

The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

Area police agencies ready body cam rollout

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

The region's two largest police agencies have settled on vendors for body-worn cameras, which could be in use countywide by the start of summer.

The Bend Police Department has selected body cam manufacturer Axon Enterprises, which has offered the city a \$1.03 million purchasing agreement for body cameras, associated hardware and software, training and five years of cloud storage space.

A Bend Police captain and the department's business manager will present a budget request to approve the purchase at Wednesday night's Bend City Council meeting. If approved, all Bend Police officers could be wearing Body 3 cameras by early summer, depending on Axon's availability, according to Lt. Juli McConkey.

In February, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office announced it would use Safe Fleet-Coban camera systems. The county is contracted to spend \$818,000 on its project, which includes in-car cameras as well as body cams, through 2023.

A sheriff's spokesman said the office expects Focus X1 cameras to be issued to all patrol deputies by May 3. The office will outfit patrol cars with Focus H1 camera systems in phases.

The Bend Police Department is not adding in-car cameras this round, though McConkey said the department hopes to in the future.

Both Bend Police and the sheriff's office fast-tracked plans to add them after nationwide calls for police accountability following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last May.

See **Police** / A4

State seeks feedback for Pilot Butte 20-year plan

BY KYLE SPURR
The Bulletin

State parks officials are offering the public one last chance to comment on a new master plan for Bend's Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint before it is approved in June.

Pilot Butte's master plan hasn't been updated in more than 25 years, when Bend's population was about 30,000. Since then, Bend has grown to more than 100,000 residents. The park has transformed from a recreation area on the edge of the city to a popular location in the middle of several neighborhoods.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has received a lot of public comment about park use and desired improvements at the butte. Now the department wants to hear from the public one more time.

Chris Havel, a spokesman for the state parks department, said the department used the previous public feedback to create a draft plan that was approved last year.

Before final approval in June, the public can still offer input on the process, Havel said.

See **Pilot Butte** / A4

COVID-19 | Deschutes County

Higher risk level brings restrictions

Oregon will open vaccines to all, 16 and older, April 19

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

Deschutes County's COVID-19 risk level rating will go from moderate to high starting Friday, forcing renewed restrictions on restaurants and businesses, according to an announcement from Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday.

Crook and Jefferson counties will

remain at the lower level, the least restrictive of the state ratings.

Facing a "fourth wave" of COVID-19, Oregon will drop eligibility restrictions for COVID-19 vaccinations April 19, up to two weeks earlier than planned.

President Joe Biden directed Tuesday morning that states should open inoculation appointments to every-

one age 16 and older.

Oregon had previously planned to drop all eligibility restrictions by May 1, with some counties possibly offering appointments as early as April 26.

Brown said Oregon would drop limits on April 19, but until then, it would continue to prioritize vaccinations for people with underlying medical conditions, essential workers and communities underserved during the pandemic.

"We are locked in a race between

vaccine distribution and the rapid spread of COVID-19 variants," Brown said.

The move comes as infections and hospitalizations have started to rise after a long decline since January.

The state has reported over 400 cases per day in the past week and has seen rising numbers of hospitalizations, despite having fully vaccinated over 777,000 of the state's estimated 2.8 million adult residents.

See **Risk** / A4

'Parklet' success invites continuation

Program has allowed more outdoor dining in downtown Bend through pandemic



Becky Seim, left, and Kelly Johnson, both of Bend, sit in an outdoor dining area called a parklet at Sidelines Sports Bar and Grill on NW Wall Street in Bend.

BY BRENNA VISSER • The Bulletin



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photos
Bos Taurus and 900 Wall restaurants have tented seating areas on NW Minnesota Avenue.

Being able to set up outdoor seating in parking spaces in downtown Bend began a positive ripple effect at Deschutes Brewery.

When the city of Bend developed its "parklet" program last summer to help businesses with COVID-19 capacity restrictions stay afloat, Deschutes Brewery was able to add seven tables, which seat six people each, in front of the restaurant where cars normally park on Bond Street, said Tim Casinelli, general manager of the brewery's downtown restaurant.

Those seven tables allowed him to expand the restaurant's capacity by 50%, which in turn meant the

business was able to employ two more people that otherwise wouldn't have had jobs.

"It's been very impactful," Casinelli said. "It's been able to help keep us doing what we like to do."

Now, nearly a year after the program began, the city is considering extending the pilot parklet program — which was initially designed not to be permanent, but to help businesses through the pandemic — for the next year. Parklets are like sidewalk extensions that are built out into parking lanes or spaces to provide people with more space and amenities, like outdoor dining.

See **Parklet** / A12

