chairman Brian Shannon show the pair likely will continue to hold their volunteer positions until at least next year, when their terms end.

Brown and Shannon drew the ire of some students, faculty and community members last year by, first, banning banners for Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ issues from all schools, then banning all political banners.

Community members began gathering signatures for a recall this winter.

Of 11,677 ballots counted by 8 p.m. Tuesday, about 51% voted against recalling Brown, with almost 49% in favor of ousting him.

Shannon saw similar numbers. Of 11,740 ballots cast in that race, the vice-chairman looked likely to hold his job by 51% to 49%.

The drive to recall Brown and Shannon, both elected in 2019, came about after more than seven months of discord on the normally staid school

board over issues ranging from prohibiting political symbols in schools to hiring supplemental legal counsel, terminating a popular school superintendent's contract and possible violations of the state's public meetings laws.

The recalls center on Brown and Shannon, but the ire of the organizations questioning the board's actions extend to board members Renee Powell and Trevor DeHart. The rancor includes a number of lawsuits filed against the board by constituents and a local special education assistant, by the

board against a handful of constituents and by outside organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union.

The lead-up to the election saw both sides canvassing neighborhoods with volunteers going door-to-door, ad campaigns in print and online, skirmishes over campaign signs and letter-writing campaigns directed to newspapers. Mailers for and against the recall stuffed local mailboxes for the past two weeks, and organizations such as the anti-abortion Oregon Right to Life and teachers' unions were increas-

ingly visible as well.

Yamhill County Clerk Brian Van Bergen, whose office is responsible for administering the election, said most of the ballots would be counted on election night, although a new state law gives voters an additional two weeks to "cure" any ballots that surfaced with voter signature issues.

In addition, because the school district is geographically positioned within three counties, a final vote tally will not be possible for several days and could possibly alter the final results.

How soon till legal psilocybin therapy rolls out in Oregon?

BY LIZZY ACKER

The Oregonian

The state still has a lot of work to do, but it won't be too long before Oregonians 21 and over will be able to do something almost no one else in the country can do — take psychedelic mushrooms in a therapeutic setting.

Oregon is the first state in the nation to vote to legalize psilocybin, which researchers believe could help treat depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and addiction. And with a year to go before the implementation deadline, the Oregon Health Authority is working to develop a system to administer the psychedelic in therapeutic settings in the state.

According to Measure 109, approved by Oregon voters in November of 2020, the state has until Dec. 31, 2022, to set up the framework that will regulate legal magic mushrooms.

Officials say they are on track to meet that deadline. In June, OHA brought on Angela Allbee to manage the newly-created Oregon Psilocybin Services Section.

Allbee's team is creating a training program, licensing, and compliance tracking and case management system, establishing a product tracking system, said OHA spokesperson Jonathan Modie, in accordance with Measure 109, as well as developing policy and procedure for the license and compliance programs.

While Allbee acknowledges the state is creating a program from scratch, she said they aren't without guides.

"Indigenous communities have practiced psilocybin use for centuries," she said, and the substance is legal in different places around the world.

As it works to create rules, Allbee said, the advisory board has reviewed scientific literature and invited a number of guest speakers with a wide array of information and expertise. They have held listening sessions and currently

have a survey open on the section's website.

According to Allbee, the agency will begin the work to complete the rules in September.

Final rules are expected to be adopted by Dec. 31, so the psilocybin section can start to accept applications for four types of licenses on Jan. 2, 2023 — licenses for facilitators, manufacturers, testing labs and service centers.

When psilocybin services will be available for Oregonians is less set in stone.

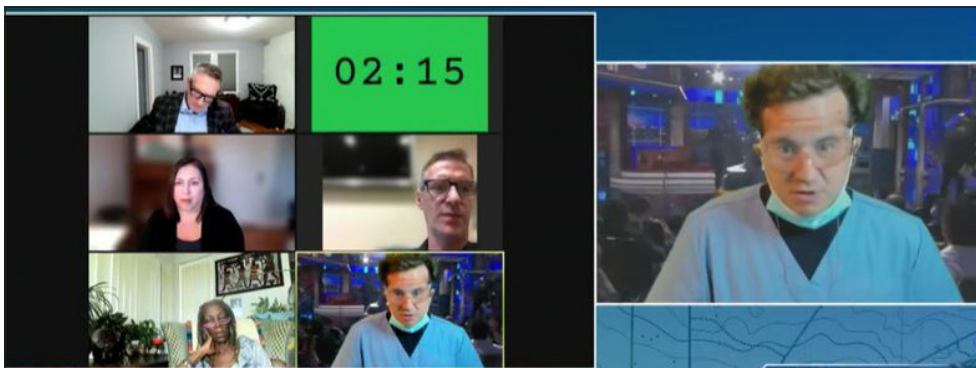
Licensees can begin their work once applications are approved, Modie said.

That process, he said, could take some time. Since the requirements aren't final known yet, it is hard to estimate when that might be.

For now, people interested in following the progress of Oregon's first-in-the-nation effort can sign up for email updates.



123RF



City of Portland via The Oregonian

These screenshots show two costumed members of the public who spoke Wednesday at a Portland City Council meeting.

Clown, 'COVID rap' make circus of Portland council meeting

BY SHANE DIXON KAVANAUGH

The Oregonian

A Portland City Council meeting faced some light-hearted disruption Wednesday after a pair of costumed speakers delivered dokey diatribes during separate comment periods.

The spectacle began when a man donning a red nose, red wig and white face paint used his allotted speaking time near the beginning of the virtual meeting to diss Mayor Ted Wheeler.

"I, as a member of the Clowning Society of America, would like to nominate (Portland Mayor) Edward Tevis Wheeler for 'Clown Of The Year,'" said the man, who identified himself as Ronald Grimaldi.

The mayor thanked the bozo for his public testimony before pivoting to items on the council agenda. The Clowning Society of America does not exist.

About 75 minutes later, a Texas-based YouTube comedian appeared prior to a council vote to approve a \$22,500 settlement on a lawsuit filed by a protester who

claimed an injury by Portland police in 2020.

The comedian, Alex Stein, wore hospital scrubs and a surgical mask around his neck as he launched into a rhyming routine promoting vaccinations against the coronavirus, a schtick that garnered him national headlines last week when he delivered it before the Dallas City Council.

This time the mayor, visibly miffed, cut Stein off. "This is on a settlement," Wheeler said. "If you cannot speak to this issue, we're going to move on."

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ISSUE

