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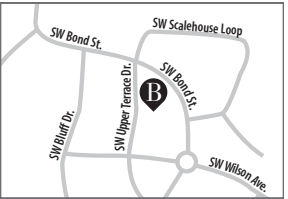
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

COVID-19 data for Jan. 21

Deschutes County cases: 37,530 (663 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 225 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 4,672 (114 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 62 (zero new deaths)

Jefferson County cases: 5,879 (213 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 71 (1 new death)
Oregon cases: 570,923 (10,947 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 5,936 (20 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Friday: 70 (3 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.

COVID-19: Another record-setting week of omicron

2 Bend ZIP codes report most infections

BRAD SCHMIDT

The Oregonian
Coronavirus infections spread across the state at record levels for yet another week, with some Central Oregon and Portland-area strongholds enduring while new hot spots developed in Southern and Eastern Oregon.

The state recorded nearly 55,000 coronavirus infections for the week ending Wednesday, up slightly from the previous week.

That's indicative that Oregon, like some other parts of the country, may be near the peak of the record-shattering omicron wave.

The good news so far is that omicron, while far more transmissible than any previous version of the coronavirus, has not produced a corresponding record-breaking surge in hos-

pitalizations.

The number of people hospitalized with coronavirus remains below the delta peak, although a record is still forecast by early February — particularly as the virus picks up momentum in parts of the state where a smaller share of people is vaccinated.

Populous ZIP codes for Bend, Redmond, Beaverton, Medford, Salem and Corvallis formed the top 10 for total new cases in the past week.

Meanwhile, weekly case rates per 10,000 residents, for ZIP codes with at least 100 new cases, topped out in places including Corvallis, Umatilla, Redmond, Madras, Bend and Prineville.

And ZIP codes with at least 100 new cases seeing the sharpest uptick in case rates include the likes of Eagle Point

in Southern Oregon, Prineville and Ontario in Eastern Oregon.

State officials have said cases may be plateauing in some urban locations, but rural counties with low vaccination rates may still see coronavirus cases keep rising.

Here are the 10 ZIP codes with the most new cases for the week ending Wednesday.

97701 Bend: This Deschutes County ZIP code added 1,511 cases, raising its tally to 13,206. That's the most in Oregon and 36th most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

97702 Bend: This Deschutes County ZIP code added 1,088 cases, raising its tally to 9,297. That's the third most in Oregon and 42nd most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

97006 Beaverton: This Washington County ZIP code

added 1,081 cases, raising its tally to 8,663. That's the fourth most in Oregon and 206th most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

97756 Redmond: This Deschutes County ZIP code added 983 cases, raising its tally to 8,213. That's the sixth most in Oregon and 23rd most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

97007 Beaverton/Aloha: This Washington County ZIP code added 940 cases, raising its tally to 8,119. That's the seventh most in Oregon and 227th most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

97301 Salem: This Marion County ZIP code added 855 cases, raising its tally to 9,503. That's the second most in Oregon and 62nd most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

97501 Medford: This Jack-

son County ZIP code added 820 cases, raising its tally to 8,442. That's the fifth most in Oregon and 45th most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

97504 Medford: This Jackson County ZIP code added 803 cases, raising its tally to 7,785. That's the eighth most in Oregon and 75th most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

97305 Salem: This Marion County ZIP code added 778 cases, raising its tally to 7,630. That's the ninth most in Oregon and 53rd most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

97330 Corvallis: This Benton County ZIP code added 768 cases, raising its tally to 4,779. That's the 34th most in Oregon and 232nd most per capita since the start of the pandemic.

GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Kristof should stay off the ballot, secretary of state says

BY JIM REDDEN

Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan on Thursday said the Oregon Supreme Court should keep former New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof off the ballot as a Democrat nominee for governor.

The filing responded to an appeal by Kristof of her previous ruling that he is not eligible to run for governor, primarily because he lived and voted out of state, and did not meet the 3-year residency requirement in the Oregon Constitution.

"My focus throughout this process has been to make sure Oregonians can trust the accuracy of their ballots," Fagan said. "I have a duty to Oregon voters to make sure every candidate on their ballot is qualified to serve."

Kristof campaign chair Carol Butler



Nicholas Kristof, declared candidate for governor, has argued that he was raised in Oregon, considers the state his home and only moved out for education and employment.

Monika Flueckiger/
World Economic

responded by saying "Secretary Fagan has yet to point to any legal precedent that supports her questionable political decision to remove Nick Kristof from the ballot. No press release or political spin can change these facts: Three of

her predecessors as secretary of state and a former Supreme Court Justice have rejected her position. No other Oregon secretary of state in the past 30 years has applied the residency standard in the way she has. And the only

applicable court case in Oregon's history, Wyatt vs. Myers, contradicts her decision. In the effort to keep one Oregonian out of this race, the voting rights of countless others are at risk"

Kristof has argued that he was raised in Oregon, considers the state his home and only moved out for education and employment. He maintains property in the state, he said, that he and his family repeatedly return to and live in.

The pending court decision has both short- and long-term implications. Kristof has raised far more money than any other Democrat contender, including Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek, who is stepping down to run for governor, and State Treasurer Tobias Read. The decision also may affect the voting rights of other Oregonians who have multiple residences they do not consider their homes.

Corrections department settles suit with former diversity manager

He alleged job was eliminated after he helped prisoners, workers pursue claims

BY NOELLE CROMBIE

The Oregonian

The Oregon Department of Corrections has paid \$350,000 to a former manager who alleged the department eliminated his job after he helped prisoners and workers pursue discrimination claims against the agency.

Gary Sims of Salem managed the Department of Corrections' diversity and inclusion office. He previously worked as a religious services administrator and a human resources manager.

In 2013, he became head of agency's Diversity and Inclu-

sion Office, where he said he was expected to address racial disparities among other inequities within the prison system.

In his 2019 lawsuit, he said the office was intended to provide workers and prisoners with "an avenue to internally raise concerns of discrimination and to correct those disparities."

According to his lawsuit, Sims "went beyond simply shuttling employee and inmate complaints of discrimination" through the prison bureaucracy. He claimed he helped staff and inmates advance those claims and advo-

cated on their behalf.

His alleges that his efforts didn't go over well with Department of Corrections brass — including Director Colette Peters, who in 2017, he said, told him "in no uncertain terms to cease" his advocacy and reminded him that his job was to forward complaints to Human Resources.

Later that year, he said he was told the Diversity and Inclusion Office would be closed and those duties would be taken on by another division. He said the decision was prompted by budget concerns. Sims alleges a Human Resources manager told him he had "nothing coming" from the agency and that he should look elsewhere for work.

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