

## Putnam

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Completely restoring the Putnam house will take more than a year to complete, Winey said. He is starting with constructing a new lava rock foundation, which has required lifting the house 10-feet off the ground.

In addition, Winey plans to remove a back porch that was added in the 1940s and remove and replace a brick chimney. The Bend Landmarks Commission has approved the initial work.

"This particular property has gone through 50 years of neglect and deferred maintenance," Winey told the landmarks commission in October. "There is a very significant shift and a lot of settling on the first and second floor."

Cynthia Putnam, the granddaughter of George and Dorothy Putnam, said she is thrilled with the renovation plans. The 70-year-old retired English teacher from southeast Florida visited the home in 1997 and in 2017.

"I'm just so pleased they chose this house to renovate because they appreciate the history behind it," Putnam said in a phone call.

Putnam believes her grandparents would be honored to know their first home together is still standing today. Putnam never knew her grandfather, who died the year she was born, but she knows how much Bend meant



A photo of the George Palmer Putnam house in 1984 shows original wooden steps, which were replaced with stone steps in the 1990s.

to him.

Putnam appreciates how the city remembers her grandfather for all he accomplished, rather than how he is remembered nationally as the widower to Amelia Earhart.

"I can't emphasize enough what a wonderful, pleasant way Bend, Oregon presents George Palmer Putnam," she said. "It's unlike anywhere else. He was an extraordinary man, especially for the West."

Submitted photo/Deschutes County Historical Society

Many books and movies about Earhart, who disappeared on a flight across the Pacific Ocean July 2, 1937, depict Putnam in a negative light, as someone who used Earhart for his own personal gain, his granddaughter said.

But she reminds people that her grandfather is the one who hand-picked Earhart to become the first woman aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.



The Putnam house in Bend is raised off its foundation and is in the process of being renovated.

Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

"It was his success that made her the icon that she is to this day," Putnam said.

As for all the theories surrounding Earhart's mysterious disappearance, Putnam has a simple explanation.

"It's not sexy to say she ran out of gas and fell in the ocean and died," she said. "That's not sensational. That doesn't sell. But that's what happened."

Earhart did not know Putnam when he was in Bend. She never visited his home on Congress Street.

It was Putnam's influence as a newspaper publisher, mayor and town promoter that led to his house being listed in 1998 on the National Register of Historic Places.

"His desire to do good helped shape the growing town of Bend during the

first part of the twentieth century," reads the application for the national register.

Once the Putnam house is restored, Winey and his wife plan to move in and retire.

Winey said the house will be his last project, after a long career of architecture work around the world.

He sees the house as a challenge and a property that can be a jewel in Bend.

"If you were a builder and looking at it, you would say tear it down," Winey said. "But that's not why we bought it. We bought it because it's special and it means a lot of the neighborhood."

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## Bend Tech

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"I would rather be in (full-time), doing all the hands-on projects, because that's how I learn best," said ninth grader Gabriel Miller, 15. "But being able to come in, despite having a global pandemic, is really good."

About 70% to 75% of Bend Tech Academy's student population attends limited in-person instruction on Wednesdays, said Principal Sal Cassaro.

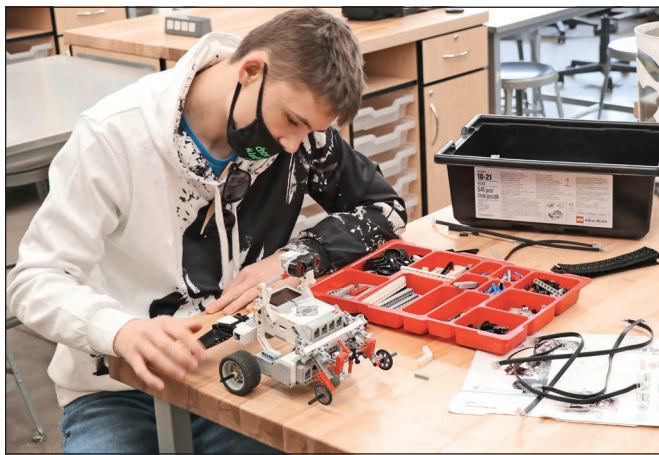
That's not a large number of students, as many teens who initially signed up for Bend Tech switched to district-sponsored Bend-La Pine Online classes last fall, said Cassaro. December enrollment statistics show 97 students enrolled at Bend Tech — a sharp drop

from the school district's projection of 159 students.

"We had such great momentum in our school, we were building great culture, doing some great things academically," Cassaro said. "Then COVID hit, and it spun everybody out."

Cassaro took the reigns at Bend Tech Academy, then known as Marshall High School, in 2018. Over the course of a couple school years, he transformed it from an alternative high school to a career and technical education magnet school with classes in unique subjects like health, business, construction, robotics and more.

Many Bend Tech students joined the school explicitly for these hands-on programs that are difficult to replicate at home. Because of that, some



Bend Tech Academy student Kyle Hutchinson builds a robot in a technology class.

students said they were disappointed they could only learn in-person once a week due to COVID-19 for the first half of the school year.

Ninth grader Mikah Do-

lyniuk, who's in a construction class, noted that much of that online learning for the class has been simply reviewing safety tips. And although he's been able to build things at home,

since his family has a workshop, he knows many students don't have the same luxury.

"I got a good grade because I can make all this stuff, but I don't know if other people had a worse grade because they couldn't," Mikah, 15, said.

Not every student minded only attending school once a week. Ninth grader Elena Stephens said she actually enjoys the balance of mostly learning online, with just a splash of in-person schooling.

"Only going to actual school once a week is easier, way simpler, than every day," Elena, 14, said.

Both teachers and students said they felt safe on Wednesdays, as Bend Tech Academy staff effectively enforced COVID-19 protocols. But, as Mikah pointed out, social distancing isn't hard when your

classes only have a few students.

"If we're working, it's nowhere near each other, tables across," he said.

Health teacher Heather Johnson said she was excited to eventually have her students back in the classroom for more hours.

However, Johnson still believes she teaches her students a lot in the limited time she has now, such as practicing stitching on a mannequin or demonstrating intubation — when a tube is stuck down a patient's throat to help them breathe.

"I've got two students for two hours. What I can do in that time is incredibly unheard of," she said. "It's remarkably hands-on."

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