



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin file

Filmmakers Zeke Kamm, left, and Taylor Morden photographed ahead of the world premiere of their documentary "The Last Blockbuster," which debuted at BendFilm's pop-up drive-in theater on Deschutes Brewing property in Bend in July 2020. Starting March 15 the film will be available on Netflix.

Blockbuster

Continued from A1

"The irony is not lost on us," Morden said. "Netflix and Blockbuster had a fascinating relationship and that's a big part of the story we are telling with the documentary."

Morden and Kamm pitched their film to Netflix through their distributor, 1091 Pictures. The film frames Netflix as the antagonist that dominated the home video marketplace so it was a strange pitch, Morden said.

"We knew it was weird to say, 'Hey Netflix we made a movie. You are kind of the bad guys in the movie, but we still think your audience would get a kick out of it,'" Morden said.

The documentary highlights how Netflix did not act maliciously. The company simply made better business decisions and changed the way people enjoy home movies by allowing them to choose films from home rather than travel to a video rental store.

In fact, the film details how Blockbuster had a chance to buy Netflix.

"Through some amount of

hubris and arrogance, Blockbuster decides it doesn't need it," Morden said. "Netflix rises to become the dominant force in home video entertainment. Then fast forward to 2021, and our little documentary about how all that happened is on Netflix."

Beyond the business side of Blockbuster, the film explores the nostalgia around video stores and how the Bend location outlasted all the other Blockbusters.

The film follows Bend Blockbuster manager Sandi Harding as she learns her store became the last on Earth. The only other Blockbuster in Perth, Australia, closed in March 2019.

Morden, a director, cinematographer and editor who has mostly made independent documentaries in his career, said it is a thrill for him and Kamm to have their documentary end up on a worldwide platform such as Netflix. "Getting anything on Netflix or any major streaming platform is a huge deal," Morden said. "This is the Hollywood ending for Zeke and I."

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Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Construction crews work at the new Petrosa housing development near the intersection of Butler Market Road and Eagle Road in Bend on Wednesday.

Petrosa

Continued from A1

Carrie Douglass, chair of the Bend-La Pine School Board, said this purchase was a smart financial decision at Tuesday night's board meeting.

"Our community may not have the context to understand how strong our district has been at managing land acquisitions ... and looking far out into the future," she said Tuesday. "There are many, many other districts that act in a really responsive, rather than proactive, way."

The Petrosa development is projected to be massive, with an estimated 1,260 homes, according to Bend-La Pine documents. Buckingham and Ponderosa elementary schools are nearby, but the new elementary should ease overcrowding of those two schools when it's built, according to Mike Tiller, director of facilities for Bend-La Pine Schools.

Purchasing this land from Pahlisch Homes was a shrewd financial decision, Tiller told the school board Tuesday. The surrounding area will have all its infrastructure complete.

"We've got electric, water, sewer, cable, gas ... it's development ready," Tiller told the board. "That is a very cost-effective way to do this."

In comparison, Bend-La Pine only spent about \$1.2 mil-

lion in 2018 for the land that would become North Star Elementary. But, the school district spent an extra \$3 million on infrastructure in the area, including rebuilding O.B. Riley Road near the school, Tiller told The Bulletin in an email Thursday.

The \$2.8 million used to purchase the 10 acres in Petrosa was funded by Bend-La Pine's \$268 million bond from 2017. This will be the third new school partly funded by that bond, as it completely paid for North Star Elementary, which opened in 2019, and Caldera High School, which will open in September 2021.

The building for the new elementary in Petrosa will need to be funded by another bond, Tiller told The Bulletin. Because of that, he said it was still too early to estimate when the new school would be built, or how expensive it would be.

Seidel, from Pahlisch, wrote in an email to The Bulletin on Thursday that the developer is thrilled to work with Bend-La Pine on this land deal.

"We're strong supporters of complete neighborhoods and selling this land to the school district supports that vision," she wrote. "This is an incredible asset for NE Bend, and we're excited to be a part of that."

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Homeless

Continued from A1

When asked what changed ODOT's position, Murphy said he doesn't know exactly what was said, but that ODOT is "a cooperative agency trying to find way to say yes, generally."

Murphy said ODOT workers were working with the homeless campers to separate out what is trash and what is personal property. Personal property, according to state statute, must be kept in storage for at 30 days to give people the ability to retrieve it.

But a small group of activists with the Central Oregon Peacekeepers, who were livestreaming the cleanup, felt that homeless campers were not being treated fairly, and having more than just trash being thrown away by the agency.

Luke Richter, the leader of the peacekeepers, said he was concerned about whether the campers were getting enough resources about where to find their personal property.

The organization has regularly been livestreaming homeless camp cleanups or evictions around the city, ar-



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin

An ODOT crew removes materials from a homeless camp near Revere Avenue and the Bend Parkway on Thursday.

guing it is inhumane to do so when the public health guidelines say camps should not be moved amid a pandemic.

Mike Eaton, who lives on ODOT property on the other side of the highway on Revere Avenue, watched from

the sidewalk as ODOT equipment went through the camp where many of his friends live.

Eaton personally spent all day cleaning up his campsite in preparation for ODOT to come through, he said. But

tearing down a home and rebuilding it constantly can be hard.

"It's like building with straw," he said. "There's not a lot of alternatives."

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St. Charles

Continued from A1

"Life on the (picket) line is good," said Frank DeWolf, a St. Charles cardiac catheterization lab technologist. "Everyone is in good spirits and the community support is amazing. We wish the hospital would let us, the experts, in to do what we do best by giving us a fair contract."

In terms of salary, the hospital has not negotiated a salary beyond the first year of the contract. The hospital offered a base salary of \$87,000 a year for a full-time workers, not including overtime, premium

pay, shift differentials and other benefits, the hospital said in a prepared statement.

"The bargaining teams engaged in some joint sessions throughout the day and the presence of the mediator was very helpful," said Aaron Adams, president of St. Charles Bend, in a prepared statement. "We are hopeful we can get back to the table soon for further discussion."

Both sides have met 29 times over the past year to resolve a labor dispute with medical technicians. The hospital tried to stop the strike by filing lawsuits in state and federal courts.

The walk out began March 4.

"We have done everything we can to settle this contract and end this strike, but St. Charles leadership is dangerously out of touch with the people taking care of our community," said Sam Potter, external organizer for the union. "Every day that they prolong this strike, they are making a conscious decision to put our families, our community, in danger rather than pay their employees fair wages."

This is the first contract that the union, which began representing the members in

October 2019, has attempted to negotiate on behalf of the members with St. Charles. During previous negotiation sessions, 85% of the contract had been hammered out, what was left on the table were cost items, Potter said.

St. Charles has filed two unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, which oversees disputes like these. St. Charles Bend maintains the strike notice was unlawful and the union isn't bargaining in good faith, according to a prepared statement.

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