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EXPLORE » B1

The Bulletin

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2021
HAPPY NEW YEAR

SPORTS PULLOUT, B3-6

CENTRAL OREGON

THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Members of the Summit track and field team run through drills during practice on Sept. 30 at Summit High School.

BY RYAN BRENNECKE • The Bulletin

2020 was a year of contrasts. We experienced the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also the coming together of large groups fighting for social justice. We saw the stunning beauty of the natural world, but also the ugliness of violence and conflict. We celebrated the big moments as best we could, but also found pleasure in the smallest acts of normalcy. Through it all, Bulletin photographer Ryan Brennecke covered Central Oregon from behind the lens of his camera, capturing moments of chaos, beauty, humanity and more. Here is a collection of the best of his work from 2020. **See photo page, A4 »**

YEAR IN REVIEW

A year that changed Oregon and the world

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau
“What fresh hell is this?”
If 2020 were given unofficial slogan it might be caustic writer Dorothy Parker’s quip whenever the door bell rang.
The bell rang often — way too often — in 2020.
The impeachment of President Donald Trump.
Nationwide demonstrations over the killing of Black people by police — including over 100 days of sometimes violent demonstrations in Portland. Federal law enforcement officers sent to the city over the objections of the mayor and local officials.
Massive wildfires burned over 1 million acres in Oregon, killing 10 and destroying 4,000 homes. The fires spread smoke across the state that at one point gave Sisters the worst air quality in the world.
The death of liberal Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She was replaced by conservative Amy Coney Barrett.
Another walk-out in the Oregon Legislature, followed by three special sessions. A failed GOP attempt to recall Gov. Kate Brown.
See Year in review / A6

It’s last call for some bars and restaurants

Pandemic pushes dining, gyms to breaking point

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin
REDMOND — The latest dream to die in the pandemic was that of Heather and Greg Wales, the now-former operators of Geist Beerworks on SW Umatilla Avenue, which filled its last growler Wednesday night.
For two years, the transplanted Arizonans enjoyed the kind of success founders dream about. In short order they’d developed a core of regular patrons and a rotation of popular mainstays and seasonals.
In 2019, the couple started hosting paint parties, cornhole tournaments, brewers guild meetings and other gatherings, regularly drawing upward of 60 people to their space near Redmond Airport. Things were going so well that by January, they were looking at property downtown, with plans to bottle and can and hire their first employees.
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2020: A YEAR OF CHALLENGES

Teen-led Bend 4 BLM group sparked conversations

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

When Jade Jager, then a junior at Bend High School, heard about the police killing of George Floyd in May, she was angry. Seeing her pain, her mother gave her some advice.
“My mom saw me upset, and said, ‘Jade, if you’re upset, do something,’” Jager, 17, told The Bulletin recently.
That prompted Jager to write a social media post about starting a Bend rally against racism and police brutality. Other local teens expressed interest, and by early June, the Bend 4 BLM group was born.
Bend 4 BLM — the acronym stands for “Black Lives Matter” — is a group of about 15-20 local teenagers who have organized protests and teamed up with local organizations primarily to educate Central Oregon about racism.



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Bend teens, clockwise from left, Amanda Uri, Amy Morrison, Lilah Beck, Jace Bracelin and Jade Jager worked together in 2020 to bring awareness about racism to Central Oregon.

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THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE

There’s no question about it: Central Oregon residents faced unprecedented challenges in 2020, from a crippling pandemic to social justice unrest to wildfires that turned communities to ash. But with every development, someone stepped forward to help, answering a personal calling to improve the lives of neighbors and strangers alike because it was the right thing to do. They were selfless. They were generous. They made a difference.

TODAY’S WEATHER



Touch of rain
High 44, Low 38
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