

CENTRAL OREGON

Director hired for office on homeless solutions

Spokesman staff report

A new regional office to address homelessness in Central Oregon named its first director, Cheyenne Purrington, on Thursday. The Coordinated Homeless Response Office is a joint effort from local city governments and Deschutes County to collaborate in responding to homelessness in Central Oregon.

"We have a unique opportunity to move our response efforts in the right direction and end the trauma of homelessness for our most vulnerable neighbors," Purrington said in a news release.

"Homelessness is a complex topic, but its solutions are quite simple. We know what works, and that's what we're going to do."

Purrington was formerly the executive director at the Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless and a consultant in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has over two decades of experience addressing solutions to homelessness.

"I look forward to having someone with Cheyenne's experience provide important leadership as we work to find solutions on homelessness," said Redmond Mayor George Endicott, a governing board

member of the collaborative office.

The collaborative office includes a governing board of directors with a representative from the Deschutes County Commission, Patti Adair, and from the city councils of Bend, Redmond, Sisters and La Pine.

Funding to create the collaborative office came from House Bill 4123, which allocated \$1 million over two years to Deschutes County and the cities of Bend, Redmond, Sisters and La Pine to strengthen their responses to homelessness.



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

People live along Hunnell Road on the north side of Bend in November.

Residents oppose development on Crooked River Ranch

BY PAT KRUIS

Madras Pioneer

A standing room only crowd packed into the Ranch Chapel on Crooked River Ranch Thursday evening, Sept. 8. Those who chose to testify told the Jefferson County Planning Commission why they didn't want a new 54-lot development on the Ranch.

Ken Bush lives on Pony Tail Road, adjacent to the property for the proposed development. "Having seen what happened to Idanha and Detroit, Oregon I know there's no way to escape the ranch if fire comes from the

south or southwest," said Bush. The proposed development is beside Quail Road, one of the two routes to exit the Ranch. "We don't have enough of an exit program."

Kent Inman lives on Southwest Shad. "It would be a shame to turn this whole ranch into a development. We don't have enough open space as it is." Kyle Koopman said, "If you change the rules you're setting a precedent for others to want to change zoning on their property."

Testimony from a lawyer for

Central Oregon Landwatch drew applause. "It is unlikely this will be approved," said Carol Macbeth. "There are thousands of acres already available for rural residential housing. That has to happen before you make an exception." Landwatch believes the property should remain rangeland and be used for agricultural uses such as grazing, or cultivating crops such as lavender.

The seven-member planning commission listened quietly to responses. The commission must decide whether to change

zoning of 142 acres from rangeland to rural residential. In the 1970s, Bill and Murdoch MacPherson began turning the Crooked River Ranch into rural residential property. The 10,000 acres now has 2,646 privately owned lots.

At that time the MacPherson family reserved 142 acres and now, five decades later, the family wants to develop the property into 54 lots each a minimum of two-acres in size.

Attorney Adam Smith represented the developer about the impracticality of turning

the land into agricultural uses. "You won't find a similarly situated parcel in Jefferson County or in the state of Oregon with 140 acres surrounded by a large, rural residential area," argued Smith.

Family members Eric Myhre and Murdock "Murry" MacPherson Jr. did not speak at the meeting. "We have the interest of Crooked River Ranch at heart," said Myhre after the meeting, "where I don't think Central Oregon Landwatch does. They would rather have a chicken ranch on there rather

than nice new homes. Which would neighbors rather have?" Oregon Landwatch has entered its opinions into the record with the Jefferson County Planning Commission, but has not filed a lawsuit. Macbeth says the organization's trustees would make that decision.

Technical issues prevented people online from attending the hearing, so the commission voted to extend the hearing to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 27 again at the Ranch Chapel so people who live on the Ranch can attend.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Redmond, Culver teachers win awards

Two Central Oregon teachers have been named by the state as regional teachers of the year.

The teachers who received the awards are Ben Lawson, of Redmond High School, and Derek Burbank, of Culver High School.

They will each receive a \$1,000 award from the Oregon Lottery and will be submitted for the state's teacher of the year award, which will be announced in the fall, according to a press release from the Oregon Department of Education.

"Through countless challenges in the past several years, Oregon educators have continued to consistently come through for Oregon's students," said Colt Gill, director of the Oregon Department of Education.

Bend man dies in U.S. Highway 97 crash

A 64-year-old Bend man, Ted Anderson, died Sept. 11 after his car ran off of U.S. Highway 97 north of Terrebonne and rolled over.

Anderson was driving a white Ford Expedition on Highway 97 between Redmond and Madras when his car "left the roadway and rolled" around 2:18 a.m. Sunday, a press release from the Oregon State Police said.

Highway 97 was closed for around three hours following the accident, the release said.

Oregon State Police responded to the scene along with personnel from sheriff's offices in Deschutes and Jefferson counties and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

RPA students nab academic honors

Seven Redmond Proficiency Academy students earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

These programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them meaningfully connect to colleges and stand out during the admissions process.

The following RPA students earned honors in the rural/small town award category: senior Benjamin Barrie, senior Vanya Crumrine, senior Jarren Dewhitt, senior Sarah Eng-Kryston, senior Richard Louvar, senior Jackson Patron, and Kinsey Newell, who graduated in 2022.

"We are excited that our students have earned

this important recognition and are proud of their achievements in the classroom and on College Board Assessments," said RPA executive director Jon Bullock in a release. "We are looking forward to seeing how they use these honors to their advantage as they plan for their post-high school futures."

Eligible students will be invited to apply during their sophomore or junior year and will be awarded at the beginning of the next school year. Students will receive their awards in time to include them on their college and scholarship applications.

Redmond Proficiency Academy (RPA) is a tuition-free public charter school located in Redmond. Now in its 14th year, RPA serves over 900 students from grades 6th-12th throughout Central Oregon.

Redmond-area House districts a key battleground for Legislature

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

Two Bend area state House seats are the latest battleground in Democrats' push to create a larger toehold in the traditionally Republican areas east of the Cascades.

After winning House District 54 in 2020, Democrats are aiming for House District 53.

Republicans want to hold House District 53 and try to flip House District 54 back to the GOP side.

The 2020 US Census required redistricting legislative and congressional districts to balance population sizes, a process completed by the Oregon legislature in September 2021. The new districts go into effect with the 2022 election.

Democrats currently hold a 37-23 majority in the House and 18-11-1 majority in the Senate (One senator elected as a Republican has changed to the

Independent Party).

All 60 House seats are up for election in November. Sixteen Senate seats are on the ballot. Senate District 27, which includes the combined area of House District 53 and 54 won't be up for election until 2024. Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, won re-election in 2020.

The legislature does not have a scheduled session until January 2023, with lawmakers elected in November taking their seats.

BOOMING BEND LIFTS DEMOCRATS

Deschutes County and suburban Portland recorded booming population growth in the 2010s. The demographic shifts ensured the Bend area would have more compact legislative districts.

Higher percentages of new residents in the Bend area have tended to vote Democratic, a departure from the long history

of Republicans winning all or most of seats east of the Cascades.

The trend toward Democrats that began in Bend has shown up more recently in the election of Democrat Phil Chang to the Deschutes County Commission and the county voting for Joe Biden over Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election. Biden was the first Democrat since Lyndon Johnson in 1964 to win a majority of the county vote (Bill Clinton won a plurality in 1992 in a three-way race with President George H.W. Bush and independent H. Ross Perot).

House District 54 in Bend was represented by Republicans for 18 of the first 20 years of the 21st century. Moderate Republicans Jason Conger, Knute Buehler and Cheri Helt won the seat despite increasingly larger Democratic voter registration margins. Incumbent Rep. Jason

Kropf, D-Bend, defeated Helt in 2020 and is seeking re-election against Republican Judy Trego. The district has a strong Democratic voter tilt.

House District 53 has been represented by Republicans for all of the 21st Century. It was significantly realigned by redistricting.

Nicknamed "the doughnut district" to describe how it wrapped around Bend, it took in Redmond, part of north Bend, and swung around to pull

in Sunriver and La Pine.

The solidly Republican seat was long held by Rep. Gene Whisnant, R-Sunriver, who retired in 2018. Rep. Jack Zika, R-Redmond, won the last two elections. While often working with their Republican colleagues in House District 54, both Whisnant and Zika compiled more conservative voting records than the Bend moderates.

Redistricting cleaved the bottom of House District 53, with

Sunriver and other areas now mostly in House District 55, centered around Klamath Falls.

The more compact House District 53 is centered on Redmond and northern Bend and has a Democratic voter registration tilt. Zika has opted not to seek another term.

The November election is between two northern Bend residents, Democratic attorney Emerson Levy and Republican businessman Michael Sipe.

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Partners In Care

Mindfulness & Grief Class

The eight-week class defines mindfulness and offers instruction on managing the grief process with mindfulness tools such as present moment awareness and using meditation and the breath to stabilize difficult emotions and intrusive thoughts that occur related to grief. **Please call to preregister.**

8 weekly sessions beginning October 4 - November 22
Tuesdays - 3:00PM - 4:30PM

Open to the community at no cost!

Register by calling (541) 382-5882 and a Zoom registration will be emailed to you.

(541) 382-5882 PartnersBend.org

Hospice | Home Health | Hospice House | Transitions | Palliative Care | Grief Support

A Night of Music with Mosaic



Mosaic is turning twenty! To celebrate, we are hosting a free, fun-filled evening of music!

- Live bands: Blackstrap Bluegrass and iChiringa!
- Prizes for the first 100 people to RSVP! Register online at mosaicmedical.org
- Special award presentation + learn more about our Prineville roots!

CELEBRATE WITH US! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Friday,
Sept. 23, 2022
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.



LIVE MUSIC



GAMES



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High Desert Music Hall
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