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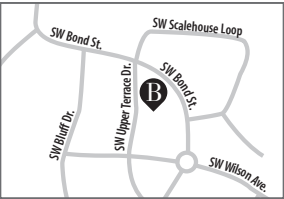
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AFTER HOURS
Newsroom 541-383-0348
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NEWSROOM EMAIL
Business business@bendbulletin.com
City Desk news@bendbulletin.com
Features communitylife@bendbulletin.com
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NEWSROOM FAX
541-385-5804

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



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

DEPARTMENT HEADS
Advertising
Brian Naplachowski 541-383-0370
Circulation/Operations
Jeremy Feldman 541-617-7830
Finance
Anthony Georger 541-383-0324
Human Resources 541-383-0340

TALK TO AN EDITOR
City Julie Johnson 541-383-0367
Business, Features, GO! Magazine
Jody Lawrence-Turner 541-383-0308
Editorials Richard Coe 541-383-0353
News Tim Doran 541-383-0360
Photos 541-383-0366
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REDMOND BUREAU
Mailing address P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708
Phone 541-617-7829

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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

COVID-19 data for Friday Jan. 28

Deschutes County cases: 40,838 (401 new cases)
Deschutes County deaths: 231 (zero new deaths)
Crook County cases: 5,202 (62 new cases)
Crook County deaths: 61 (1 new death)

Jefferson County cases: 6,411 (35 new cases)
Jefferson County deaths: 71 (zero new deaths)
Oregon cases: 620,652 (7,222 new cases)
Oregon deaths: 6,086 (19 new deaths)
COVID-19 patients hospitalized at St. Charles Bend on Friday: 82 (8 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.

MOUNT HOOD

Crews rescue 3 climbers in 5 days

ZANE SPARLING

The Oregonian

Authorities on Thursday warned mountaineers to take precautions on Mount Hood after rescue crews performed three missions over five days, including saving one man who was seriously hurt.

George Stevens, 28, was with two friends Tuesday evening when he attempted to snow-board down from the steep Hogsback snow ridge. Instead, he slid on ice and plummeted into a gaping fumarole — or volcanic vent — and was unable to escape, according to the Hood River County Sheriff's Office.

Volunteers with the Hood River Crag Rats and Portland Mountain Rescue responded to the area, known as Devils Kitchen, about 8:30 p.m. They belayed a rescuer who was wearing a respirator and gas monitors down to Stevens about midnight. He was placed



High winds whip snow off the western peaks of Mount Hood as seen from Government Camp.

in a litter and hoisted to the surface.
The rescuers set up a rope

system to take Stevens, an Idaho resident, down 2,500 feet to the top of Timberline Ski

Area's Palmer chair lift. From there, a snow tractor took Stevens to an ambulance at the

Timberline Lodge parking lot.

The volunteers cleared the mountain at 4:30 a.m. Wednesday.

"It was well below freezing, pitch black dark, but it was clear so it was beautiful," said Paige Baugher of Portland Mountain Rescue, estimating the wind speed at 20 mph.

The first of the three recent rescue missions started after Iain Moses, 27, reached the summit of Oregon's tallest peak about 9:50 a.m. Saturday but realized his equipment was failing and that he could not descend alone.

Rescuers escorted Moses, a Eugene resident, down the mountain.

The sheriff's office reported he was unhurt and "in good shape."

Then, late Saturday night, rescuers saved a climber who had missed Timberline Lodge on descent and "ended up far off track," Baugher said.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District offers grants for on-farm projects

The Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District announced it has \$300,000 in available funding to help farmers and ranchers improve and upgrade their irrigation systems.

The announcement, made in a press release, says the funding is for its On-Farm Efficiency Water Conservation Investment Program.

One objective of the program is to help farmers currently using flood irrigation convert to sprinkler systems. Priority will also be given to projects that reduce off-site impacts to water bodies, including streams, rivers and irrigation canals.



Irrigation wheels help water fields on a farm between Tumalo and Sisters in 2018.

Erin Kilcullen, general manager for Deschutes Soil and Water Conserva-

tion District, said that between 23% to 26% of Central Oregon Irrigation Dis-

trict patrons use flood irrigation, and around 1% of Tumalo Irrigation District patrons use flood irrigation.

Funding is available only to Deschutes County landowners with water rights. Eligibility requires that the landowner produces hay or other agricultural crops or raises agricultural livestock.

Funding limits are set at \$20,000 or 75% of the total cost of the project, whichever is less. Applications are available through the Conservation District website. Landowners who meet the criteria for the funding must apply by Feb. 11.

For additional information on the program, contact Tom Bennett, 541-626-8590 or tbdeschuteswcd@outlook.com, conservation technician for the organization.

— Bulletin staff report

Chief justice asks lawyers to act as public defenders

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Martha Walters in an unusual public request is asking members of the State Bar to take on clients in need of public defense.

In a letter Thursday, Walters asked members of the Oregon State Bar to "help in representing those who are accused of a crime and cannot afford counsel," calling it a very basic and fundamental right that Oregon is struggling to accommodate, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution affords people charged with crimes a lawyer provided by the state if

they cannot afford their own.

As of Friday, over 40 people in Oregon did not have a public defender. Of those 26 were in custody, according to the Office of Public Defense Services.

The shortage is most pronounced in the state's largest counties, including Multnomah, Marion, Lane and Washington.

A report released last week by the American Bar Association found Oregon has just 30% of the public defenders it needs to do adequate representation for its current caseload.

Kotek's departure prompts appointments in the Legislature

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

The departure of former Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek, a Democrat, to run for governor has led to several appointments, one to fill her district seat and another within the party's leadership in the Legislature.

On Thursday, Multnomah County commissioners appointed Travis Nelson, a registered nurse to the House District 44 seat in Portland vacated by Kotek.

According to the House Majority Office, Nelson will be the first Black LGBTQ+ member of the House and the 10th member of color in the current House. There have

been a few white gay men, including current Rep. Rob Nosse of Portland

Nelson will be sworn in at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, 30 minutes before the start of the 2022 legislative session. He will serve through Jan. 9, 2023, but is a candidate for a full two-year term in the May 17 Democratic primary.

Nelson earned a degree in nursing from Washington State University. He moved to the Portland area in 2005. He is a board-certified registered nurse, a member of the Oregon Nurses Association and a founding member of the Alliance of Black Nurses of Oregon. He also has been a union representative and a former

Black Caucus chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon.

In the Legislature, Rep. Tawna Sanchez, D-Portland, will be the next House co-leader of the Legislature's joint budget-writing committee.

Sanchez's appointment will take effect Tuesday, when Rep. Dan Rayfield, of Corvallis, who holds the co-leader position, is expected to be named House Speaker, succeeding Kotek. The speaker appoints the leaders and members of all committees. Sanchez, director of family services at the Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland, would be the first Native American to hold one of the Legislature's most influential positions.



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