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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS, B1

The Bulletin

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MADRAS

FROM FARM TO TABLE



Devon and Cheri Bowen run the Green Drive Mercantile in Culver. The Bowens plan to be part of the new Farm-to-Table market in Madras that will open Memorial Day weekend in the plaza outside City Hall. Submitted photos

Madras farmers market highlights local agricultural products

BY KYLE SPURR • The Bulletin

Jefferson County has a reputation as a rich agriculture community, but farms and ranches do not have many places to sell their products in the region. They often rely on wholesale orders and people traveling to their farm stores. To better showcase the county's agricultural goods, the city of Madras created a new Farm-to-Table market that will open Memorial Day Weekend in the plaza outside City Hall.

The market will be open every Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. May 28 to Sept. 3.

Lysa Vattimo, city recorder and spokesperson who developed the idea for the market, said it will be a first for Madras. An existing Saturday market mostly features arts and crafts, while the new market will exclusively offer products from Jefferson County, such as meat, eggs and vegetables.

"If there are travelers, it could be something nice from them to stop and learn a little bit about our community and what we do out here."

— Cheri Bowen, who runs a 5-acre farm in Culver with her husband, Devon

Vattimo, who will be the market liaison, said she is still gauging interest from local farms and determining how many vendors will be at the market each week. She expects the market to draw large crowds of locals and visitors who will be passing through Madras during the summer.

See Madras / A7



Colt Bowen, 4, helps milk one of the family cows, Buttercup, at the family farm in Culver. The Bowens run the Green Drive Mercantile on the property and plan to be part of the new Farm-to-Table market in Madras that will open Memorial Day Weekend in the plaza outside City Hall.

Coronavirus in Oregon

Governor: Vaccination eligibility moved up

BY GARY A. WARNER AND SUZANNE ROIG
The Bulletin

Deschutes County received nearly double its normal allotment of COVID-19 vaccines this week, health officials say.

And while Gov. Kate Brown on Friday moved up the timetable for eligibility, the county is better able to respond by getting as many people vaccinated in the three 12 hour shifts at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center as possible, said Molly Wells Darling, deputy incident commander for the Deschutes County Incident Management Response Team.

"This puts us in a pretty good place," Wells Darling said. "We're very excited that we're receiving more vaccines and we'll be able to push through our mass vaccination clinics next week."

The county will receive 8,190 first doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Residents who have signed up should be receiving text or email messages on Friday asking them to schedule their time to receive their shot, she said. Additional messages will be emailed or texted on Sunday.

To get as many residents vaccinated as possible, the county urges residents to pre-register online by going onto www.centraloregoncovidvaccine.com. When there's availability the county will email or text a link to schedule a time for an appointment. The link is good for 48 hours, Wells Darling said.

Residents unable to go online can call 541-699-5109, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekends.

See Vaccines / A7

BEND-LA PINE SCHOOLS, POLITICIANS

Local entities mull over potential state guns bill

BY JACKSON HOGAN AND BRENNAN VISSER
The Bulletin

The Bend-La Pine Schools community, as well as local city and county government officials, had mixed reactions to a bill passing through the Oregon Legislature that would ban firearms from state buildings and potentially give more local control over concealed, permitted firearms in publicly owned spaces.

OREGON LEGISLATURE

- Bill barring firearms from state buildings passes Senate, A3

Schools to prohibit parents from bringing concealed, but permitted weapons onto school grounds during parent-teacher conferences. That would be welcomed by Bend High School history teacher Amy Sabbadini.

"I'm not okay with concealed weapons in schools," she said. "I've been in many a meeting with parents that were very tense, and I've never liked the idea that one of them could be armed."

See Guns / A7

Defense makes its case as Wirkkala testifies in retrial

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

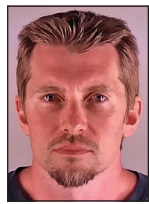
Luke Wirkkala took the stand in his defense Friday, insisting once again he had no choice but to shoot his houseguest David Ryder in 2013.

"I was defending myself and my family in my home," Wirkkala said to the question posed by his lawyer: Why did he shoot Ryder?

It's a question the jury will ultimately consider in the retrial of Wirkkala, 40, who's accused of killing Ryder after a day spent drink-

ing together. Wirkkala claims he acted in self-defense after Ryder strangled and tried to rape him. A jury convicted Wirkkala in 2014, but in 2018, the Oregon Court of Appeals vacated that conviction because, it ruled, the jury heard a portion of a police interview after Wirkkala had invoked his right to an attorney.

Friday was the sixth day of Wirkkala's second trial, held in an expo-



Wirkkala: "I was defending myself and my family in my home."

sition hall at the Deschutes County fairgrounds that's filling in for the Deschutes County Circuit Court. Wirkkala faces a life sentence if convicted.

"This event was the most traumatic moment of my life and being here and discussing it is bringing it back and yeah, it's pretty tough," he told the jury.

The state rested its case on Thursday. That afternoon, medical doctor Dan Field testified for

the defense the scratch marks on Wirkkala's neck visible after the shooting appeared to be the result of being strangled from the front.

Though Wirkkala has sat at the defendant's table over the last eight years, it's Ryder whose character has been parsed more in the courtroom and by the media.

Ryder, 31, was a software engineer at G5 Digital Marketing in Bend. He was married and had a 2-year-old child.

See Wirkkala / A4

