

## PPE

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As Chuck Arnold — Redmond's manager of economic development and urban renewal who oversaw the giveaway — handed McGinty a tote bag stuffed with protective equipment, the store co-owner expressed her appreciation.

"Thank you so much, we are grateful for your support!" McGinty told Arnold through her face mask.

Thirty-six business owners and employees received 23,000 face masks, latex gloves, hand sanitizer dispensers and more to keep themselves and their customers safe. Leaving their car wasn't necessary — a drive-thru setup allowed city staff to hand them their equipment through the passenger side window, like curbside pickup at a restaurant.

Arnold said he was happy to help local businesses serve people safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We felt there was an opportunity here to work and deploy materials to people that can help keep them safe, stay open, or get open," he said.

The city has distributed more than 70,000 masks, gloves, bottles of hand sanitizer, wipes and other personal protection items to more than 200 businesses in Redmond since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, according to a city press release.



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

**Chuck Arnold, left, and volunteer Ron Osmundson hand out personal protective equipment to local businesses at Redmond City Hall on Thursday.**

The state of Oregon has given personal protective equipment to cities like Redmond to distribute to locals, Arnold said.

Teresa Duckworth and Susie Brown also swung by city hall Thursday. The duo planned to use the protective equipment to safeguard the senior citizens they work with while cleaning their apartments and taking them grocery shopping.

"God bless them for what they are doing," Brown said of city staff. "This is a blessing."

*"God bless them for what they are doing. This is a blessing."*

— Susie Brown

Joey Podsadecki, an employee of Springtime Landscape and Irrigation, called the city event "pretty rad." Getting lots of free face masks, sanitizer and more for Springtime's large staff helps the company financially,

he said.

"We have 60 employees, ... so buying that much PPE is a big expense," Podsadecki said. "Now, we can focus on trucks and equipment and stuff."

Thursday's drive-thru event likely won't be the last, Arnold said.

"This is the first of what will probably be several events," he said. "If demand grows, we'll find a way to get the supply."

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## Reservoir

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Kyle Gorman, region manager for the Oregon Water Resources Department, estimates that Wickiup will be at about 110,000 acre-feet to 120,000 acre-feet on the first of April, which would be the lowest on record to start the irrigation season. (One acre foot of water is the amount of water to cover an acre in one foot of water, or about 325,851 gallons.)

"Wickiup is indeed in really poor shape this year," said Gorman. "North Unit is going to be short of water again this year."

When Wickiup can't fill to capacity, water managers are forced to dial back the amount of water delivered to farmers, who in turn must leave a percentage of their fields fallow. Over the past two growing seasons, farmers in Jefferson County were leaving 30-40% of their fields bare due to the water shortage.



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

**Areas of sand are exposed near the base of the Wickiup Reservoir dam Sept. 4.**

Water is currently being discharged from the reservoir at a rate of 106 cubic feet per second in order to comply with U.S. Fish & Wildlife regulations to protect the Oregon spotted frog. More water for wildlife has resulted in less water for farmers.

"The snowpack for 2021 got off to a good start and we

are all hopeful that it will continue," said Marty Richards, North Unit's chairman. "But I would anticipate a shortage due to multiple years of drought and one of the lowest levels for Wickiup at the end of the season."

It will take time for the situation to change, said Richards. "Even with average or bet-

ter snow and precipitation, my sense is we will be no better off than last year," said Richards. "Going forward my concern is that it will take multiple good years to recover from this drought."

Richards added that as the water shortage continues, he worries about the potential for farms to go out of business as well as the environmental costs, including degraded soils.

Elsewhere in the region, Prineville Reservoir is 35% full and Ochoco Reservoir is 16% full.

On a more positive note, the snowpack in the Upper Deschutes and Crooked River region is 100% of normal. Water year-to-date precipitation is 93% of normal. However, this year's snowpack will have little effect on reservoir levels in 2021. Due to Central Oregon's porous soil, it can take a year or more for melted snowpack to reach this area's reservoirs.

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## Homeless

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The city has not posted eviction notices at camps on city owned property recently, and has put out hand-washing stations at many of the known homeless camps within the city, said Jon Skidmore, the city's chief operating officer on Wednesday.

The removal efforts are happening on property owned by the department of transportation, also known as ODOT. In the past couple of months, the department has posted seven to eight 24-hour eviction notices at camps that sit in the right of way of U.S. Highway 97, said Joel McCarroll, the District 10 Manager at ODOT.

There are about 25 camps along the section of Highway 97 known as the Bend Parkway, he said.

McCarroll said these camps are being moved for public health and safety reasons, including illegal fires, reports of gunshots, people trespassing on private property and human waste-related sanitation issues.

At one location near Murphy Road and west of the highway, a camper in August lost control of a fire, which threatened a neighborhood that sits next to the campsite, McCarroll said.

"At that point we decided that there was a safety risk to allow people to stay," he said.

But roughly six months later, campers have returned, and ODOT plans to post another eviction notice for the area, McCarroll said.

McCarroll said ODOT has to react to the complaints it receives from neighboring

properties and businesses, even though there is general recognition that people eventually return.

"If we don't deal with them, we're negligent," McCarroll said.

McCarroll said ODOT needs to do a better job of making sure camps can't reestablish again once they've been moved.

But even when homeless campers do return, the situation can improve after camps are removed, he said. For example, although ODOT evicted campers at the Highway 97 interchange at Revere Avenue in June, campers returned, McCarroll said, but the number of complaints have gone down considerably compared to last year.

"I don't know if people have given up (on) complaining to us...or if the people camping there are a different group of people that are not having the negative interactions with the neighbors," he said.

McCarroll said ODOT partners with homeless nonprofit groups and Bend Police to hand out trash bags to campers to help keep properties clean. One big difference seen at the Revere Avenue camp now versus last year is that the campers are keeping the site more clean, he said.

"If they are able to minimize the damage to the site, it's easier to let them stay," he said.

The issue of cleanliness is exactly why some in the community are asking the city to do more in the way of providing bathrooms and dumpsters at homeless camp sites. Several residents in emails and during public comment asked the council to consider putting

portable toilets at places where homeless people congregate.

But both police and homeless service providers warned against having portable toilets at campsites, Skidmore, the chief operating officer of the city, said Wednesday. There are safety concerns associated with having portable toilets that have the ability to lock on a property without having any oversight or management, he said.

Other solutions, like building permanent bathroom facilities at some well-established camp areas or having agreements with neighboring properties, could be considered, Skidmore said.

Regardless of what the council decides to do moving forward, a new grassroots group called the Street Kitchen Collective plans to keep the issue at the forefront.

The group was formed in the fall and is made up of young Bend residents who make food and distribute it among homeless camps across Central Oregon. The volunteers were moved by the death of David Savory, a homeless man who died in the elements last year, said Eric Garrity, a group member.

"There's a lot of preconceptions people have about folks who are unhoused," Garrity said Thursday. "As we've been doing this work, there's a lot of times people have tried to talk about unhoused people as if they are unworthy of helping or undeserving of assistance, and the reality is those preconceptions don't line up with reality."

On top of that, evictions don't work Garrity said. He called them inhumane and un-

# NASA rover lands on Mars to look for signs of ancient life

BY MARCIA DUNN

The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A NASA rover has landed on Mars in an epic quest to bring back rocks that could answer whether life ever existed on the red planet.

The space agency says the six-wheeled Perseverance hurtled through the thin, orange atmosphere and settled onto the surface Thursday in the mission's riskiest maneuver yet. Mars has long been a deathtrap for incoming spacecraft.

Perseverance will collect geological samples that will be brought back to Earth in about a decade to be analyzed for signs of ancient microscopic life.

Ground controllers at the space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, waited nervously for the descent of Perseverance to the surface of Mars, long a deathtrap for incoming spacecraft. It took a nail-bit-

ing 11½ minutes for a signal that confirmed success to reach Earth.

The landing of the six-wheeled vehicle marked the third visit to Mars in just over a week. Two spacecraft from the United Arab Emirates and China swung into orbit around the planet on successive days last week.

All three missions lifted off in July to take advantage of the close alignment of Earth and Mars, traveling some 300 million miles in nearly seven months.

Perseverance, the biggest, most advanced rover ever sent by NASA, stood to become the ninth spacecraft to successfully land on Mars, every one of them from the U.S., beginning in the 1970s.

The car-size, plutonium-powered rover was aiming for NASA's smallest and trickiest target yet: a 5-by-4-mile strip on an ancient river delta full of pits, cliffs and fields of rock.

## Housing

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The city will allocate \$625,000 to the nonprofit Housing Works to buy approximately 5.5 acres of land to develop affordable housing, according to a city presentation. This land was designated as a part of House Bill 4079, which incorporated new land east of U.S. Highway 20 into the city's urban growth boundary as a part of an affordable housing pilot project in 2016.

About \$475,000 will go to a project called the Mary Rose Place Apartments, which will be located at the intersection of Mary Rose Place and 27th Street in northeast Bend.

The last \$200,000 will go to the Bend Heroes Foundation's Veterans Village project. The money will go toward building an emergency shelter that will provide services to homeless veterans. When completed, the vil-

lage will include a community building for meals and services and 30 transitional housing units.

The city received more than \$4 million worth of requests for project funding, said Ian Schmidt, a member of the affordable housing committee. These projects were chosen because they gave the city the most "bang for their buck" when it comes to the total number of units that would be built.

It is also notable that Bend attracted another national housing developer, Related Northwest, which is behind the Mary Rose Place Apartments, said Matt Martino, another member of the affordable housing committee, on Wednesday.

"This is showing what we are doing in Bend is starting to garner national attention and that we are on the right track," Martino said.

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