

# TEACHABLE MOMENTS: GO! MAGAZINE SHOWS HOW LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS HAVE SHIFTED IN A PANDEMIC

# The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

## Local police slowly add body cams

BY GARRETT ANDREWS  
The Bulletin

Around a half-dozen Bend police officers are wearing body cameras as the department nears the end of a pilot program testing various product models.

The Bend Police Department will know in a few weeks whether it will move forward quickly with a vendor and

start spending the more than \$400,000 budget allotment the City Council set aside for adding body cams, a move popular with police groups and reformers alike.

Bend, often described as a progressive leader in small-town policing, has been behind the curve in equipping its more than 100 officers with body cameras, which are in use

at more than 10,000 agencies nationwide. Nearby Redmond Police Department has used the technology for five years.

"I'm really excited," said Bend Police Capt. Jason Maniscalco, project manager of the body camera project. "We've been trying to do this for a long time."

Maniscalco said every officer and patrol vehicle will soon

be outfitted with a camera, but he couldn't provide a specific timeline for when.

"We really don't know," he said. "It really comes down to availability of equipment, availability of staff from the vendor we chose, and also some internal IT equipment needs to be updated before we go live."



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

See **Body cams** / A4

**Bend Police officer Karin Porter activates a body cam Wednesday.**

## School garden program takes root in Central Oregon



Amy Anderson, dean of students at Realms Middle School in Bend, places a handful of debris into a compost pile at the school's garden on Wednesday. Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin photos

## Environmental Center program is an outdoor learning option for teachers

BY KYLE SPURR  
The Bulletin

Last spring, the future of a garden education program in Central Oregon was in question when schools shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But as students started returning to classes in the fall, the garden program became an attractive option for teachers who wanted to offer outdoor learning. Interest has

continued to grow this year in the program, which is run by The Environmental Center, a sustainability organization in Bend.

The organization recently awarded about \$15,000, divided among 13 local schools, to fund educational gardens and outdoor classroom spaces in the spring.

Realms Middle School in Bend received about \$1,000 for its school garden. The middle school will be



Anderson pulls a tarp back to check on the progress of a cob oven.

able to build an outdoor oven to keep students warm and a native plant garden on its 3-acre campus.

Amy Anderson, Realms' dean of students who oversees the school's garden, said the program is not just an extra activity for students,

but rather a critical part of the school's curriculum.

"We consider time in the garden a complement to the classroom," Anderson said. "They are reading about food and they are growing food."

See **Garden** / A4

## Lawsuit holds fate of sick trees at Walton Lake (again)

BY MICHAEL KOHN  
The Bulletin

A plan by the U.S. Forest Service to remove trees areas around Walton Lake due to laminated root rot is being challenged in court by the nonprofit Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project. At stake is the future of hundreds of trees that form the scenic backdrop for the popular lake.

The infected trees around Walton Lake, and what to do with them, have drawn considerable controversy in recent years. The Forest Service says it intends to remove weakened trees that pose a threat to the public.

Environmentalists argue that the tree disease is natural, the threat can be managed safely and cutting them down would destroy the scenic ambience of the lake.

See **Trees** / A4

### CAPITOL ROUNDUP

## Delays have legislation, redistricting up against deadlines

BY GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

After a double-dose of winter storms across the Willamette Valley knocked out power to hundreds of thousands from Portland to Salem, state government is trying to thaw out a few hot issues.

### Redistricting delay

Oregon should know by April 30 if it will be adding a sixth congressional seat for the 2022 election. Census officials have unofficially said Oregon's population growth has been enough to ensure the state's first new seat in 40 years.

The new added representation in Congress would be a rare piece of good news in an otherwise disastrous rollout of U.S. Census information needed for reapportionment.

See **Delays** / A13

TODAY'S WEATHER



Rain and drizzle  
High 45, Low 34  
Page A12

INDEX

Business	A11-12	Dear Abby	A7	Horoscope	A7	Obituaries	A4
Classifieds	A14	Editorial	A8	Local/State	A2-3	Puzzles	A10
Comics	A9-10	Events	GO!	Lottery	A6	Sports	A5-7

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