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The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT
A5-8

SOUTHWEST BEND

Site of alleged murders burns

Homicide suspect's mother had been visiting the home

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

The home at 60971 Granite Drive, the scene of three suspected murders, burned Tuesday night, adding another level of tragedy and mystery to an already confounding story.

Around 10:45 p.m., Darlene Allen ran to a neighbor's house yelling that her house was on fire and to call 911.

Crews with Bend Fire & Rescue responded and were able to keep flames from spreading to the ponderosa trees surrounding the house. But the home itself was a total loss, according to Chantel Taylor, whose family owns it. The double-wide home contained

numerous items of significance to Taylor and her family: her mother's Christmas decorations, family photos from her childhood. She grew up there for a time, and it was once her grandmother's house.

She drove over from her home in Redmond on Tuesday night to evaluate the damage.

"I'm crushed," she said. "I have so many memories from there, and there was so much stuff — my mom's, my dad's, my uncle's — that we hadn't gotten out yet."

A month ago, the home was occupied by four people: Jeffrey Allen "Jeff" Taylor, his brother-in-law Benjamin Harlin "Benny" Taylor, Randall Kilby and Kilby's mother, Darlene Allen.



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

See Fire / A4 An investigation was underway Wednesday at the Bend double-wide home that burned.

COVID-19 update from Salem

Cases rising on perception that we're at 'finish line,' official warns

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

COVID-19 infection rates are rising again in Oregon, but the growing number of vaccinated residents will likely blunt the severity far short of last year's spikes, state health officials said Wednesday.

The forecast came during an appearance by Oregon Health Authority Director Pat Allen and state Health Director Dean Sidelinger on a virtual hearing of the House subcommittee on COVID-19.

Much of the nation is seeing a sharp rise in cases of the more contagious and virulent B.1.1.7 mutation of the coronavirus first seen in Britain. But in Oregon, two less harmful forms of the virus are "crowding out" the U.K. variant for now.

The U.K. variant — 50% more contagious and likely more lethal — now makes up about 32% of new infections in the U.S. But in Oregon, two variants from California are more dominant. The California variants are about 20% more contagious but so far have not been shown to be more significantly virulent than the original virus. Sidelinger said the variants are "in competition" and the dominance of the California variants gives Oregon "a little more time" to vaccinate residents than states in the East and Midwest.

"We are a different pandemic than the rest of the country," said Sidelinger, the state's top infectious disease expert.

Sidelinger said the spread of even the slightly more contagious variants mixed with people getting out more and seeing others was fueling the upswing.

"Travel is up; people are moving about more," Sidelinger said. "The feeling that we are at the finish line is driving the increase."

See Virus / A13

VACANT NO LONGER

Redmond helps Hood River kitchen store renovate Arch Building, a downtown fixture since 1927



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

The exterior of the Arch Building, located at 432 SW Sixth St. in downtown Redmond, has been vacant for the past decade.

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

Since its opening in 1927, the Arch Building in downtown Redmond has housed many businesses, including a gym, a teen nightclub and a second-hand store. But for the past decade, it's sat vacant, awaiting a new tenant and falling into disrepair.

A new tenant will likely arrive this year. Arome — a Hood River store specializing

in hard-to-find kitchenware and cooking supplies — plans to open its second location in the Arch Building this fall. And the Redmond City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to loan the company up to \$98,000 to help remodel the outdated building.

"I've seen it go downhill over the years, and I'm excited to see that building get revitalized," Mayor George Endicott said of the Arch Building at the City Council meeting.

Arome's co-owners — married couple Jan-

ice and Nathan Bell — and Redmond city staff argue that not only will the store's Redmond location resurrect a classic downtown building, but it will also further downtown Redmond's status as a shopping destination.

"The new (store) will create activity and feet on the street, and really help catalyze other activity around it," Chuck Arnold, manager of Redmond's urban renewal program, told The Bulletin.

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More news from Salem

- Oregon won't approve COVID-19 exposure notification app, says resources are spread too thin, **A2**
- After firearms bill passes, Senate Republican leader faces recall effort for not walking out, **A4**
- Can you actually recycle that? Lawmakers want stricter standards for the "chasing arrows" symbol, **A13**
- On a bipartisan vote, 10 police reform bills advance, **A14**

Tumalo Irrigation seeks answers after new pipeline is vandalized

BY KYLE SPURR
The Bulletin

The Tumalo Irrigation District is offering a \$10,000 reward to find and convict whoever drilled several holes in the district's new pipeline near Pinehurst Road.

The vandalism was discovered March 27 during the final inspections and testing of the new pipeline, according to the district.

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office detectives are investigating the case and believe the crimes occurred be-

tween Jan. 6 and Jan. 13, when somebody climbed into the open trench and drilled multiple holes in the 36-inch polyethylene pipeline.

Sgt. Jayson Janes, a spokesperson for the sheriff's office, said Wednesday a motive for the vandalism has

not yet been determined.

"We are still trying to figure all of that out," Janes said.

The new pipeline is part of a system improvement project that will leave more water in streams and rivers and provide farmers with pressurized water

for crops, according to the district.

The pipeline was challenged in federal court by property owners who were concerned about the loss of vegetation in the area and lower property values from the piping project.

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Cool, some clouds
High 51, Low 26
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