

# Blockbuster movie comes to Netflix

By **KYLE SPURR**  
*The Bulletin*



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

**Filmmakers Zeke Kamm, left, and Taylor Morden photographed ahead of the world premiere of their documentary 'The Last Blockbuster,' which debuted at BendFilm's pop-up drive-in theater in Bend in July.**

Before two Bend filmmakers created their documentary "The Last Blockbuster," they thought it would be funny if their movie appeared on Netflix.

As the most popular streaming service in the world, Netflix led to the demise of video rental stores such as Blockbuster, which went from about 9,000 stores at its peak to just one off Third Street in Bend.

Starting Monday, the unexpected will happen. The Blockbuster documentary will be available on Netflix. The film, which director Taylor Morden created with filmmaker Zeke Kamm, is expected to be on the platform for at least a year.

"The irony is not lost on us," Morden said. "Netflix and Blockbuster had a fascinating relationship and that's a big part of the story we are telling with the documentary."

Morden and Kamm pitched their film to Netflix through their distributor, 1091 Pictures. The film frames Netflix as the antagonist that dominated the home video marketplace so it was a strange pitch, Morden said.

"We knew it was weird to say, 'Hey Netflix we made a movie. You are kind of the bad guys in the movie, but we still think your audience would get a kick out of it,'" Morden said.

The documentary highlights how Netflix did not act maliciously. The company simply made better business decisions and changed the way people enjoy home movies by allowing them to choose films from home rather than travel to a video rental store.

In fact, the film details how Blockbuster had a chance to buy Netflix.

"Through some amount of hubris and arrogance, Blockbuster decides it doesn't need it," Morden said. "Netflix rises to become the dominant force in home video entertainment. Then fast forward to 2021, and our little documentary about how all that happened is on Netflix."

Beyond the business side of Blockbuster, the

film explores the nostalgia around video stores and how the Bend location outlasted all the other Blockbusters.

The film follows Bend Blockbuster manager Sandi Harding as she learns her store became the last on Earth. The only other Blockbuster in Perth, Australia, closed in March 2019.

Morden, a director, cinematographer and editor who has mostly made independent documentaries in his career, said it is a thrill for him and Kamm to have their documentary end up on a worldwide platform such as Netflix.

"Getting anything on Netflix or any major streaming platform is a huge deal," Morden said. "This is the Hollywood ending for Zeke and I."

# Fasting prayer for Lent

**Dear Annie:** Recently, I came across this poem. I've seen it attributed to Pope Francis — not sure whether he actually said it. In any case, I thought you might share it with your readers. You don't have to be Catholic to get something out of them.

"Do you want to fast this Lent? / Fast from hurting words and say kind words. / Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. / Fast from anger and be filled with patience. / Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. / Fast from worries and have trust in God. / Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. / Fast from pressures and be prayerful. / Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. / Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. / Fast from grudges and be reconciled. / Fast from words and be silent so you can listen." — *Gran*

**Dear Gran:** That wisdom is certainly universal — and more needed than ever. Thanks for writing.

**Dear Annie:** You were so right to encourage "RSVPP" to attend the son's wedding, despite the estrangement. My son invited me to his wedding, and I

went, despite hardly being involved in his life.

I was slighted during the event, in keeping with what our relationship had turned into, but I was strong. I have that milestone, a universal and timeless tradition in my memory. My only daughter actually told me I would not be coming to her wedding, and I was absent. Today, my son is dead, and I have no regrets because I have that moment in my memory of his short life. The awkward moments have faded. Perhaps they should read Karl Pillemer's "Fault Lines, Fractured Families and How to Mend Them," before

they go. They are not alone and maybe their presence will be a turn in the relationship. For whatever reason, the son has made the first move. The couple will likely be having their grandchildren. They don't want to keep the door closed on the possibility "RSVPP" will share in that joy. Life, as I learned, is unpredictable. — *A Mother Always*

**Dear AMA:** I am so sorry for the loss of your son. Your insights are valuable, and I appreciate the book recommendation.

**DEAR ANNIE**



**ANNIE LANE**  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

# Cascade snowpack more vulnerable to climate change, study suggests

By **BRADLEY W. PARKS**  
*Oregon Public Broadcasting*

New research suggests mountain snowpack in the Cascades is among the most vulnerable in the U.S. to the effects of climate change.

Researchers with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego say warming will likely hit coastal mountain ranges like the Cascades much harder than their northern inland neighbors.

"What's happening in the Cascades is even a small amount of warming has this huge impact on the amount of time that the temperature's really cool enough to have snow on the ground," climate scientist and lead author Amato Evan said.

Each winter, snow covers the region's mountains in a thick white blanket. That snow melts as the weather heats up until eventually, at some point during the spring or summer, the mountains are virtually bare — save for the glaciers that clad several peaks in ranges like the Cascades. That day will get earlier and earlier on average as the planet warms.

The researchers hypothesize snow in the Cascades will melt up to a month earlier than it does now with warming of 1 degree Cel-

sus. The same change in temperature would only shift when the snow melts in the Rockies by a day or two.

Evan said that's because of how temperature varies from place to place.

"If you take a big mountain and you put it next to an ocean, the swings between the wintertime cools and the summertime highs, they're not super dramatic compared to if we go look at an interior region like in the Rockies," Evan said.

In other words, if that one degree of warming is a pebble, the Cascades are a still pond. Any disruption to the status quo in the Cascades will be more noticeable.

Mountain snowpack is one indicator of how much water will be available in any given year. The ideal is to have a lot of snow in the winter melt slowly throughout the course of the year. That way, water managers can better predict when and how much water will be available to use for drinking water, irrigation, recreation and more. A stable water supply is also critical for plant and animal life.

Think of mountain snowpack like a bank.

"If you start drawing down that bank prematurely or you're not putting enough snow in that bank, that hits us," Evan said. "That depletes our water

resources that we have in the Western U.S."

Smaller and faster-melting snowpack can also increase wildfire risk and invite invasive species, Evan added.

"We're essentially shrinking our winter season and we're growing that season during which we can have wildfires. And that, to me, is really, really alarming."

Researchers made their hypotheses using a model based on nearly four decades' worth of snowpack, temperature and precipitation data at more than 400 sites across the West.

They theorize snowpack is most vulnerable near the West Coast, in central Europe and in South America. In their model, warming affects snowpack less in the northern interior regions of North America, Europe and Asia.

The study was published March 1 in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

Oregon's latest water supply outlook report shows most basins with normal or above-normal snowpack heading into spring. Much of southern Oregon entered March with a below-normal snowpack. More than 80% of the state was abnormally dry or worse as of March 2, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

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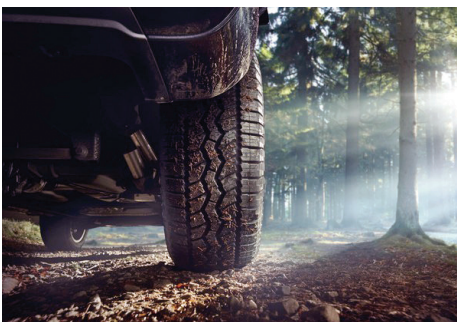
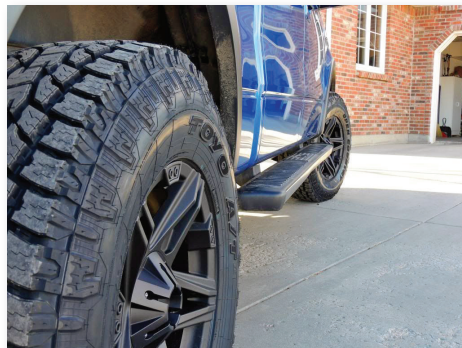
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