

WINDING UP TO PLAY

BEND ELKS 2021 SEASON • SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

# The Bulletin

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## Seeking warmth

Bend's shelter sees increase in guests amid storms



Kathy Ross, an employee with Shepherd's House Ministries, cleans the Bend warming shelter Saturday in preparation to open its doors for guests. The yellow crates are being used as barriers between the beds to help with social distancing.

BY KYLE SPURR • The Bulletin

The temperature was already below freezing as a line of 30 homeless people started to gather outside Bend's emergency warming shelter.

For some of the guests, it was their first time inside all day. One man knocked on the door before the shelter opened Saturday afternoon to tell the staff his feet were freezing and he needed new socks.

The late winter storms that dumped snow in Bend and dropped temperatures into the single digits last week put added stress on the shelter, which is being run this year by Shepherd's House Ministries. There were more guests each night; the shelter opened earlier in the day, and supplies were nearly depleted.

Dave Notari, director of development with Shepherd's House Ministries, said the recent weather was a stark reminder of



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin photos

Guests wait in line to enter the Bend warming shelter.

the warming shelter's importance to Bend's homeless.

"If they don't have a warm place to go they could die from exposure," Notari said. "We take that very seriously. That's why we won't turn anyone away."

Since temperatures started to drop to single digits last month, the warming shelter has made more room to accommodate an increase in guests. The shelter is seeing up to 70 people a night compared to about 50 that came when the shelter opened Nov. 23.

Shelter staff have used crates as barriers between the beds, which are spread out in the otherwise empty 10,000-square-foot building at 275 NE Second St. that used to house the Possibilities Thrift Store.

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### Summit High School outbreak

## More cases tied to student party

BY JACKSON HOGAN  
The Bulletin

An outbreak of COVID-19 — traced to a party last week mostly attended by Summit High School students — grew to 43 student cases as of Monday. And most of those students are showing varying degrees of symptoms, according to a letter to families from Michael McDonald, Summit principal.

As a result, the closure of in-person classes at the west Bend high school have been extended through Friday, meaning Summit students will spend at least a week and a half learning from home.

Bend-La Pine Schools leaders have asked Deschutes County Health Services staff to investigate whether these 40-plus cases have spread to local businesses or families, said Julianne Repman, director of safety and communications for the school district.

But for now, school district and health department contact tracers haven't found any evidence that the Summit High outbreak was spread inside the school last week, Repman said.

"So far, there's no connection to the classroom," she told The Bulletin on Monday. "The links so far are primary and secondary cases tied to the party — people who were at the party, or students who were with students from the party."

No teachers or school staff at Summit High School have tested positive yet, Repman said. Health privacy laws prevent the district from knowing of specific cases involving nonstudents or nonstaff, even if connected to the party, she said.

Contact tracers have identified one positive case each at Bend and Skyline high schools, from students who attended the party, Repman said. But neither of those schools have multiple-case outbreaks, she noted.

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## Irrigators fear legislation would erode due process

BY MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

Irrigators would no longer be able to automatically block certain water shut-offs under a bill that Oregon farm groups claim would endanger due process rights.

Under the "automatic stay" provision of Oregon water law, an irrigator can file a lawsuit to immediately stop the en-

forcement of a government order against pumping or diverting water.

The mechanism — called a harmful loophole by detractors and a necessary protection by defenders — has repeatedly come under fire in the Legislature in recent years.

House Bill 2244 would prevent irrigators from invoking the automatic stay against

shut-offs specifically intended to preserve in-stream water rights owned by tribal governments and state agencies.

Proponents argue that HB 2244 makes a nuanced change to the automatic stay provision rather than eliminating it altogether, but opponents say it simply creates unfair preferences for specific types of water rights holders.

Revising the automatic stay process is necessary to correct the injustice suffered by the Klamath Tribes, who've been prevented from enforcing their water rights by the provision, according to the bill's supporters.

"This is contrary to almost every proceeding in court, where the preliminary injunction must be supported by

a showing of a likelihood of prevailing," said Rep. Marty Wilde, D-Eugene, the bill's chief sponsor.

Irrigators who believe that water regulators aren't justified in seeking a water shut-off can still file a motion for a preliminary injunction, she said during a recent legislative hearing.

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### Correction

In an article headlined "St. Charles sued for \$15M for wrongful death," which appeared Saturday, Feb. 13 on Page A1, the relationship between St. Charles Health System and two physicians was misstated. Dr. Blake Van Meter and Dr. Jeffrey Mathisen practice at St. Charles, but are not employees of the hospital system.

The Bulletin regrets the error.

