

REDMOND TEAM NEEDS TALENT

CENTRAL OREGON'S NEW PROFESSIONAL INDOOR FOOTBALL TEAM WILL HOLD A TRYOUT SATURDAY • **SPORTS, B1**

The Bulletin

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COVID-19 | Bend City Council

Safe parking for homeless could become permanent



Ryan Brennecke/TheBulletin

Alan Sawyers, who helps with maintenance at DAWNS House, rolls up hoses Thursday after working on a RV unit at the transitional housing site in Bend.

Similar program exists under the COVID-19 emergency declaration

BY BRENNNA VISSER • The Bulletin

A program that allows homeless people to live in their cars or RVs in parking lots that was developed during the pandemic could become permanent in Bend. On Wednesday, the Bend City Council will discuss whether to update the city's code to allow a program that would allow businesses, nonprofits and religious institutions to offer their parking lots to homeless people as a legal place to camp.

"We know the need is there," said Shelly Smith, a senior management analyst with the city. "We know the unhoused, unsheltered population is growing." The idea came from REACH, a nonprofit organization that assists homeless people, Smith said. The city has consistently received feedback from social service providers that in order for people to successfully transition out of

homelessness, they need to have their basic needs met, she said. "There is a huge need for safe places for individuals to park their vehicles/RVs and have access to basic needs while they work on addressing longer term solutions." Colleen Thomas, the Deschutes County homeless services coordinator, wrote in an email. "I think we will continue to see a rise in need for this type

of program as the effects of the pandemic begin to show up." There are two state statutes the City Council can consider adopting into the municipal code, said Elizabeth Oshel, an attorney with the city. One program would allow a property owner to host up to three vehicles or tents at a time, and have proper sanitation facilities on site, such as hand-washing stations and bath-

rooms. It would only require the property owner's permission, not permission from the city, Oshel said. The second program would allow up to six cars or RVs, and would require approval from the city and a plan that shows how the property would provide sanitation services and supervision of the site, Oshel said.

See **Parking** / A7

"There is a huge need for safe places for individuals to park their vehicles/RVs and have access to basic needs while they work on addressing longer term solutions."

— Colleen Thomas, the Deschutes County homeless services coordinator

Coronavirus in Oregon

Everyone in state will be eligible for vaccine by July 1

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

Everyone in Oregon will be offered a vaccination against COVID-19 by July 1, with the two-shot vaccines reaching all adults who want it by August, Gov. Kate Brown said Friday. "Come summer, any Oregonian who wants the vaccine can receive it," Brown announced at a virtual press conference. It was a surprisingly optimistic forecast after recent estimates that the vaccination of the entire state would stretch into autumn or even early 2022. Oregon has had one of the lowest COVID-19 infection rates in the nation, with 154,878 infections and 2,206 deaths through Friday. Nationwide, there have been just under 28.5 million infections and more than 510,000 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. The shorter timeline announced Friday is based on reports from the Biden administration that Pfizer and Moderna, the maker of the two currently available vaccines, will hit their production targets, which would increase the number of doses coming to states.

See **Vaccines** / A7

WILDFIRES

Deschutes County to maintain hazard zone

BY BRENNNA VISSER
The Bulletin

Deschutes County commissioners decided they will not reduce the amount of land considered to be in the wildfire hazard zone, but are still discussing new building codes that would require homes to be more wildfire resistant. The decision comes after a summer of historic wildfires that burned down 4,000 homes across the state and inundated Central Oregon with heavy smoke for days.

See **Wildfires** / A4

COVID lateral piping boosts Crooked River water levels

BY MICHAEL KOHN
The Bulletin

A canal piping project operated by the Central Oregon Irrigation District near Redmond has boosted levels of the Crooked River by up to 16%, an increase that will benefit fish and other wildlife in the Deschutes Basin. Water has been saved through the piping of a 2,210-foot-long open lateral canal near Red-

mond, according to a release from the Deschutes River Conservancy, a nonprofit group. Pipes are more efficient than canals as they don't seep water into the soil. Over the past century, water diverted from the rivers in the Deschutes Basin through canals for agricultural purposes has disrupted the natural flow of rivers across Central Oregon.

See **Water** / A7



Deschutes River Conservancy/Submitted photo

The Crooked River at Smith Rock State Park, where a canal piping project by the Central Oregon Irrigation District near Redmond has boosted levels of the river by up to 16%.

Correction

In an article headlined "Culinary institute receives exemplary accreditation" which appeared Friday, Feb. 26, on Page A1, the last name of the owner of Kefi Fresh was misspelled. The owner's name is Nick Stanitsas. The Bulletin regrets the error.

