

# The Bulletin

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**Health care strike**

# Hospital workers walk off the job at St. Charles Bend



Kaitlyn Carter, an echo tech, leads a chant during a strike at St. Charles in Bend on Thursday

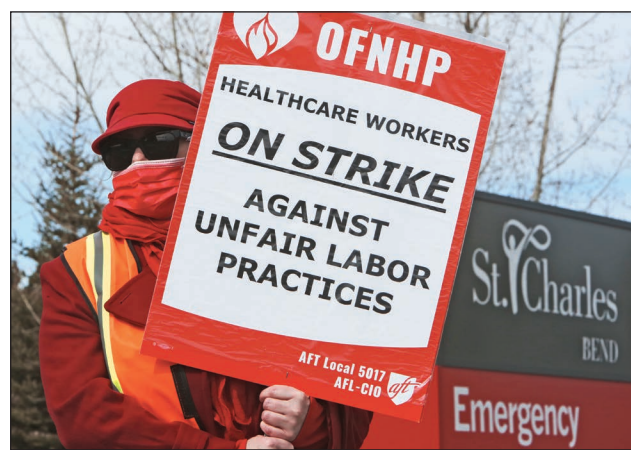
Photos by Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

BY SUZANNE ROIG AND MICHAEL KOHN  
The Bulletin

Technologists, therapists and technicians walked the picket line Thursday at St. Charles Bend during the first strike at the hospital since 1980. St. Charles Bend officials said they floated a supposal, which is a what-if-kind-of-scenario, late Wednesday to the Oregon Federation of Nursing and Health Professionals. But the union, which represents 156 workers, rejected the hospital's meeting offer. Union officials, however, said that the supposal wasn't an offer at all. "They have not made an offer to

return to the table. We unconditionally are willing to meet under any circumstances, any time, to like meet, bargain, and discuss these issues," said Sam Potter, Oregon Federation of Nursing and Health Professionals external organizer. "Our folks are proud to be on the strike line, but this is not a decision that they wanted to make. They feel forced into this position by the hospital," Potter said. "It is a little disingenuous for the hospital to characterize reaching out through a federal mediator as an attempt to settle the contract when they won't communicate with us directly."

See **Strike** / A6



Mindy Schiebler, Oregon Federation of Nursing and Health Professionals board member, grips her sign during the strike.

## OSU plans return to in-person classes

*Campuses in Bend and Corvallis could be back to normal this fall*

BY JACKSON HOGAN

The Bulletin  
After more than a year of half-empty dorms and primarily online classes, Oregon State University's campuses in Bend and Corvallis could mostly return to normal this fall. "We're planning towards, as much as possible, a traditional university experience," said Christine Coffin, spokesperson for OSU-Cascades. On Thursday, OSU announced tentative plans to bring back many in-person classes and extracurricular activities at OSU-Cascades in Bend and the larger Corvallis campus when the fall term begins Sept. 22. OSU President F. King Alexander confirmed this tentative move in a letter to university faculty and staff Wednesday evening. President Joe Biden's recent declaration that all American adults could be vaccinated by the end of May increased hope that OSU's fall term could mostly return to normal, he wrote.

See **OSU** / A6

## County risk levels

# Grace period given to avoid back and forth

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau  
Counties that might fall back into the state's most restrictive extreme risk level for COVID-19 spread will be given a two-week grace period on heightened restrictions, Gov. Kate Brown announced Thursday. Brown said the state's low overall infection rates and its steep trend downward since the winter holidays allowed for "a bit more time" for some state trouble spots. The state currently ranks 49th of the 50 states in new infections per 100,000 people — only Hawaii scores better.

See **Virus** / A6

**Correction**

In a story headlined "Parking restrictions may become permanent," which published on Wednesday, March 3 on Page A1, the price of the parking permit was incorrectly stated for residential permits. The correct price is \$25 a year for a permit. The Bulletin regrets the error.

# Bend veteran pushes for new memorial highway designation

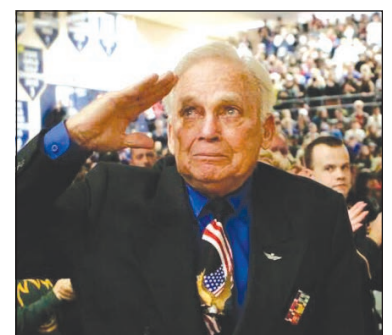
BY KEVIN HARDEN

Oregon Capital Bureau  
Oregon's long stretch of U.S. Highway 30, from Astoria to the Idaho border, could become the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway. Senate Bill 790, introduced Feb. 24 by state Sen. Tim Knopp, a Bend Republican, would rename Oregon's 477-mile section of the national highway. On Wednesday, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans

and Emergency Preparedness. Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dick Tobiason of the nonprofit Bend Heroes Foundation is the driving force behind SB 790. Tobiason, who served two tours during the Vietnam War as an Army aviator, and his one-man nonprofit operation led efforts on past legislation to rename eight Oregon highways to honor veterans. His legislative success rate is 100%. "I've never lost a vote in 12 years

doing these highways," Tobiason said. It's simple math, he said. The Bend Heroes Foundation raises all the money needed to create 4-by-8-foot signs to be posted along the highway with the veterans designation, probably more than \$10,000 for Highway 30. It pays Oregon's Department of Transportation to install them. Not a dime of taxpayer funds goes into the effort.

See **Highway** / A6



Vietnam-era Army veteran Dick Tobiason during a Veterans Day assembly at Bend High School in 2018. Bulletin file

TODAY'S WEATHER

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