

The Bulletin

How to reach us

CIRCULATION
Didn't receive your paper?
Start or stop subscription?
541-385-5800

PHONE HOURS
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday
7 a.m.-11 a.m. Saturday-Sunday
and holidays

GENERAL INFORMATION
541-382-1811
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

ONLINE
www.bendbulletin.com

EMAIL
bulletin@bendbulletin.com

AFTER HOURS
Newsroom.....541-383-0348
Circulation.....541-385-5800

NEWSROOM EMAIL
Business.....business@bendbulletin.com
City Desk.....news@bendbulletin.com
Features.....communitylife@bendbulletin.com
Sports.....sports@bendbulletin.com

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
Maria Johnson.....541-617-7830
Finance Wendy Dougherty...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
Sports Mark Morical.....541-383-0318

TALK TO A REPORTER
Bend/Deschutes Government
Brenna Visser.....541-633-2160
Business
Suzanne Roig.....541-633-2117
Calendar.....541-383-0304
Education
Bryce Dole.....541-617-7854
Fine Arts/Features
David Jasper.....541-383-0349
Health
Suzanne Roig.....541-633-2117
La Pine.....541-383-0367
Public Lands/Environment
Michael Kohn.....541-617-7818
Public Safety
Garrett Andrews.....541-383-0325
Redmond
Joe Siess.....541-617-7820
Salem/State Government...541-383-0367
Sisters.....541-383-0367
Sunriver.....541-383-0367

REDMOND BUREAU
Mailing address.....P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708
Phone.....541-617-7829

CORRECTIONS
The Bulletin's primary concern is that all stories are accurate. If you know of an error in a story, call us at 541-383-0367.

TO SUBSCRIBE
Call us.....541-385-5800
• Home delivery and E-Edition.....\$7 per week
• By mail.....\$9.50 per week
• E-Edition only.....\$4.50 per week
To sign up for our e-Editions, visit
www.bendbulletin.com to register.

TO PLACE AN AD
Classified.....541-385-5809
Other information.....541-382-1811

OBITUARIES
No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays. When submitting, please include your name, address and contact number. Call to ask about deadlines, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Phone.....541-385-5809
Email.....obits@bendbulletin.com

LEGAL NOTICES
Email.....legals@bendbulletin.com

OTHER SERVICES
Back issues.....541-385-5800
Photo reprints.....541-383-0366
Apply for a job.....541-383-0340

All Bulletin payments are accepted at the drop box at City Hall or at The Bulletin, P.O. Box 6020, Bend, OR 97708. Check payments may be converted to an electronic funds transfer. The Bulletin, USPS #552-520, is published daily by Central Oregon Media Group, 320 SW Upper Terrace Drive, Bend, OR 97702. Periodicals postage paid at Bend, OR. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Bulletin circulation department, P.O. Box 6020, Bend, OR 97708. The Bulletin retains ownership and copyright protection of all staff-prepared news copy, advertising copy and news or ad illustrations. They may not be reproduced without explicit prior approval.

LOCAL, STATE & REGION



STAND TALL

Associated Press
The Astoria Column, dedicated in 1926, stands 125 feet on top of Coxcomb Hill overlooking the Columbia River, with murals that celebrate the earliest moments in Northwest history between 1792 — 1818. Visitors may climb the narrow, 164-step spiral staircase to see the views atop the column.

«Visitors to the Astoria Column walk in silhouette with their dog Wednesday in Astoria.
Charles Rex Arbogast/AP

OREGON

Public defender crisis leads to criminal case dismissals

Associated Press
PORTLAND — Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Martha Walters has sent a letter to Gov. Kate Brown and legislative leaders asking for a summit to address a crippling shortage of public defenders that's led to the dismissal of dozens of criminal cases and a huge court backlog.

Because of pandemic court closures, public defenders face a tremendous backlog of cases and aren't taking new clients. Cases can't be heard unless the defendant has an attorney, and several hundred people are currently in custody statewide without representation, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting. Thirty-five cases in Multnomah County, which is home to Portland, have been dismissed by judges over prosecutors' objections because of the public defender shortage, OPB said, citing a memo.

Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt said in an opinion piece published in The Oregonian last month that the justice system is "nearing the point of break-

age" because of the public defender shortage and the departure of overworked prosecutors.

Schmidt said a judge dismissed three cases in March, including a domestic violence case that included allegations of strangulation, because the defendants lacked an attorney. More than 150 felony cases in the Portland area lack a public defender and can't be prosecuted, he wrote.

In nearby Washington County, 11 people in custody are without an attorney, court staff told OPB this week. In Multnomah County, more than 260 people are without an attorney. Of those, 22 are in custody.

In Oregon, public defense is run through the Office of Public Defense Services, which secures and pays contracts to public defense firms.

Walters, the Supreme Court justice, is responsible for appointing the commission members who hire and oversee the agency's executive director.

State lawmakers last month allocated \$12.8 million in ad-

ditional funds to add public defenders and support staff to the hardest-hit counties, including Multnomah, Washington, Lane and Marion. But Walters said in her letter that "providers have found it more difficult than anticipated to do that hiring and are also facing the unanticipated loss of experienced counsel" and state leaders need to urgently address the "immediate crisis."

Leading up to the summit, Walters said she'll host a series of meetings with prosecutors, judges and public defenders starting next week. Her first meeting will be next week in Multnomah County where, she noted, a lack of staffing at the sheriff's office has made it challenging to assist with attorney-client visits "critical to case resolution," as well as transporting people in custody to court hearings.

"The current crisis is having a real impact on defendants who have a constitutional right to counsel, on courts' ability to resolve cases, on the safety of our communities," Walters wrote.

LOCAL BRIEFING

COVID-19 community levels for Central Oregon

The Bulletin is no longer publishing COVID-19 daily case counts by county.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention monitors community levels of COVID-19 to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

The CDC listed the following levels for Central Oregon Monday:

Deschutes County: Low
Crook County: Low
Jefferson County: Low

Precautions the CDC recommends for communities with low levels: Stay up to date on vaccines and get tested if you have symptoms.

Bend to resume water shut-offs for unpaid bills

Water shut-offs will resume for people who haven't paid their water bill starting July 1, ending Bend's two-year-long shut-off moratorium due to the pandemic.

Since March of 2020, the city has suspended water service shut-offs for accounts that are past due in light of the financial challenges brought on by the pandemic. But with the city no longer in a COVID-19-related state of emergency, this practice is coming to a close, according to the city of Bend.

Roughly 2,500 customers owe the city \$1 million in water and sewer bills, said Dana Wilson, the city's utility business manager.

Customers who are currently behind on paying their bills will be allowed to enroll in a payment plan between now and June 30 to avoid having their water shut off, according to the city.

For more information, contact the city of Bend utility billing department at 541-388-5515 or utilityassistance@bendoregon.gov.

For questions about getting financial assistance in paying utilities, call NeighborImpact at 541-548-2380.

— Bulletin staff reports

Oregon sues COVID testing company

BY ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press
SALEM — The state of Oregon sued an Illinois-based COVID-19 testing company on Thursday, saying its owners took millions of dollars in federal funds and insurance money for themselves and boasted about buying a mansion and expensive sports cars.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum sued the Center for Covid Control, or CCC, and its testing partner, Doctors Clinical Laboratory, for deceptively marketing testing services and for violating Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act.

The lawsuit says Aleya Siyaj and Akbar Ali Syed, the married couple who own CCC, had no prior experience in the medical field or medical testing and had run an axe-throwing lounge and a photography studio.

This raises questions about how they managed to become the recipients of federal funds for testing. The lawsuit noted they're also being investigated by the FBI and Illinois public health authorities. FBI agents searched the company's headquarters near Chicago in January, according to local news reports.

Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson sued the CCC in January, accusing it of improperly handling tests and providing fake results.

The CCC did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. A phone number listed on its website was disconnected. The website said CCC has paused its operations "and will not resume collection of patient samples until staffing resources permit CCC to operate at full capacity."



Washington State Office of the Attorney General via Washington Post, file

According to a lawsuit filed in early February, a coronavirus test clinic allegedly stored samples in red garbage bags for more than a week instead of properly refrigerating them. Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum filed a lawsuit Thursday against the company, Center for Covid Control, for deceptively marketing COVID testing services.

Oregon's lawsuit alleges CCC and Doctors Clinical Laboratory falsely told consumers they could provide accurate PCR COVID-19 results within 72 hours, but instead produced questionable test results and lacked proper capacity to store and process the thousands of test specimens they received each day.

"These companies were ill-equipped to scale up as fast as they did," Rosenblum said in a statement. The lawsuit says CCC grew from one testing site in Illinois — in the former axe-throwing lounge — to become one of the largest testing center operators in America, with 300 test sites across the United States, including five in Oregon.

OREGON

Assistant principal named nation's best

BY BETSY HAMMOND
The Oregonian
Katherine Holden, assistant principal of Ashland Middle School, has been named the national assistant principal of the year in recognition of how she helped creatively and cheerfully guide her school through the aftermath of 2020's home-destroying wildfires.

Holden said in a statement that she considers it "my mission to do everything I can to create a school environment where students feel safe and staff feel supported so they can be their best and have fun teaching and learning."

"As we come through the hardest two school years ever," she said, "I want to take this opportunity to give thanks to all assistant principals for the sometimes overlooked hard work to run schools and support our communities."

The assistant principal of the year title is awarded each year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

In September 2020, the Alameda Fire destroyed roughly 2,600 homes and displaced residents in and around the communities of Ashland, Talent and Phoenix. Holden transitioned the school's gym into an emergency shelter, contest officials said. And despite the lingering effects of the fire and pandemic, she made Ashland Middle School a positive, playful and community-minded school, they said.



OSTEO STRONG®
1543 N.E. 3rd Street, Bend
(541) 241-7067
bend@osteoststrong.me
WWW.OSTEOSTRONG.ME
f/osteoststrongcentraloregon

OsteoStrong® helps you strengthen the foundation of your body - the skeletal system. Unlike other health solutions, you don't have to spend hours at a gym or exert physical energy that will leave you feeling tired by the time you're done.

FAST: Less than 10 minutes
Once per week
Sweat-free • Painless
Will not leave you feeling fatigued
Will not leave you feeling sore the next day
Call to schedule a FREE SESSION today!