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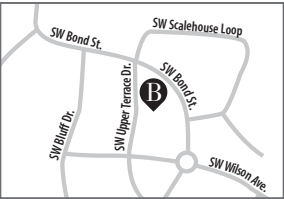
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OUR ADDRESS
Street.....320 SW Upper Terrace Drive
Suite 200
Bend, OR 97702
Mailing.....P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708



ADMINISTRATION
Publisher
Heidi Wright541-383-0341
Editor
Gerry O'Brien.....541-633-2166

DEPARTMENT HEADS
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

COVID-19 data for Thursday Jan. 27

Deschutes County cases: 40,430 (454 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 231 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 5,145 (106 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 62 (zero new deaths)

Jefferson County cases: 6,348 (88 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 71 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 613,221 (7,871 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 6,067 (19 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Thursday: 83 (9 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: OHSU research

‘Super immunity’ more widely possible

FEDOR ZARKHIN

The Oregonian
Getting a COVID-19 infection before or after the COVID-19 vaccine can create “super immunity,” researchers in Oregon found, complementing previous research that could point to an eventual path to co-existence with the virus.
“These results, together with our previous work, point to a time when SARS-CoV-2 may become a mostly mild endemic infection like a seasonal respiratory tract infection, instead of a worldwide pandemic,” one of the Oregon Health & Science University study’s co-authors, Marcel Curlin, said in a statement.

More immediately, the research indicates people who have had COVID-19 should get vaccinated, senior co-author Fikadu Tafesse said.
“The combination is the best,” Tafesse said in an interview.
The OHSU research team previously found that the blood of those who had an



Ryan Brennecke/TheBulletin

Sam Hester, a family practice medical assistant supervisor with Mosaic Medical, administers the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine into the arm of Julie Stamper, the kitchen coordinator at Family Kitchen, during a vaccination clinic Feb. 19 at Bethlehem Inn in Bend.

infection after being vaccinated — called a breakthrough infection — produced a dramatic antibody response when exposed to the virus, as com-

pared to blood from people who were vaccinated but didn’t get sick.
Now, the research shows that getting a shot after recover-

ing from COVID-19 provides similarly strong protections, dubbed “super immunity.” In both cases, antibodies in the blood were found to be 10

times or more as potent as the antibodies in people who have been vaccinated but never had the disease, the researchers found.

People with this “super immunity” should be better protected from both infection and severe illness, the researchers said.

Tafesse was cautious about how the public should interpret the results, warning that it is not worth intentionally getting a COVID-19 infection, especially with the risk of long-term consequences.

“Trust me,” Tafesse said. “I get that question almost every day.”

But the question could be moot because the omicron variant is so incredibly transmissible that health officials have said they believe most Oregonians will come in contact with it.

The “end game” could be that a combination of vaccinations, booster shots and infection-derived immunity make infections from the virus less and less severe, Tafesse said.

Oregon reopens applications for rent assistance

JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

The Oregonian
Oregon’s housing department resumed taking applications for emergency rental assistance on Wednesday after an eight-week hiatus.
The state agency stopped distributing aid to renters in December, saying it had used up or allocated its \$289 million in federal rental funds.
Delia Hernández, a spokesperson for the Oregon Housing and Community Services department, said the state has an estimated \$43 million to \$60 million to distribute to

renters who submit new applications for the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program on or after Wednesday.
The Oregon Legislature set aside the funds during its December special session held to

address evictions.
Hernández said the state would prioritize applicants with the greatest need— larger households, farther behind on rent payments, impacted by the 2020 wildfires or living in an area with a high number of low-income voters.

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The state agency has sent more than \$240 million in rental assistance to about 35,000 households since June, when an early pandemic moratorium on evictions expired. They’ve received about 30,000 that they haven’t processed.
In June, the Legislature passed a “safe harbor” bill, which gave 60 days of eviction protections to those who had applied for rental assistance but had not yet gotten aid. The Legislature discarded that rule during the special session, giv-

ing renters protections until their applications were processed.
But while the state distributed more aid in that short period of time than it did in previous full years, it also lagged in sending funds to people who had applied, and some renters said they were left waiting for weeks with pending requests or without a status update on their applications. Many were waiting past the deadline when their protections expired.
Those who need assistance can apply on the state’s rental assistance portal.

Lewis & Clark College announces 1st woman, Black president

Associated Press
PORTLAND — Dr. Robin Holmes-Sullivan will be the first woman and first Black person to become president of Lewis & Clark College in the school’s 155-year history.
She will step into the role in July after president Wim Wiewel retires, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.
Holmes-Sullivan is currently vice president for student life and dean of students at Lewis & Clark, which is a private liberal arts college in Portland.
“It’s obviously something that is going to be, and is, very meaningful to me and to our school and also to the young people who will be looking at me as someone who they can feel inspired by,” Holmes-Sullivan said. “They can

realize that they can dream big.”
Prior to Lewis & Clark, Holmes-Sullivan worked for the University of California system as vice president of student affairs. Before that, she spent almost three decades at the University of Oregon.
She started at the University of Oregon as a clinical coordinator in the university’s counseling center and eventually became the vice president of student life.
The Lewis & Clark board of trustees selected Holmes-Sullivan as president following a nationwide search that attracted over 100 applicants, according to the college.
“In these tumultuous times, especially in regard to student issues, I can’t think of a more level-headed and experienced leader than Robin,” Wiewel said.



Nina Johnson/Lewis & Clark College

Dr. Robin Holmes-Sullivan has been named the new president of Lewis & Clark College in Portland.

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