

INSIDE: PULSE MAGAZINE

OREGON'S TRIBES ARE HIT HARD BY COVID-19

The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, B3-6

COVID-19 | Central Oregon

Region awaits greenlight on outdoor concerts, festivals



Bulletin file photos

Dave Matthews Band performs for a sold-out crowd Aug. 28, 2018, at Les Schwab Amphitheater in Bend.

Jury begins hearing Wirkkala murder trial No. 2

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

Luke Anton Wirkkala is once again on trial in Deschutes County for the murder of David Ryder, a young husband, father and friend of the defendant.

And as before, during his first trial in 2014, the key question for jurors is the same: Was Wirkkala acting in self-defense when authorities say he shot Ryder at close distance with a shotgun?

On Thursday, a jury of 15 — eight women and seven men — was chosen and opening statements provided by defense and prosecution in Wirkkala's second murder trial.

Now 40, Wirkkala appeared in court wearing a black suit and tie and a trim haircut. He's been in the Deschutes County jail since the Oregon Court of Appeals vacated his earlier conviction in early 2018. The appellate court ruled Bend Police officers should have stopped interviewing Wirkkala when he asked for a lawyer.

Since then, Wirkkala has turned down opportunities to plead guilty to a lesser charge and leave custody in only a few years.

See **Wirkkala** / A6

Bill would direct pot tax revenue back to county

BY BRENNIA VISSER
The Bulletin

Deschutes County could receive marijuana tax revenue again if a bill in the state Legislature is approved.

House Bill 3295, sponsored by Rep. Jason Kropf, D-Bend, and Rep. Jack Zika, R-Redmond, is intended to resolve an issue that arose in Deschutes County after the Deschutes County Commission voted in 2019 to place a moratorium on any new marijuana processors and growers.

See **Marijuana** / A4

Central Oregonians are hopeful events will return in the summer as the virus risk drops

BY MICHAEL KOHN • The Bulletin

After a year of social distancing, Central Oregonians are looking forward to rubbing their vaccinated shoulders at summertime events, concerts and festivals. The restart of these gatherings will be good for local businesses, too.

The vendors, artists, promoters and others that make a living from the summer events circuit have experienced a rough year without these gatherings that give them crucial exposure. But they still have to wait a bit longer — most permitted events are shelved until COVID-19 risk drops to lower levels.

It has been a year since Bend went into its first lockdown, which prematurely ended the 2020 outdoor events season. That caused pain for this area's craft makers, small businesses and other creative people who rely on the outdoor festival season to show

off their products.

"The event industry has been devastated by the pandemic," said Katy Brooks, CEO and president of the Bend Chamber of Commerce. "They have done the best they can to survive for a year with virtually zero business."

Brooks said President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan will be a "welcome boost," as billions are targeted to the event industry and the businesses that support it.

"The key to their long-term economic survival is to keep COVID cases down," Brooks added.

See **Events** / A6



Shoppers browse produce for sale at the Groundwork Organics stand during the Downtown Bend Farmers Market in 2018.

High Desert Museum is finalist for national medal

Award is nation's highest honor for museums, libraries

BY DAVID JASPER
The Bulletin

The High Desert Museum has been named as one of 15 finalists for the 2021 IMLS National Medal for Museum and

Library Service.

"This is the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries," said Dana Whitelaw, executive director of the Bend museum. "The honor is bestowed upon museums that really go above and beyond to serve their community and provide a lot of engagement and support."

Three museums and three libraries will win the prestigious

medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, which Whitelaw described as a peer agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities. The High Desert Museum is the only museum west of the Mississippi River to be named a finalist this year.

As an example of the type of community engagement that

put the museum in contention for the award, Whitelaw cites a program created last year by the museum's education team.

"Because there were no museum field trips for the 12,000 schoolkids that we normally see in a year, our education team rallied a comprehensive distance learning support program at La Pine Elementary," she said.

See **Museum** / A4



La Pine Elementary School students experience a field trip through the High Desert Museum's program for first through fifth graders at the school during comprehensive distance learning in 2020.

High Desert Museum/Submitted photo

TODAY'S WEATHER



Clouds and sun
High 50, Low 32
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