



The front entrance of Amity Creek Magnet at Thompson School in Bend.

Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin photos

Amity Creek

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Bowers said the technology upgrades in particular are useful.

“We were operating off of roller-cart projectors; it had to be in the middle of the room; it was ugly, cords were everywhere,” she said. “Now, we have these top of the line Apple TVs and projectors. I use it all the time.”

Principal Andy Slavin says this balance of classic and modern is what makes the Amity Creek renovation a success.

“The architects really preserved the feel of this building,” he said. “It just has that warmth that this school has always had.”

Amity Creek’s modern-classic look is easily apparent to anyone who walks through the school, located off Wall Street in the Old Bend neighborhood. In the same hallway as new light fixtures and flooring are patches of wood paneling preserved from 1949. It feels fresh, while not resembling the sleeker design of newer Bend elementary schools like North Star and Silver Rail.

The windows are another example of this balancing act.



Wood paneling was salvaged during the remodel of Amity Creek Magnet at Thompson School in Bend.

The original wooden frames were preserved and refinished, while the glass and hinges were replaced, Slavin said. Before the renovation, most classrooms only had one window that actually opened — now, they all do, he said.

The hallway is just as colorful and filled with student artwork as before. But the artwork isn’t attached to bulletin boards — the hallway walls are entirely wrapped in corkboard, providing much more space for drawings and doodles.

During the weekend before it opened, Amity Creek staff took their students’ art from North Star Elementary — where the school was tempo-

rarily based this winter during construction — and canvassed the hallway with it.

“It just felt homey, rather than have (students) walk into these empty hallways,” Slavin said. There are also some Amity Creek upgrades that are less eye-catching. The roof is new, and the building has been reinforced with steel to better protect it from earthquakes, Slavin said.

Although construction crews were able to start work on Amity Creek earlier than planned, since there were no students in the building last spring due to COVID-19, the pandemic caused delays in the supply chain, Slavin said.

“When supplies weren’t here, subcontractors couldn’t do their work and went on to other things,” he said. “And they weren’t always available when supplies did arrive.”

These delays did not increase the cost of the renovation, according to Mike Tiller, director of facilities for Bend-La Pine.

The one group that might not be quite as enthusiastic about the remodel? Students. Slavin said the school’s nearly 130 students have a range of feelings about the new Amity Creek. Younger students don’t really remember the pre-renovation building, while older students already feel nostalgia for their older digs.

“For some, it doesn’t feel like the old Amity building, so they’re mourning the loss,” Slavin said. “But at the same time, I think they’re enjoying the newness and freshness.”

But after more than a year of being outside Amity Creek, due to COVID-19 and construction, school staff said it was great to return back to a fresh update of their home.

“It’s beautiful, thoughtful, well-designed,” Bowers said. “I’m grateful.”

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Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

Karla Toms, a RN with St. Charles, administers a vaccine in the arm of Suzi Smith of Bend on Jan. 20 at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.

Vaccines

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The pilot program is enabling the community to have yet another avenue for vaccines and doesn’t take away from other vaccine channels into the community, said Morgan Emerson, Deschutes County Health Services spokeswoman. “This will help expedite our capacity to vaccinate residents,” Emerson said. “It doesn’t take away from other vaccine channels coming into Deschutes County.”

The county is among a group of counties with approval from Gov. Kate Brown to move beyond the state scheduling for vaccines to front-line workers and people 45 to 64 with qualifying health conditions. On Monday, Deschutes County began vaccinating those 45 to 64 with underlying health conditions, those working as front-line workers and the homeless as provided by the Phase 1B, group 6.

As of Wednesday, Deschutes County had vaccinated 80% of eligible residents age 65 and older, Emerson said. Anyone interested in receiving a vaccine should pre-register

by going online at www.centraloregncovidvaccine.com or calling 541-699-5109 Monday to Friday.

The state reached 1 million vaccinations against COVID-19 this week since the first dose was issued on Dec. 14.

Mosaic and La Pine are part of a federal pilot program designed to expand vaccination efforts to communities most disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

The current guidelines to access the vaccine at Mosaic are:

- Mosaic patients age 45 or older;
- Mosaic patients eligible under Oregon Health Authority guidance (Phases 1a and 1b);
- Mosaic patients age 16 and older who meet at least one of the following conditions, homeless, a resident of public housing, a migrant/seasonal agricultural worker, having limited English proficiency or low-income as defined by federal guidelines;
- A Mosaic patient 45 years or older scheduling an appointment for a spouse/care-giver.

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WILDFIRE AREAS

Forest Service plans ‘hazard trees’ removal

BY ZACH URNESS

Salem Statesman Journal

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed a sweeping plan to remove trees burned and killed along roads within the scar of the Beachie Creek, Lionshead and Holiday Farm fires, but some are asking the federal agency to delay until the issue can be studied in more detail.

There are roughly 550 miles of road within the trio of fires and about 390 are proposed for “treatment” — meaning cutting dead trees that might fall onto the road in the future.

Some conservation groups and locals are asking the Forest Service to take more time and include more public participation into what areas are targeted for tree removal.

They point to the Breitenbush and Little North Fork ar-



Inciweb, file

The Lionshead Fire, caused by lightning in August 2020 on the Warm Springs Reservation, burns in early September.

reas as locations where swaths of forest, including trees that still appeared to be green, were cut in the name of safety, as a reason this much wider project deserves greater scrutiny.

“We’re not against removing danger trees where it makes

sense,” said Dwayne Canfield, executive director of the Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center.

“We’re just asking them to take more care and be more transparent about this process,” Canfield said. “After seeing some of the work they’ve already done to remove haz-

ard trees, especially around Breitenbush, it’s clear that applying blind trust here is risky. Left unmanaged, we worry this process will result in excessive tree removal.”

The Forest Service asked for public comments to come in by Monday. However, they can be sent later and will still be considered, officials said. Comments can be emailed to elspeth.gustavson@usda.gov.

If the proposal goes ahead, a final decision would come in May and work to remove dangerous trees would begin this summer and be completed sometime in 2022.

Madras

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Madras has a Starbucks inside Safeway on the north end of the city, but no free-standing location with a drive-thru. Starbucks estimates about 150,000 customers would visit the new location each year, according to the development proposal.

Ertle said he expects to reach a sales agreement with the county by next week.

“I would like to see this get going sooner rather than later,” Ertle said Thursday. “I wanted to start a year ago.”

Ertle has experience developing properties in Central Oregon. His company is building a Starbucks in the former Platypus Pub location on Third

Street in Bend. And the company built the Redmond Town Center at the corner of U.S. Highway 97 and Veterans Way.

The visibility of the Madras property as a southern gateway along Highway 97 drew Ertle to the property, he said. The 38,000-square-foot property, which includes a 2,000-square-foot building, is the first sight of the city from the south for more than 15,000 travelers each day, according to city data.

The site at 813 SW Highway 97 has been vacant for about six years since ODOT used the property for a highway realignment project. Before ODOT owned the property, it was an administration office for the Crooked River National Grassland.

“I think it’s an excellent

piece of property,” Ertle said. “It’s arguably the best piece of property that is left in Madras. From a real estate perspective, it checks a lot of boxes that developers look for.”

Kelly Simmelink, Jefferson County commissioner, said he was disappointed the county did not receive any other proposals for the “South Y” property when it put out a request earlier this year.

But he is excited to work with a developer that plans to build immediately and not leave the property empty.

“To me, it is just a wonderful location,” Simmelink said. “I think it has a lot of potential with the current person that has put in a request.”

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