

# A TRIP TO WILLOW CREEK CANYON

EXPLORE, B1

# The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, B3-6

## COVID-19 | Mosaic Medical, La Pine health center

# Additional vaccines are available for patients

BY SUZANNE ROIG

The Bulletin

A federal program is enabling Mosaic Medical to offer COVID-19 vaccines to any patients 45 and older, and those who have been disproportionately affected by the virus, sooner than the state's schedule.

The same program will become a

*"Our mission is to serve all those who need health care in the community with special outreach to vulnerable populations."*

— Elaine Knobbs-Seasholtz, Mosaic Medical director of Strategy and Development

steady pipeline of vaccines for the La Pine Community Health Center to be given to its elderly population still in

need of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The pilot program has been selected for nearly a dozen federally qualified

health centers in Oregon and allows for vaccines to be given to patients outside of the Oregon Health Authority's schedule. As a federally qualified health center serving vulnerable populations, Mosaic Medical will allow for nearly three-fourths of its 27,000 patients to qualify for a vaccine, said Elaine Knobbs-Seasholtz, Mosaic Medical di-

rector of Strategy and Development.

"There are only two in the region in this federal program to give us direct dispersal in the next two weeks," Knobbs-Seasholtz said. "Our mission is to serve all those who need health care in the community with special outreach to vulnerable populations."

See **Vaccines** / A6

## AMITY CREEK MAGNET

# Overhaul finds balance between classic, modern



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

A classroom is fully updated after a remodel of Amity Creek Magnet at Thompson School in Bend.

BY JACKSON HOGAN

The Bulletin

After 72 years, one of Central Oregon's oldest schoolhouses received a \$3.8 million overhaul over the past year. Nearly all of Amity Creek Magnet at Thompson School — everything but the kitchen, bathrooms and a closet — was updated. But staff — who've returned to

*"The architects really preserved the feel of this building. It just has that warmth that this school has always had."*

— Andy Slavin, Amity Creek principal

the remodeled building when it opened March 15 — appreciate that Bend-La Pine Schools preserved the K-5 school's retro charm.

"I loved Amity before there were renovations — it was like an old house you can never really afford," said first-grade teacher Amanda

Bowers. "Now, it's an old house that's been renovated while maintaining the charm and historical features."

But just as important to teachers were the new amenities: energy-efficient lighting and fans, student lockers rather than coat hangers, and fancy new projectors in every classroom.

See **Amity Creek** / A6

## OREGON LEGISLATURE

# Budget writers come up with 2021-23 framework

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

The co-leaders of the Oregon Legislature's budget committee have laid out their framework for balancing the next two-year state budget with more than \$2 billion in federal aid from President Joe Biden's pandemic recovery plan.

The framework, which they announced Wednesday, will enable lawmakers to maintain state aid to public schools, state-supported health care and other services without many of the cuts proposed in Gov. Kate Brown's original \$25.6 billion budget back on Dec. 1.

The state school fund will be at \$9.1 billion, excluding the money from the corporate activity tax that districts get for targeted programs and separate federal aid to enable districts to reopen schools.

The Oregon Health Plan, which enrolls 1.25 million low-income people, will be maintained without cuts. The federal government has raised its share of the joint federal-state program through Dec. 31 of this year.

### 'A game-changer'

The budget framework also proposes \$780 million from Oregon's \$2.6 billion share of federal aid for programs and services envisioned under Biden's plan, which became law on March 12.

The overall \$1.9 trillion plan passed both houses of Congress without any Republican support.

"The federal aid in the American Rescue Plan is a game-changer," Rep. Dan Rayfield, a Democrat from Corvallis and one of the chief budget writers, said in a statement.

"This support is critical to our recovery and will help the state continue vital programs and services for Oregonians who have been disproportionately impacted by the crises of the past year."

See **Budget** / A4

# Starbucks is proposed at Madras gateway property

Arizona-based development firm would finish project in 16 months

BY KYLE SPURR

The Bulletin

The gateway to Madras could soon become a Star-

bucks coffee shop.

Ertle Development Partners, an Arizona-based development company, submitted a pro-

posal to build a 2,000-square-foot Starbucks with a patio and drive-thru on the vacant "South Y" gateway, where vehicles trav-

eling north on U.S. Highway 97 enter a split into a one-way street through downtown Madras.

Jake Ertle, who runs the company with his father, Rusty, said the plan needs to be negotiated with Jefferson County,

which bought the property from the Oregon Department of Transportation for \$205,629 with the intent to sell the space for immediate development.

The development company's proposal is to buy the property

for \$210,000 and complete the coffee shop within 16 months. A second phase would include building a 3,375-square-foot retail building for a brewery or restaurant.

See **Madras** / A6

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