

# The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

## Vaccine rollout in Central Oregon

# Participation not 100% at health centers

BY SUZANNE ROIG  
The Bulletin

Neither of Central Oregon's largest health care centers has a fully COVID-19 vaccinated workforce.

St. Charles Health System, which has four hospitals and employs 4,500 people, reports that 72% of its staff has been vaccinated. Mosaic Medical, with 15 clinics in Central

Oregon and 369 employees, has 90% of its 31 primary care providers vaccinated for COVID-19. No data was available for the other Mosaic employees.

There are a number of reasons why someone who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine has chosen not to," said Richard Bennett, Mosaic Medical chief clinical

integration officer. "For some people it isn't a hard no to the vaccine, but they just need more time to observe and learn before saying yes."

Although state law does not require employees to be vaccinated for COVID-19, not having 100% participation sends a negative message to the community, said Chunhuei Chi, Oregon State University professor

in the Global Health Program and director of the Center for Global Health in Corvallis.

Health officials have maintained that the best way to tamp down the spread of the virus is by creating so-called herd immunity, which is when 70% to 85% of the community is vaccinated against the virus.

See **Vaccine** / A13

# State fines coffee shop for skirting COVID-19 safety rules

*Kevista Coffee's violations total \$27,470, says OSHA*

BY MICHAEL KOHN  
The Bulletin

A Bend coffee shop that willfully disregarded COVID-19 regulations on mask-wearing, social distancing and closure orders has been slapped with a \$27,470 fine by state regulators.

Kevista Coffee on Bend's west side was hit with the fine Tuesday for violating three standards designed to protect employees from coronavirus, according to a release from Oregon Occupational Safety and Health.

Owners of the coffee shop, Kevin and Krista Lauinger, spent the past year ignoring COVID-19 rules, creating an uproar on social media in Bend. Anti-mask supporters packed into the coffee shop while detractors blasted the couple on platforms such as Yelp and Reddit.

See **Fine** / A4

# BEND RESTAURANTS STARVE FOR WORKERS



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Ted Swigert sits Tuesday in his restaurant, Drake, in downtown Bend. The restaurant has been closed for four months.

BY MICHAEL KOHN • The Bulletin

Ted Swigert was eager to hire workers to fill spots at his restaurant in North West Crossing. So much so that he was offering a \$1,200 bonus to work. Even that wasn't enough to attract applicants.

"No one answered the ad," said Swigert, owner of the Washington restaurant in North West Crossing and Drake restaurant in downtown Bend. "After that, I thought, we are going to have to start poaching people."

Swigert's problem in hiring workers is becoming endemic in Bend. As businesses start to reopen again after a winter of pandemic closures, some find they are unable to operate due to a lack of staff.

Swigert wants to hire workers because his North West Crossing location is booming, with revenue up

30% in the first three months of 2021 compared to the same period last year. The outdoor patio is regularly packed, and his takeout business, started in April, is going gangbusters.

"Our weekdays are like weekends now, that is how busy it is, and our weekends are setting new records," said Swigert. "I think a lot of restaurants are experiencing growth in spite of everything."

While business is booming in the northwest Bend neighborhood, things are quiet for Swigert downtown. His iconic Drake restaurant on the corner of Wall Street and Franklin Avenue is closed because he can't hire enough workers to get the doors open. Swigert plans to get the store open in the coming weeks in anticipation of a busy summer, but due to staff limitations, he will have to limit the hours.

See **Restaurants** / A13

JOHN COSTA  
1944-2021

# Former editor, publisher of The Bulletin, dies at 76

BY BRENNIA VISSER  
The Bulletin

John Costa, the former longtime editor of The Bulletin and well-known voice in Central Oregon media, died Tuesday at age 76.

Costa, who was living in Richmond, Virginia, at the time of his death, died of a heart attack, according to his family.

Costa first came to The Bulletin in 1997 as editor-in-chief. He is remembered by friends and former colleagues as a smart, honest and principled man, who was dedicated to the job and had a good sense of humor.

"You could trust him," said Bill Smith, owner of William Smith Properties in Bend and an investor in The Bulletin under its current ownership. "You could trust what was in The Bulletin was accurate, that he wasn't trying to politic or mislead."

See **Costa** / A4



Costa

# Oregon House Republicans say they won't delay budget bills

BY GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregon House Republicans said Tuesday that they will not use delaying tactics on budget bills when they come up for a vote.

House Minority Leader Christine Drazen, R-Canby, issued a statement that the Republicans would drop their delaying strategy of requiring bills to

be read in full when it came time to consider the budget legislation.

"Part of this commitment is to ensure we have a balanced budget prior to our constitutional deadline before adjourning this session," Drazen said.

Under the Oregon Constitution, the Legislature must adjourn no later than June 28. Budget bills are often among the last items to come before

the Legislature as lawmakers wait until after a state revenue forecast in May.

The requirement to read bills in full is in the Oregon Constitution, but traditionally it is waived and only the two-to-three sentence title of legislation is read out loud.

It takes two-thirds of the House — 40 votes — to override an objection to

the waiver. Democrats have 37 seats.

While the tactic has been employed in prior sessions on specific pieces of controversial legislation, Drazen has used it on all bills. The pace of legislation in the House has become glacial.

The refusal to allow just the title to be announced leads to marathon readings of bills that take hours.

On Tuesday, the House used a

computer program to read the bills in place of the clerks. First up was a 170-page bill that changed the name of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

Drazen's statement on the budget bills is the first crack in Republicans' strategy.

See **House** / A13

TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunny  
High 74, Low 41  
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