

HOW TO CATCH THE BIG RAINBOW TROUT

GARY LEWIS OFFERS TIPS • SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8



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Bargain hunters fill Bend WinCo

OPENING DAY



ABOVE: Check stands are busy with shoppers at WinCo Foods in Bend on Monday. BELOW: A large selection of bulk foods is featured at the new store.

BY MICHAEL KOHN • The Bulletin

The much-anticipated opening for the new WinCo Foods store in Bend arrived Monday, with giddy shoppers filling the aisles at the former Shopko store at the Bend River Plaza.

The grocery store, well known by legions of fans for its low prices and bulk food section, opened around 8 a.m. Monday when a handful of shoppers gathered at its door.

Boise, Idaho-based WinCo continues its march across the Northwest, opening stores in Bend and Wenatchee, Washington, on the same day. WinCo now has 131 locations with two more expected to open in Montana later this month.

See **Winco** / A4



Photos by Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

3 arrested in death of Redmond's Brian Jones



Belgard Robinson Winishut

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin

Three adults from Warm Springs were arrested in connection with the death of Brian Jones, whose body was discovered in August on the side of Danube Drive in farmland north of Madras.

Theresa Marjorie Winishut, 27; Salvador Angeles Robinson, 27; and Stephanie Mae Belgard, 37, are being held without bail in the Jefferson County jail, each charged with the same 10 felony counts, including second-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder, robbery and unlawful use of a vehicle.

The investigation into Jones' death was delayed by the backlog at the state crime lab, according to Jefferson County Sheriff Jim Adkins, who added DNA evidence proved decisive in pinning Jones' death on Belgard, Robinson and Winishut.

"We had a suspicion as to who we thought it was," Adkins said. "Then DNA and other evidence tied them right to it."

Adkins said he could not publicly describe Jones' cause or manner of death, though investigators believe the three suspects robbed Jones and stole his vehicle, which turned up later on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

See **Death** / A13

Madras councilor offers resignation after online row

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin

A Madras city councilor who drew ire for a Facebook post calling a fellow elected official a "terrorist" will resign.

Austin Throop submitted his letter of resignation to the city administrator following a special meeting Friday to discuss the online incident, according to Lysa Vattimo, city spokeswoman.

Councilors ended the meeting by saying they would accept public input and decide what to do with Throop at the council's next meeting, Feb. 9. Now, the council will

vote whether to approve Throop's resignation on that day.

His seat would be filled by the rest of council through an appointment process.

"We've never had to do this before so we're still figuring it out," Vattimo said.

Throop, 30, is a self-employed web developer and lifelong Central Oregon resident. He was a councilor for only two meetings after defeating Republican challenger Mathew Birchard in the November general election.

See **Councilor** / A4

Legislature sees a familiar address atop COVID-19 list

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

When the Oregon Health Authority issued its weekly list of the state's 373 ZIP codes that had the highest number of new COVID-19 cases, No. 1 caught the eye of Oregon politicians.

97301. Salem. Including the Oregon State Capitol.

The ZIP code added 113 cases, giving the area 3,075 cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic

hit Oregon last February. The good news is the Capitol's ZIP code was the worst spot during a time when cases statewide have dropped by half.

But it was a reminder that there is an element of danger in bringing lawmakers staff, police and journalists to the Capitol for the current Legislative session in the middle of a pandemic. The possible hazards have been on the minds of senators and repre-

sentatives since the coronavirus arrived in Oregon in late February.

Oregon's Legislature is slated to meet for 160 days, adjourning by July 1. But lawmakers will likely be in the Capitol itself for only a fraction of that time. The Legislature swore in new members at the Capitol on Jan. 11 and then held a short session of the House and Senate on Jan. 19.

But now meetings are via

virtual platforms. Almost a year into the pandemic, the early flubs and glitches have mostly been smoothed out and dozens of meetings are held every day.

Legislative leaders say they will concentrate on meeting as boxes on each other's computer screens instead of in-person for awhile. Most bills have been introduced, while meetings and hearings can be held online.

See **Legislature** / A13

Central Oregon

Thousands of educators received first vaccine dose

BY JACKSON HOGAN

The Bulletin

At 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, Joey Kansky was the first Bend-La Pine school staffer to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at St. Charles Bend. That achievement was pure luck, he joked.

"I just live close to the hospital and had my email open. Go figure," said Kansky, an educational assistant for Pine Ridge Elementary School's special education program.

Kansky, 52, will get his second dose of vaccine Wednesday morning. He believes be-

ing fully vaccinated will make him a more effective educator.

"It definitely makes me more capable of helping children, because I won't have as many fears," Kansky said. "When you're teaching and you're fearful, kids pick up on that stuff."

Kansky is one of thousands of

Central Oregon educators who have already received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Although not every county health department or school district has exact numbers of vaccinated school staff, or vaccine refusal rates, it's clear that the vast majority of local educa-

tors are getting vaccinated.

"It has relieved a lot of stress to have access to these," said Sarah Barclay, president of the Bend Education Association teachers' union. "They're heading back into classrooms with lots of (COVID-19) exposure ... so just knowing there was

prioritization to help ensure community safety, we're very thankful for that."

In a push to reopen in-person school, Oregon is the only state prioritizing educators over seniors for receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

See **Vaccine** / A13

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