

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

The Bulletin
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERHeidi Wright
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Publisher
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Getting back to normal, one donation at a time

It is a well-known fact that communities with strong artistic foundations thrive over those that don't support the arts.

A large part of Bend's attractiveness is its music and art scene, its theaters both large and intimate. From the small bistros and taverns to the bigger venues of the Les Schwab Amphitheater, music and art is a driving force behind Central Oregon's economy.

The year-old coronavirus pandemic put a damper on the arts scene — as it did many other businesses — but a few found ways to reach audiences and even host live shows, though sadly socially distant. While some music settings are starting to reopen, we are a long way from the vibrant scene that is Bend.

The launch of the Central Oregon Creative Artists Relief Effort (CO CAREs) is one way to get back to some normalcy for the arts community.

Sunday's announcement in The Bulletin — a partner in this project — captures the difficulty musicians face even in the best of times. It hasn't been easy with many venues closed, and even now, when some are starting to reopen, artists need a shot in the arm (aside from a vaccine, if you will) to get back up on stage.

The seed for the project germinated from an idea by Richard Schuurman, who has launched a small endeavor called The House Concert, a platform for recording artists to get their songs out to the public via recording studio-quality videos. Musicians also chat about their creative process. Schuurman, husband of Heidi Wright, the publisher of The Bulletin, convinced others of the need to help keep musicians here and working. The result is CO CAREs.

CO CAREs is hoping to raise \$40,000 in grant money through crowdfunding during its first



round of fundraising. That money directly benefits these artists, whether they be musicians, performers or visual artists. There are other ways one can contribute, too.

Head to www.bendbulletin.com/talent to make a donation, or, if you're an artist, apply for a grant. Donations are tax deductible.

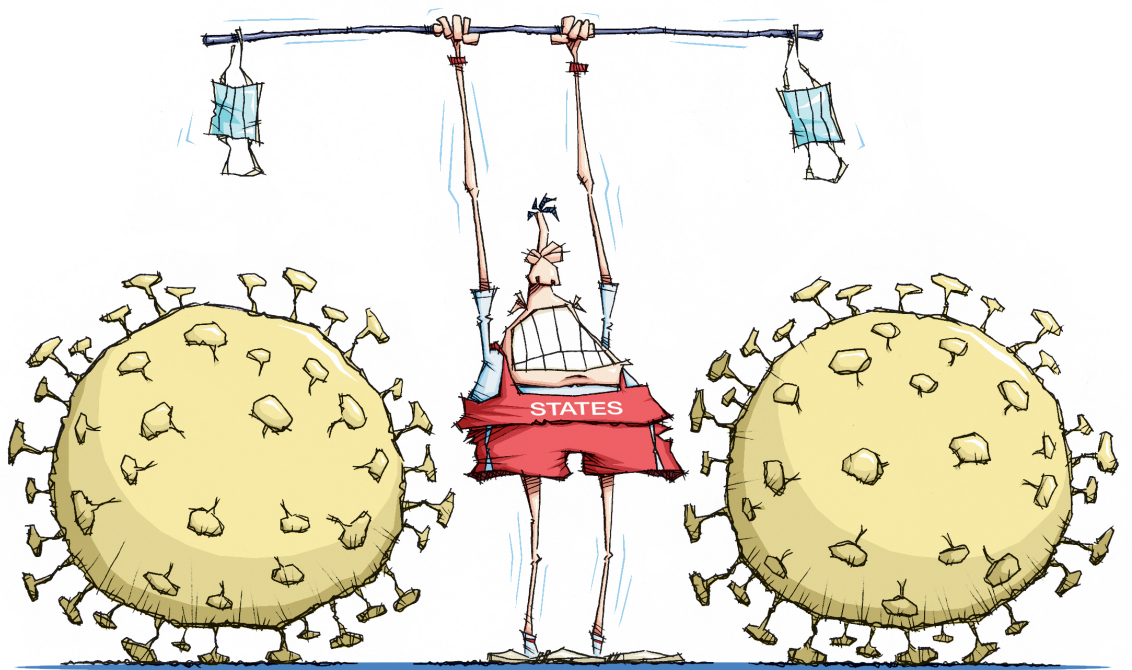
Scalehouse, a collaborative for the arts, is the fiscal sponsor of the project and will handle grant applications and the distribution of funds. An advisory board made up of artists, designers and performers from outside Central Oregon, will determine who gets the funding.

Current donors and partners include The House Concert, Brooks Resources, Robberson Ford, Lincoln and Mazda, The Tower Theatre, KPOV (community radio), Amy Tykeson and Dr. John Teller. We encourage more to hop on that help out this worthy cause.

The initiative created a straight-to-the-point video expressing the need for art in Bend. At one point, musician Jason Graham (Mosley Watta), says, "Art is a way for a community to fall in love with itself... unconditionally and in varying ways. If we don't have that, we get lost. And we've had a lot of loss recently."

Check out the website and the video and read up on the local artists that make up this community. Even more so, donate to this worthy cause and help the artistic community get back on its feet.

Tim Campbell
Cartoonist
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LIFTING RESTRICTIONS

My Nickel's Worth

Some thoughts on hydroelectric power

I find the article in Saturday's paper, titled "support for hydroelectric project" to be very encouraging. I sincerely hope that Commissioners DeBone and Chang will indeed vote to allow the completion of the hydroelectric project on Wychus Creek.

One aspect of these generation stations that often seems to be overlooked is that once the water is used for generation it does not disappear from the area. In most cases it is returned to the stream bed or irrigation canal from which it came. That water is still available for irrigation or stream flow uses.

One other area that the commissioners can look into for hydroelectric generation is the city of Bend drinking water project, already in place on Deschutes County land just west of Bend. It already pipes large quantities of drinking water downhill from Bridge Creek to the city of Bend filtration and storage site, also on Deschutes County land.

This water flows downhill, virtually unchecked in a piping system from its source to the filtration plant. It will take engineering studies to determine the total available motive force in this pipe system. But based on the total drop in

elevation I am certain that it contains many times the amount of power available in most low head (low drop) irrigation generation systems.

The city could sell the electrical energy generated to offset its ever-growing need for financial income, without raising taxes.

— Dale Brieske, Redmond

A response to housing column

Ms. Austin stated in her response to former Mayor Allan Bruckner's article that, "It is not age that allows one to understand the needs of others."

I'm guessing then that Ms. Austin would not be opposed to having an all-white male city council with everyone 69 years of age or older.

— Scott Pogue, Bend

Author has impressive, wide-ranging background

For those who heard Sheryl Wu-Dunn and Nicholas Kristof speak about their most recent book, "Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope", in the last of the Author! Author! series this past week, you met Sheryl Wu-Dunn.

If you only read the Feb. 25 Bulletin article about the couple, you missed an opportunity to learn about this skilled

and impactful woman. Other than reading that they split the assignments of writing their Pulitzer Prize winning work, that's all we would know about Sheryl Wu-Dunn.

In this limited space I'll fill in just some of Sheryl Wu-Dunn's background: business executive, senior banker, private wealth advisor, writer, lecturer, and Pulitzer Prize winner to name some of her accomplished careers.

Starting as the first Asian-American reporter hired at The New York Times, Wu-Dunn ran coverage of global energy, global markets, foreign technology and foreign industry. She was also the anchor on The New York Times Page One nightly program.

She is on these short lists to recognize extraordinary women: Fast Company, Harvard Business School, PBS, and Business Insider. I don't mean to diminish Nicholas Kristof's well deserved recognition as a journalist and political commentator. They are the first couple to win a Pulitzer Prize for journalism.

Sheryl Wu-Dunn certainly pulls her weight in this duo. Take a look at her two TED talks to see the additional depth of who Sheryl Wu-Dunn is. Bend would be very fortunate to have her return on her own stage.

— Leslie Koc, Bend

Editorials reflect the views of The Bulletin's editorial board, Publisher Heidi Wright, Editor Gerry O'Brien and Editorial Page Editor Richard Coe. They are written by Richard Coe.

Letters policy

We welcome your letters. Letters should be limited to one issue, contain no more than 250 words and include the writer's signature, phone number and address for verification. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject poetry, personal attacks, form letters, letters submitted elsewhere and those appropriate for other sections of The Bulletin. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

Guest columns

Your submissions should be between 550 and 650 words; they must be signed; and they must include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject those submitted elsewhere. Locally submitted columns alternate with national columnists and commentaries. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

How to submit

Please address your submission to either My Nickel's Worth or Guest Column and mail, fax or email it to The Bulletin. Email submissions are preferred.

Email: letters@bendbulletin.com

Write: My Nickel's Worth/Guest Column
P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708

Fax: 541-385-5804

It is time to give voice to the values that unite us

BY ADAM DAVIS
Guest Columnist

As a recently retired opinion researcher, I spent a professional career exploring the divides in Oregon.

The political divide.

The racial divide.

The urban-rural divide.

Too often my exploration was limited to one or another subgroup of Oregonians, rather than all Oregonians. And my charge was to simply report the numbers and let my clients take it from there, which most often meant using the data to promote their self-interest in one way or another.

As a co-founder of the nonprofit Oregon Values and Beliefs Center (OVBC), I now feel like Django Unchained. As a native Oregonian (another divide: short- and long-term residents), I consider it an honor to help provide Oregonians a tool to not only explore the divides in our state but also to help bridge those divides.

We are at a critical moment in Oregon. The hounds are no longer waiting outside the door. They are in our living rooms: the health and economic impacts of the pandemic, the overdue need to address racial inequalities, and frightening implications of climate change.

From the perspective of an opinion researcher and student of public policymaking, I see two things needed to help soothe the savage beasts, both of which OVBC can provide.

First, is regularly hearing from all Oregonians about their values and beliefs, not just a subgroup like frequent voters.

Second is to be regularly reminded that there are certain things we Oregonians agree on regardless of our political party, race, and where we live, and these values and beliefs represent the common ground we can stand on together to rise above the divides and make our state better at the local, regional and state levels.

The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center is about hearing from all Oregonians and amplifying their voices to identify what unites us and to better understand what divides us.

What will distinguish OVBC's work from most other opinion research conducted in Oregon is how the research studies are designed and administered. We will ask questions of the general population, not just voters or even more narrowly, likely voters. Importantly, this includes hard-to-reach populations like younger Oregonians, communities of color and rural Oregonians.

GUEST COLUMN



Davis

Another distinction will be the use of stratified sampling rather than proportional sampling to assure that organizations in all regions of the state, not just the Portland

metro area and the Willamette Valley, have enough valid and statistically reliable data to help them build stronger communities. This includes information to assist with needs assessments, program evaluation and public involvement.

And finally, we will not be working for clients looking to support a position. Rather, we are a nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization which conducts nonpartisan opinion research to assist public, private and nonprofit organizations.

For the next 12 months, we will be collaborating with Pamplin Media Group, EO Media and other news outlets in what we're calling the Oregon Values & Voices project.

The goal is to build OVBC's capacity to reach all Oregonians and to assure that the resulting research does

More than a penny for your thoughts

The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center is committed to the highest level of public opinion research. To help obtain that, the nonprofit is building a large research panel of Oregonians to ensure that all voices are represented in discussions of public policy in a valid and statistically reliable way.

Selected panelists earn points for their participation, which can be redeemed for cash or donated to a charity. To learn more visit <https://oregonvbc.org/about-the-panel/> and join the panel.

not just end up sitting on a shelf. The research is important. But it's only the first step. We need to use our independent, trusted journalists to use those findings to tell stories, connect the dots to not only describe how people are feeling about things but also why they are feeling that way.

OVBC has started rising above the political mudslinging and partisanship to identify some common ground:

- Oregonians want our leaders to address the same issues
 - We value the same things about living in our community, with natural beauty and environmental quality being at the top of the list
 - We feel the same about which public services are most important
 - We all support a public safety net for vulnerable children and seniors
- The Oregon Values & Voices col-

laboration will produce truly independent and non-partisan research and reporting that will inform Oregonians working to build stronger communities across the state. We want to help Oregonians learn how to better talk to each other and not past each other. Again, we want to shine a light on what unites us and to better understand what divides us, all in the hope of giving us a greater chance to successfully address our challenges.

■ Adam Davis is co-founder of DHM Research, an independent, nonpartisan firm, and the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center. He has been conducting opinion research in Oregon for more than 40 years.

■ Editor's note: EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group have a partnership with Oregon Values and Voices to report on some of its poll findings. Direction of the reporting is solely up to the media groups.