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# The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, B3-6

## St. Charles Redmond battles outbreak

BY SUZANNE ROIG  
The Bulletin

About a third of the 31 caregivers at St. Charles Redmond who tested positive for COVID-19 had received their first dose of the vaccine at the time of the outbreak, a hospital official said. St. Charles Health System, which employs about 4,500 people in Central Oregon, began vaccinating care providers on Dec. 21, said Lisa Good-

man, health system spokeswoman. As of Thursday, St. Charles Redmond has vaccinated 62% of its 450 staff in Redmond. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that two doses are required to achieve immunity from COVID-19. Both brands of vaccines require two shots, one 21 days after the first and the other 28 days. A person may not be protected

fully from the virus until a week or two after the second dose. Goodman said the source of the outbreak is still being investigated by the hospital and Deschutes County Health Services. "We have taken many steps to mitigate this outbreak," Goodman said in an email. "The community should feel confident and safe seeking needed care at the Redmond hospital."

**COVID-19 | Teachers up next for vaccine, A6**

According to a weekly outbreak report by the Oregon Health Authority, there are 10 workplace outbreaks of COVID-19 in Central Oregon. Most are at assisted living facilities. Five

deaths have been reported in these ongoing outbreaks, the longest is at the Mt. Bachelor Assisted Living facility where 29 people have tested positive, according to the Oregon Health Authority. The hospital said it is taking steps to protect patients and caregivers by adding additional COVID-19 protections.

See **Outbreak / A6**

## PANDEMIC CLOSURES SEND GYMNASTICS ACADEMY TUMBLING



Dean Guernsey/For The Bulletin

Sharman Watt, owner of Central Oregon Gymnastics Academy, has been forced to close down her business due to COVID-19 restrictions.

*GoFundMe campaign to save Central Oregon Gymnastics Academy aims to raise \$100,000*

BY MICHAEL KOHN  
The Bulletin

Sharman Watt, owner of Central Oregon Gymnastics Academy, was flying high a year ago. Her business had 400 kids enrolled in a variety of programs, a few of them headed for state-level competitions, and all of them having a blast while flipping, bouncing and tumbling in the high energy facility.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Revenue skidded to a halt and the bills began piling up. Ten months after the start of pandemic-related business closures, Watt said her family is out of money and at risk of losing their business. "We have stretched everything," said Watt, 44. "This was the only source of income for our family."

See **Gymnastics / A6**

**BEND SURVEY**

## Housing and transit remain top priorities

*Addressing racial equity on the list for residents*

BY BRENNIA VISSER  
The Bulletin

More affordable housing and better transportation infrastructure remain the top priorities among Bend residents, according to a recent survey, though addressing social inequities in city government has also become a high priority. These priorities were identified in a community survey, which was commissioned by the city and conducted by DHM Research, to gauge the general attitude Bend residents have toward the city, as well as to learn what issues they felt needed to be addressed the most. The statistically valid survey, which interviewed roughly 300 Bend residents of various ages, incomes and races, showed that residents' priorities of improving transportation and increasing affordable housing have not changed since 2018 — the last time this survey was conducted.

See **Survey / A6**

LEON DEVEREAUX • 1923-2021

## Former Bend mayor and WWII pilot dies

BY KYLE SPURR  
The Bulletin

Leon E. Devereaux Jr., a World War II pilot and former Bend mayor, died Thursday. He was 97. Devereaux was born on Aug. 26, 1923, in Bend, where he grew up. He graduated from Bend High School in 1941. He worked for Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Co. Inc. for 38 years. Friends and colleagues remembered Devereaux for his kindness and dedication to promoting the history of Bend through his involvement with the Deschutes Historical Society and later with local veterans groups.

See **Devereaux / A6**

## Legislature cranks up session after two-day delay

BY GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

After a two-day delay caused by FBI reports of possible right-wing attacks on state capitals, the Oregon Legislature got down to the business of the 2021 session. On Thursday, 12 committees

kicked-off with virtual hearings. About 46 House members held a 20-minute floor session to move along the first batches of bills onto the political conveyor belt of readings and assignment to committee. Rep. Ron Noble, R-McMinnville, gave what was officially the opening

prayer, but was more a plea for co-operation amid the crises and chaos — with an "amen" at the end. "We must figure out a way to climb out of the mire, and the time is now," Noble said. "Is it naive to think we can create a vision forward and people with differing options

can engage without vilifying each other? Maybe. But I'm willing to try." Noble said the alternative of remaining in the political mire would destroy families, communities, the state and nation.

See **Legislature / A6**

TODAY'S WEATHER



Morning flurry  
High 33, Low 18  
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