

Schools

Continued from A1

Although High Desert ESD doesn't ask parents why they choose to homeschool, it's assumed that many did so to avoid public school distance learning, Quon wrote in an email.

Some local private schools also saw a population boom, as their smaller size allowed them to reopen faster than big public schools, where in-person learning has only resumed in the past few weeks.

Trinity Lutheran School in Bend saw a slight decrease in enrollment in September, as families weren't sure if the K-12 private school would be fully in-person, said Head of School Gregg Pinick.

But all students were fully back by the start of the second semester on Jan. 19. In response, Trinity Lutheran's enrollment jumped by 50 students that day — requiring the school to open second classrooms in kindergarten, first and second grades, Pinick said.

"The pandemic has really been an accelerator for our school," he said.

Seven Peaks School and Cascades Academy each had

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— Tracy Jensen, director of admissions at Seven Peaks

to stop accepting new students this year due to increased demand.

Seven Peaks' enrollment dramatically increased in September, with 56 new students, said Tracy Jensen, director of admissions.

Every classroom, from preschool through eighth grade, is filled to state-mandated social-distancing capacity. Some parents have even burst into tears trying to get their child in, Jensen said.

"It's been the busiest enrollment experience I've ever experienced," said Jensen, who's led enrollment at Seven Peaks for three years. "I feel like I need to duplicate myself."

Public charter schools — many of which specialized in online or home-based learning before COVID-19 forced traditional schools to do so — also saw a boom in enrollment in 2020.

Three of Oregon's four largest public schools are now charters: Oregon Charter Academy, Oregon Vir-

tual Academy and Baker Web Academy, which each added hundreds of students this school year.

One of those charter schools — Bridge Charter Academy, which has campuses in Bend and the rural Eugene suburb of Lowell — more than doubled its enrollment in 2020, from 367 students to 778. This was a mixed blessing, said Principal Ben Silebi.

"On one level, it was great to see enrollment going up... but it was a very terrible summer for our employees," he said. "We had 12-hour-days trying to keep up with enrollment."

Silebi said he believes Bridge Charter saw increased enrollment because it is better at teaching students at home compared to traditional school districts.

"We heard over and over from families that they wanted to get into a program that had some experience in that area, instead of a half-baked education," he said.

And many families of young

children, particularly kindergartners, chose to wait to start school. Statewide, 28% of the public school enrollment decline came from kindergarten enrollment, said Jon Wiens, director of accountability and reporting for the Oregon Department of Education.

Charan Cline, superintendent of Redmond School District, confirmed there were big drops in kindergarten and first grade enrollment for his schools. And he doesn't find that too concerning.

"It's not necessarily damaging to a child to wait an extra year to wait until you start kindergarten," Cline said. "I did that with my younger child. They'll catch up."

How does this affect public schools?

Financially, this COVID-19 enrollment dip shouldn't hurt local schools too much — as long as a majority of these students return.

The state calculates school funding based on enrollment over a two year period. Funds are awarded based on the larger year. So most school districts will be funded based on their 2019-20 school year population, said Wiens.

Cline said he expects attendance to bounce back, at least partially, in September. But the influx of kindergartners who waited a year — plus a new crop of kindergartners — could create an enrollment bubble. That means school districts will have to serve one class of students much larger than the others for 13 years, he said.

"If we have 300-400 kids in a grade level, but there's a year with 500 kids in a grade level,

that causes us to shift staff all over the place," Cline said.

And although some younger students who've stuck with traditional public schools have smaller class sizes, that doesn't guarantee a better educational experience this year, Cline said.

"Distance learning is really weird," he said. "Some (kindergartners) are doing well with it, some are really not doing well."

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Timber

Continued from A1

The Democrat served on the Oregon Forest Resources Institute board from its founding in 1991 until 2006, was on the Oregon Board of Forestry, which governs state logging rules, and has received \$75,000 in campaign contributions from timber companies during his 16 years in the Legislature.

But the lawmaker also represents Columbia County in northwest Oregon, where timber tax cuts have cost the county an estimated \$135 million since 1991, the news organizations reported in June. That is more than four times the county tax revenue lost because of a decline in logging on federal land.

"Given the reports and the seriousness that some of those reports brought to bear, I believe that it's incumbent upon us in the Legislature to review our taxing methods for harvested timber," Witt said. For decades, private timber owners in Oregon paid a severance tax on the value of the trees they logged. But in the 1990s, lawmakers passed a series of tax cuts that began lowering the funding provided to schools and local governments. Then they eliminated the tax for all but the smallest timber owners, who can opt to pay it in exchange for reduced property taxes.

Lawmakers have so far filed more than two dozen bills on timber policy, making the 2021 legislative session among the busiest for one of the state's largest industries, said Jody Wiser, founder of Tax Fairness Oregon, a group that lobbies to make the state's tax system more equitable.

More timber tax bills are pending now in the Legislature than at any time since the severance tax was eliminated, Wiser said, crediting the news organizations' investigation with sparking renewed interest in the issue.

"We have counties in deep trouble, and the severance tax was their money that the Legislature gave away," Wiser said.

Continued on A6

DEATH NOTICES

Mary Ann Young
of Redmond, OR
March 29, 1941 -
January 19, 2021

Arrangements:
Autumn Funerals,
Redmond 541-504-9485
www.autumnfunerals.net
Services:
Services will be held at a
later date.

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines
541-385-5809
Monday-Friday 10am-3pm
Email: obits@bendbulletin.com

Find it all online
bendbulletin.com

OBITUARY

Carol Ann "Cammy" May

June 13, 1945 - December 31, 2020

Cammy May was born June 13, 1945 in Seattle, WA. She married and had one son, Thomas. Her passion for caring for others, led her to a nursing career that lasted 40 years. She worked in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St. Charles Hospital. Her willingness to support families of critically ill infants allowed her to form deep, lasting bonds with many families in Central Oregon.



She was a world traveler; she loved hiking, skiing, biking, backpacking, and camping. Cammy was an avid photographer. Cammy died peacefully at home on December 31, 2020 surrounded by her family.

Charitable contributions can be made in
Cammy's name to the Ronald McDonald
house in Bend, OR.

OBITUARY



Debra Lesine Aldous

July 11, 1957 - Jan 7, 2021

Debbie was born on July 11, 1957 to Leslie J. Lindgren and Juanita Doye Lindgren-Campbell in Redmond, Oregon.

Debbie married her high school sweetheart Loren Aldous on July 18, 1973. She spent her life as a Homemaker raising their 4 children and helping Loren run the family business. Debbie also worked as a Special Education teaching assistant, and later decided to open her own business Piper Lilly in 2006.

Debbie is survived by her 4 children Dusty Aldous of Redmond, Angelia Aldous of Prineville, Branden Aldous of Powell Butte and Shandrea Aldous Martin of Terrebonne, 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her sister Sue Jarms, her parents Leslie & Doye and her Stepfather Roy J Campbell who raised her, and her husband Loren. Debbie enjoyed spending time with grandchildren, her pets, traveling to tropical places like Hawaii and Jamaica, gardening, cooking and most of all trips to the Oregon Coast with family and friends.

Following a stroke in June 2020 Debbie moved to Brookside assisted living in Redmond due to the ongoing challenges caused by the strokes and passed away with family by her side January 7th 2021.

Celebration of life services are to be announced in the spring.

OBITUARY

Peter Vincent Raasina

December 25, 1943 - January 30, 2021



Peter Vincent Raasina, 77, of Redmond, Oregon passed away on January 30, 2021 surrounded by his wife and all three of his daughters.

He was born to parents Peter Bruno and Evelyn Raasina on December 25, 1943 in Portland, Oregon.

Pete received his teaching certification from Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon University) and dedicated over 50 years to the education and enrichment of the youth of Alaska, Washington and Oregon.

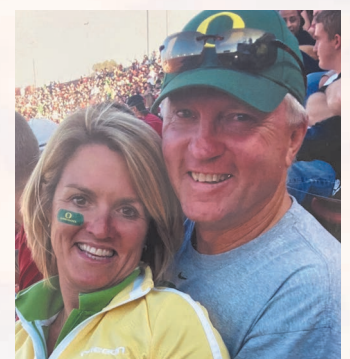
Pete never knew a stranger and made even the briefest of encounters feel like time spent with a lifelong friend. He had a laugh that lit up every room and an incredible wit that lifted every spirit.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 45 years, the love of his life, MaryAnn, daughters Ann (Ron) Umbarger, Lyndsey (Jacob) Arnold and Nicole (Matt) Cuellar, sister Darlene (Pat) Ross, half-brother Bob Genoves and 8 cherished grandchildren.

Pete returned to the waiting arms of his son Peter Lee, parents Peter Bruno and Evelyn, stepfather Bob Slawson and sister Dianne Raasina.

A celebration of life will follow at a later date when all who love him can gather safely.

OBITUARY



Crispin "Kit" Davis Kelly

September 25, 1954 - January 27, 2021

Kit Kelly was the best man we knew. He was a family man, a true, old-fashioned gentleman, and a man of honor. He was his happiest when surrounded by his family and friends, all of whom he adored and loved unconditionally.

Kit spent decades on the ski slopes of the Northern Sierra in Truckee, CA, teaching ski lessons and enjoying family ski days. He spent his summer on the tennis court and loved spending early mornings on Donner Lake waterskiing with his boys. Kit was an avid sports fan, especially enjoying 49er and Oregon Duck football and Premier League soccer. Some of Kit's favorite memories were from trips visiting family in Norway, taking in the sights and flavors of Italy and France, playing tourist in Washington D.C., and relaxing in the warmth of Hawaii. Kit was a master of the barbecue, enjoyed a well-cooked steak, and was famous for his Friday night martinis.

Kit is survived by his wife, Terri, six children, Tommy (Sydney), Kyle, Scott (Whitney), Rich (Moni), Louis (Ale) and Hilary (Tommy), two bonus children, Siri and Sho, three grandchildren, and three sisters (Brooke, Barbara, Annie). He is preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Joan.

Our deepest thanks to Kit's Dr's, Jennifer Bleckman and Andrew Chen, nurse Brooke and Chaplain Beth of Bend Partners in Care for their wonderful care of Kit. In lieu of flowers, please direct donations to Partners in Care of Bend, OR (www.partnersbend.org).

We will miss our dear Kit forever.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic a memorial is being postponed indefinitely.