

Bentz: 'We'll do our best to fight for you just like you fought for us,' he tells veterans at local event

Continued from A1

When addressing the crowd, Bentz recounted his own experience huddling by a radio, waiting to hear whether his draft number was going to be called.

He committed to learning more about and advocating for veterans' issues.

"We'll do our best to fight for you just like you fought for us," Bentz said.

In his statement, Bentz briefly mentioned to the crowd he co-sponsored H.R. 1448, which directs the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapies to provide service dogs to veterans who do not have mobility impairments. He is one of 308 to co-sponsor the bill.

Bentz said in general, however, the world of veterans issues is new to him, and said he is thankful he still has people who worked for his predecessor, Greg Walden, to help him.

His goal this week back home in Oregon is to listen and learn from constituents about what issues need to be addressed, he said. At this event, a handful of veterans made one issue clear: Too many veterans are not getting the benefits — or have trouble getting the benefits — they deserve from Veterans Affairs.

"When people are expressing dissatisfaction then that means something's not working quite right, and we need to get in there and get to work," Bentz said in response to a question about what he learned from the day.

Other issues Bentz said he has heard about from constituents include the impacts from wildfire, COVID-19 and consistent droughts.



Veteran Mike Williams drums during a Vietnam War Veterans Day event at Central Oregon Veterans Ranch north of Bend on Monday.

The struggle business owners have to find enough workers to run their operations has also consistently come up, he said.

When asked why he didn't vote in favor of the federal government's most recent stimulus package, which allocated \$1,400 checks to individuals making \$75,000 a year or less, Bentz said the bill wasn't targeted enough to those who really

needed it and he was concerned about the debt future generations would have to pay back. He said some businesses actually did better financially in the pandemic, and don't need the assistance.

"Many of the businesses that are now getting money don't need it," Bentz said in a separate interview Monday. "People are saying our schools are



Veteran Tom Marple and his dog Nick attend the event.

awash and yet they are going to be getting more."

When asked for specific examples of businesses that were getting money but didn't need it, Bentz referred The Bulletin to a press release. No specific businesses or industries were listed, but "bailouts for mismanaged public union pensions" and "policies that give federal bureaucrats better paid leave than those which are available to essential workers" were mentioned.

Bentz acknowledged that he has not reopened the Bend office formerly maintained by Walden, but said he will open a Central Oregon office in the future.

Reporter: 541-633-2160, bvissner@bendbulletin.com

Wind

Continued from A1

High winds pounded Central Oregon from about 11 a.m. until 7 p.m., according to the National Weather Service. The strongest gust recorded was 47 mph around 2 p.m. at Bend Municipal Airport.

Winds reach that speed in Central Oregon an average of once per year, said National Weather Service meteorologist Cole Evans.

Statewide, winds reached 60 to 70 mph in the Columbia River Basin. The Pendleton Airport recorded the highest gust at 74 mph.

Precipitation is low for the month, which likely played a role in the fires.

The Bend weather data center has recorded 0.03 of an inch of precipitation for March, where 0.7 of an inch is the climatological norm, according to the National Weather Service.

Reporter: 541-383-0325, gandreus@bendbulletin.com



Submitted by Liam Hughes/East Oregonian

The windstorms left damage across the region, toppling this large tree at Rice Park in Pendleton.

Thousands lose power in Central Oregon

The windstorm that blasted Central Oregon on Sunday knocked out power to thousands of households, as well as traffic signals and businesses.

More than 5,500 customers were without power on Sunday afternoon in Central Oregon, according to Tom Gauntt, a spokesperson for Pacific Power. Most of these were in Bend and Madras. The outages for many households lasted well into Monday morning.

On Monday midday more than 2,000 customers were still without power mostly in Bend's southern neighborhoods and Deschutes River Woods. Gauntt said power was expected to be restored to most of these customers by 3 p.m.

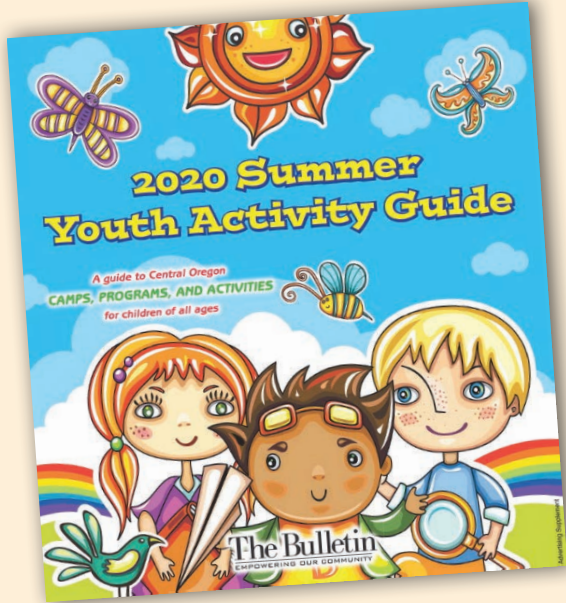
Gauntt said the windstorm caused "extensive damage" including downed wires and broken electric poles. Multiple businesses along SE Third Street in Bend between Powers and Murphy roads were without power on Sunday evening.

Damage was limited elsewhere east of the Cascades. Gauntt said 150 total customers lost power in the Pendleton area.

— Bulletin and EO Media reports

COMING SOON!

2021 SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITY GUIDE



- The perfect place to share your message with local parents, you don't have to be part of an activity to invite them into your business.
- Valuable tool for planning ahead and keeping kids busy all summer long.
- Includes detailed information on day and overnight camps, art, science and outdoor adventure programs and summer safety tips.
- Includes camps and other activities from out of the area.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE MONDAY, APRIL 5

Publishes in The Bulletin Friday, April 16



HALF OR FULL PAGE ADVERTISERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT A 500 WORD STORY AND PHOTO ABOUT THEIR CAMP OR PROGRAM.

Contact Leanna Williams at 541-617-7865 or email: lwiliams@bendbulletin.com

The Bulletin
EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

ENGLERT LeafGuard® is the permanent, clog-free gutter solution!*

*Guaranteed not to clog as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free



- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

541-366-4118

Call Today for Your **FREE Estimate!**

WINTER BLOWOUT SALE!
67% OFF LABOR! **

RECEIVE A \$25 LOWE'S GIFT CARD



WITH FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE!†

*DOES NOT INCLUDE COST OF MATERIAL. EXPIRES 03/31/2021. **ALL PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTEND AN ESTIMATED 60-90 MINUTE IN-HOME PRODUCT CONSULTATION WILL RECEIVE A \$25 GIFT CARD. RETAIL VALUE IS \$25. OFFER SPONSORED BY LEAFGUARD HOLDINGS INC. LIMIT ONE PER HOUSEHOLD. COMPANY PROCURES, SELLS, AND INSTALLS SEAMLESS GUTTER PROTECTION. THIS OFFER IS VALID FOR HOMEOWNERS OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE. IF MARRIED OR INVOLVED WITH A LIFE PARTNER, BOTH COHABITATING PERSONS MUST ATTEND AND COMPLETE PRESENTATION TOGETHER. PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE A PHOTO ID, BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ENGLISH, AND BE LEGALLY ABLE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS OFFER: EMPLOYEES OF COMPANY OR AFFILIATED COMPANIES OR ENTITIES, THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS, PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS IN A COMPANY IN-HOME CONSULTATION WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AND ALL CURRENT AND FORMER COMPANY CUSTOMERS. GIFT MAY NOT BE EXTENDED, TRANSFERRED, OR SUBSTITUTED EXCEPT THAT COMPANY MAY SUBSTITUTE A GIFT OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE IF IT DEEMS IT NECESSARY. GIFT CARD WILL BE MAILED TO THE PARTICIPANT VIA FIRST CLASS UNITED STATES MAIL OR E-MAILED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE PROMOTION FORM. NOT VALID IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTION OR DISCOUNT OF ANY KIND. OFFER NOT SPONSORED OR PROMOTED BY LOWE'S AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PRIOR TO RESERVATION. EXPIRES 3/31/21. LEAFGUARD OPERATES AS LEAFGUARD OF OREGON IN OREGON UNDER LICENSE NUMBER 223377.