



PLANS FOR 2021 BEND MARATHON FADE

EVENT IS CANCELED FOR 2ND YEAR • **SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8**

The Bulletin

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STRIKE AT ST. CHARLES BEND | DAY 5

Nurses express support for medical technicians

BY MICHAEL KOHN
The Bulletin

In the five days since medical technician workers walked off the job at St. Charles Bend to strike for wages and benefits, health care has been compromised due to the sudden loss of experienced employees, nurses at the hospital say.

“The narrative that things are status quo at St. Charles isn’t accurate,” said Joel Hernandez, a registered nurse at St. Charles. “In the last week, we have had a significant decrease in the number of surgeries and delays in procedures.”

Hernandez and two other nurses told reporters outside the hospital on Monday that their jobs have become more difficult since the roughly 150 med techs exited the building on Thursday, describing the situation as stressful and anxiety-inducing.

Hernandez added that he is concerned about the qualifications of the workers who have replaced the med techs.

“There have been instances where these people have come into the hospital and said, and I quote, ‘I do not know what I am doing,’ which is very concerning and raises issues of safety for our community,” said Hernandez.

See **Nurses** / A4



Neysa Larson, right, a registered nurse, shows her support of the strike Monday.

Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photo

Too snowy? Find freedom on fatbikes



PHOTO BY DEAN GUERNSEY • The Bulletin

Colleen and Craig Farnum of Bend ride fatbikes Monday on trails at Wanoga Sno-park. Feeling that urge to get out on the snowy trails, too? For weekly updates on trail conditions, check out The Bulletin’s Conditions Report every Friday in the Central Oregon Explore section.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

School district picks Jay Mathisen for top job

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

Jay Mathisen had just left his administrative position at Bend-La Pine Schools for a job with George Fox University, when he heard Jefferson County School District needed a new superintendent.

He said he knew he had to apply for the job.

“I love what I’m doing at George Fox,” said Mathisen, 47. “But when the superintendent seat in Jefferson County came up, it was too good to pass up.”

After a months-long interview process, the Jefferson County School Board has named Mathisen as its new superintendent. Mathisen will replace the retiring superintendent, Ken Parshall, on July 1.

Mathisen said he’s ready for the new challenge in leading a school district far different than Bend-La Pine — smaller, more rural and more ethnically diverse. But instead of charging in with new ideas, he plans to establish a relationship with the community first, he said.

“It’s never wise to ride into town as somebody new and bring a basket full of ideas until you listen and learn from those doing the good work there,” Mathisen said.

See **Mathisen** / A4

Redistricting hearings start despite no maps, no data and uncertain future

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

Despite no redistricting maps or data to show voters, the Legislature is moving ahead this week with hearings on plans for redrawing 2020 political districts.

Ten hearings are planned, two for each congressional district. First up is the 1st Con-

gressional District in northwest Oregon on Tuesday, then the 2nd Congressional District that covers all of Oregon east of the Cascades on Wednesday.

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended the once-a-decade redrawing of legislative and congressional districts. The U.S. Census Bureau has said the pandemic made col-

lection of population data difficult or impossible at times.

The data was required by federal law to be sent to the states by April 1 to begin drawing maps. Now it will not arrive until Sept. 30.

The unprecedented delay has set off a constitutional crisis in Oregon and at least 23 other states.

The autumn delivery date will be well beyond all of Oregon’s constitutional and statutory deadlines for submitting maps. Both the Legislature and the secretary of state, which have authority to draw maps at different points during the usual process, are shut out by the drawn-out timeline.

The fate of 60 House, 30

Senate and five or six congressional districts is headed to the Oregon Supreme Court.

The Legislature has decided to go ahead with the 10 legally mandated hearings. Though two are focused on each congressional district, they also deal with legislative boundaries as well.

“We will be proceeding as

if we’ll get an extension from the Oregon Supreme Court or whatever else it takes to get the job done,” said Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, a senior Democratic lawmaker.

The pandemic has also turned the every-10-year “road show” of hearings into a series of virtual hearings.

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TODAY’S WEATHER



Afternoon shower
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