

2nd-half rally wasn't enough for Beavers

MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT • SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

The Bulletin

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Bentz visits veterans in first trip home as a congressman

Dozens attend local event

BY BRENN A VISSER
The Bulletin

In his first trip back to Oregon since being sworn in early this year,

U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, came to speak at the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch north of Bend in honor of Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Dozens of veterans, their friends and families gathered Monday at the ranch, which supports veter-

ans by offering peer support and agriculture-related therapy.

"We're here to honor you for your sacrifice and your suffering," Alison Perry, Founder of Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, said at the event.

See **Bentz** / A4



U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, center, talks with veterans during a Vietnam War Veterans Day event at Central Oregon Veterans Ranch on Monday.
Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

BLOCKBUSTER SOARS

Business was already booming at Bend Blockbuster; Netflix doc boosted it higher



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Milt McConnell, of Bend, takes a picture of Mark Style, of Philadelphia, and Ilene Style, of Bend, in front of the Bend Blockbuster on Monday.

BY KYLE SPURR • The Bulletin

The Blockbuster video rental store in Bend was already popular when it became the last location on Earth. It drew visitors from across the United States and as far as Taiwan and London.

But in the past two weeks, the store off NE Third Street has been flooded with even more visitors and online orders after Netflix boosted its visibility. It was featured in "The Last Blockbuster," a documentary about the store that started trending in the top 10 most watched movies on Netflix.

"It's a little bit crazy, but it's a very good thing. We'll take a little crazy if it means keeping the store open."

—Sandi Harding, Bend Blockbuster manager

People have sent flowers and called the store just to say thank you for staying open. Those visiting the store wear masks and keep their distance due to the COVID-19 pan-

dem, but are not deterred from finding a movie to rent.

In the backroom, staff members have been busy packaging thousands of online orders for Blockbuster T-shirts, hats and face masks, which are all made by Bend businesses.

"It's a little bit crazy, but it's a very good thing," said Bend Blockbuster Manager Sandi Harding. "We'll take a little crazy if it means keeping the store open."

Harding is the star of the movie, which peaked as high as the No. 4 movie in the United States since it appeared on Netflix March 15.

See **Blockbuster** / A14

BEND HOMICIDE CASE

Kilby arraigned: 1st-degree murder

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

Bend man Randall Richard Kilby was arraigned Monday on charges of first-degree murder after a grand jury returned an enhanced indictment related to a double homicide in Bend.

Kilby, 35, is suspected of killing Jeffrey Allen Taylor and Benjamin Harlin Taylor on March 20, and Daphne Dawn Banks, who died Jan. 10.

The three deaths are covered in two indictments. One concerns the deaths of Jeffery Taylor and Benny Taylor, who were brothers-in-law and roommates. Kilby is accused of two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. In the other indictment, Kilby is accused of one count of second-degree murder in the death of Banks.

In Oregon, a conviction for first-degree murder carries a possible "true" life prison sentence, while second-degree murder does not.

To earn a conviction for first-degree murder in this case, prosecutors will have to prove Kilby killed Jeffery Taylor and Benny Taylor as part of the same "criminal episode."

Kilby was arrested March 21 while walking in Romaine Village in southwest Bend.

See **Kilby** / A14

REDMOND

4 file for last vacant school board seat

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

A vacant seat on the Redmond School Board, initially to be filled by appointment, is now one of the most hotly contested races in the May 18 election in Central Oregon.

Four candidates have filed to fill the seat of board Chair Tim Carpenter, who abruptly resigned from his seat on March 17. It's the second Redmond School Board seat to have four candidates, and no other Central Oregon school board race has more than three this year.

See **Board** / A14

High winds fuel early fires near Bend

211 acres were burned; homes briefly evacuated

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

Strong, dry winds rolling off the Cascade Mountains from the west and northwest fueled several small fires outside Bend on Sunday, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of people from their homes.

The Bull Spring Fire burned 211 acres of private, state and county land outside Tumalo.

A smaller, unnamed fire in

Deschutes River Woods, southwest of Bend, affected 1 acre and threatened four homes.

No injuries were reported, nor homes lost. Two outbuildings burned in Deschutes River Woods.

The fires were reported within five minutes of each other around 3:45 p.m. The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office issued Level 3, or "go now," evacuation orders to all addresses west of Johnson

Road from Bull Springs Road to Kuhlman Road.

The Level 3 alert was sent to 148 people in Deschutes River Woods and 198 in the Tumalo area. By Monday morning, evacuation levels in all areas had been lowered to Level 1.

The exact cause of the fires remains under investigation.

Every fire authority in the region was involved in the effort Sunday, along with the Oregon

Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service, according to Lt. Trish Connolly of Bend Fire & Rescue.

"This is a pretty early fire for us," Connolly said. "What exacerbated things for us was high winds that really pushed that fire front."

Though it's early in fire season, now is when many residents burn brush on their property. Connolly urged property owners to call the fire department's burn hotline at 541-693-6911 with questions about burning.

See **Wind** / A4

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