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The Bulletin

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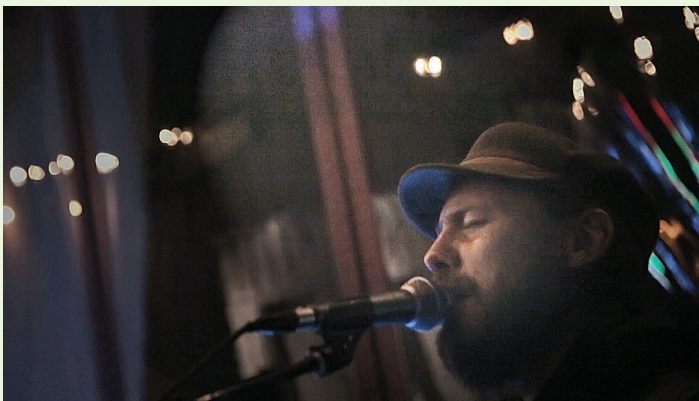
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The Bulletin and Scalehouse team up to help the arts community

Central Oregon Creative Artists Relief Effort

Help support musicians, performers and others through new campaign



BY BRIAN MCELHINEY • The Bulletin

Richard Schuurman knows how hard it is to make a living as a musician. His younger brother, Eric, carved out a career as an independent musician. “For many years he did make a living (with music), and then like so many others, you have to do course corrections in certain ways that still keep you connected to the music field, but maybe not in the way that you initially would have hoped,” Schuurman said. “... When the Great Recession of a few years back (hit), it was such that he had to make a complete course correction — not a course correction, but a change. And then he was able to get back into music and I saw just how influential that was again in his life, so that to me as much as anything really influenced me.”

Schuurman, husband of The Bulletin Publisher Heidi Wright, is a lifelong music fan as well. Last summer he and Wright caught a socially distanced show by local singer-songwriter Pete Kartsounes at CHOW. He was immediately struck by how good the performance was, and following a conversation with Kartsounes, how much Kartsounes and other artists were struggling to stay afloat during the pandemic.

See Arts / A10

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PICTURED FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Lisa Dae, local jazz singer; Mehama Kaupp, owner of a burlesque entertainment company; Ian Factor, Bend artist and teacher; Jason Graham (Mosley Wotta), Bend’s creative laureate; and Eric Leadbetter, local musician.

BEND-LA PINE SCHOOLS

Unique grading style could point to the future

System stresses learning concepts and improving all year

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

At Cascade Middle School, homework isn’t graded. Extra credit isn’t offered. And students don’t get their grades inflated just because they’re behaving well.

Cascade staff say their unique grading system rewards students for actually learning concepts and improving throughout the school year, rather than “playing school” correctly.

“We’re here to develop a genuine love for learning, and develop lifelong learners,” said Dave McKae, a math teacher at Cascade Middle School. “I think this system helps develop that mindset.”

Bend-La Pine Schools recently began an 18-month journey to rethink its grading policies for middle and high schools and this grading style — dubbed standards-based grading — could point toward the future. Three other Bend schools — Pilot Butte Middle School and the two Realms magnet schools — have similar policies.

But the district still has a ways to go before any districtwide grading changes are made, said Katie Legace, director of high schools for Bend-La Pine.

“We want to ensure we have an opportunity for every teacher to do some thinking about their grading practices,” she said. “But we don’t have any preconceived idea about where we might end up at the end of 18 months.”

At Cascade, where standards-based grading has been in place since 2016, students are graded on a 1-4 scale.

A 1 represents a beginning level of mastering the concept, and a 4 means the student has advanced knowledge of the concept. These numbers are then converted into traditional letter grades like As and Bs.

When students start a class, they’re given a detailed description of exactly what they must do to earn a 4, a 3, a 2, or a 1. Pilot Butte Middle teachers grade on a 0 through 8 scale, to better align with the International Baccalaureate curriculum the school uses.

This eliminates inconsistencies among different teachers’ grading styles, said Stephen DuVal, Cascade Middle School principal.

“If you have two teachers that teach the same subject at the same grade level, can the same student get the same grade?” he said. “We found there was a little more inconsistency than we would’ve liked (before standards-based grading).”

See Grading / A10

Facing the elephant in the room: A fractious Oregon GOP

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

When Vic Atiyeh was in the last year of his life, he was happy to accept an accolade from a former aide calling him “Oregon’s last great governor.”

But as his personal archive was opened in 2013 at Pacific University — where he had been a trustee — Atiyeh also said he did not want his legacy to be the last Republican governor of Oregon.

Yet voters have elected only Democrats to the governor’s office since Atiyeh, formerly a state legislator from Beaverton and a business-

man in Portland.

It’s the longest streak for either major party in Oregon history.

Republicans dominated statewide offices when Atiyeh was governor 40 years ago. They were led by Oregon’s U.S. senators of that era — Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood, each with five victories — but also the secretary of state, state treasurer and attorney general, even though Democrats controlled the Legislature.

Republicans have become a threatened species at the statewide level. Just two Republicans have been elected to statewide office in the past

two decades.

Their ranks are shrinking further.

Knute Buehler once carried the GOP banner in Oregon. Now he’s left the party.

In November, Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden won the race for the White House, unseating one-term incumbent Republican Donald Trump. The win was certified and recertified after several statewide recounts, and was acknowledged by states’ elections officials, governors, secretaries of state, the U.S. Justice Department, an estimated 60 judges in about 100 lawsuits — often dismissed

because of a lack of evidence — and the Republican-controlled U.S. Senate.

But then came Jan. 6, when supporters of President Trump listened to several stirring speeches, then marched on the U.S. Capitol and invaded it by force, in an effort to overturn the will of the voters. Five people died. Many of the attackers used social media to brag about the incursion — in real time — while security cameras and the Washington press corps caught countless photos and videos of the effort to overthrow the election.

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TODAY’S WEATHER



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