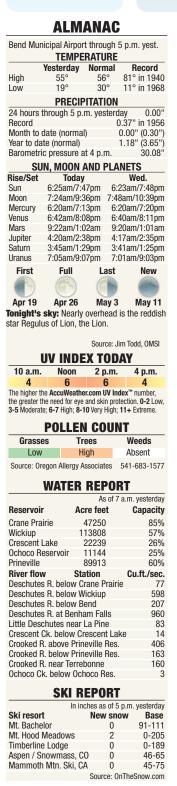
79°

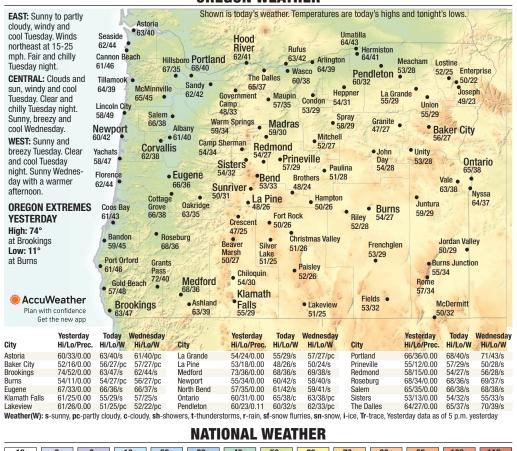
77°

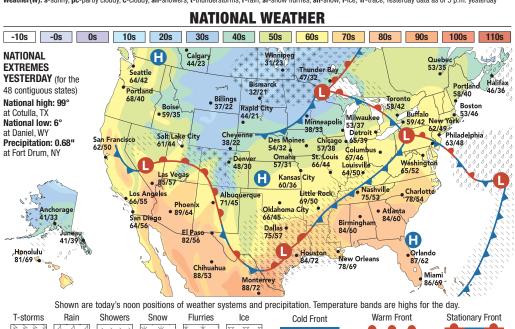
MONDAY

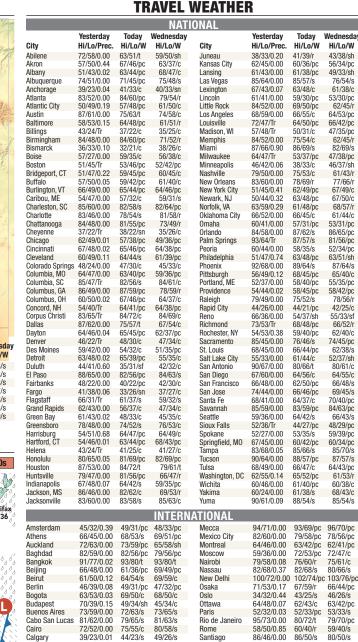
Mostly cloudy and

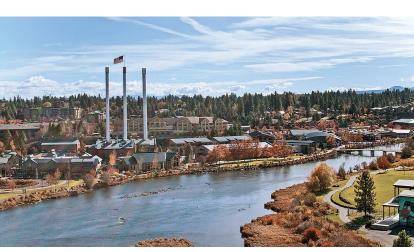
remaining warm













Scenes from the HBO documentary "Our Towns": An aerial view of Bend and the Old Mill District; Sky Sharp, of Bend. Submitted photos/HBO

Towns

Continued from A1

Ascher and Jordan, who created the 1996 Oscar-nominated documentary "Troublesome Creek: A Midwestern," spent the past three years visiting and researching several cities across the United States for "Our Towns."

The film, which is based off of a bestselling book, features San Bernardino, California; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Columbus, Mississippi; Eastport, Maine; Charleston, West Virginia; and Bend.

The filmmakers were struck with how many people came to Bend for the outdoor lifestyle rather than for a

career. In the film, they interview Jesse Thomas, CEO of Picky Bars, an energy bar company, who explains how people want the lifestyle in Bend even if work comes secondary.

"People will actually do jobs that maybe aren't their life plan, but this is a time in their life where they want to be able to ski and do everything you can do in Bend," Jordan said, "That was pretty fascinating to see that and to see a whole culture that was like

Ascher and Jordan finished filming in October 2019, just months before the COVID-19 pandemic began. They had to rethink the film during the editing process to account for how the

pandemic had affected the towns.

Footage they took of rock climbers in the Bend Rock Gym seemed out of date, since the gym had closed during the pandemic.

Initially, the filmmakers highlighted the popularity of remote work in Bend. It was a novelty until the pandemic caused people across the country to work from home, Ascher said.

"Back when we were first making the film, we felt we had to explain how remote work works," Ascher said. "Now during the pandemic era everyone is doing remote work. You don't need to explain it."

Since the pandemic has been a burden for every town in the United

States, it made the film more relatable, Iordan said.

Calgary

Dublin Edinburah

Johannesburg

Lisbon

ondor

Madrid

90/79/0.00

50/20/0.00

46/39/0.25

78/56/0.00 83/73/0.00 55/44/0.00

81/55/0.00

75/65/0.00

66/48/0.00

63/38/0.00

91/77/0.00

87/76/pc 52/36/pc

52/30/pc

51/33/sf

81/60/s

72/65/pc

67/58/pc

64/49/c

87/74/pc 52/35/pc

53/32/pc

81/54/s 80/72/sh 65/48/sh 69/50/s

81/60/s

71/66/pc

69/49/pc

Sao Paulo

Sydney Taipei City Tel Aviv

Tokyo

Toronto

Vancouver

Seoul

"Because the entire country was now having a huge setback as many of the towns had, it was a great map forward," Jordan said. "This turned out to be for evervone."

After 100 days of filming and a year editing the documentary, Ascher and Jordan are happy with the final product.

The film will debut at 6 p.m. Tuesday on HBO and HBO Max.

'The two of us just really worked to make it be everything we hoped it would be and it is," Jordan said. "We really feel so grateful to all the towns and to the way it's come out."

Reporter: 541-617-7820, kspurr@bendbulletin.com

Continued from A1

Diner

Degree has 30 days to appeal the citation. She believes she was properly adhering to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rules and regulations for businesses that were permitted to be open at the time.

86/46/0.00

59/52/0.62

66/61/0.00

91/77/0.03 44/32/0.27 66/49/0.00 84/68/0.00 65/55/0.00

47/45/0.21

61/39/0.16

63/48/0.04

82/64/Tr

86/50/s

69/61/t

58/37/s

67/50/p

88/77/t 45/28/s 71/56/s 89/69/pc

68/56/s

65/62/sh

58/42/c 58/41/s

40/36/sn

44/36/r

80/50/s

56/39/s

60/49/0

73/57/s

42/36/sh

68/48/

"We felt that we were following all the CDC guidelines of social distancing, face masks, sanitation as all businesses that were open," said Degree by phone. "We felt we were entitled to those same parameters. We took the safety of our employees to the highest priority, and the records will show that no employee tested positive for COVID."

Oregon OSHA conducted inspections of both sites following complaints by the public. The restaurants, operating under the legal name of Bucc'NDulge Inc., allowed indoor dining on or around Jan. 13 and continued through Feb. 11, according to an OSHA statement.

Degree told OSHA inspectors that she was aware of the restrictions. Each diner was given a \$17,800 fine. The amount is twice the minimum penalty for willful violations.

"Most employers continue to follow worker health and safety standards as part of our ongoing work to defeat this disease, and we continue to make progress," OSHA Administrator Michael

Wood said in a press release. "Unfortunately some employers are choosing to defy standards and to put their workers at risk," Wood said. "As a result, we will continue to bring our enforcement tools to bear where appropriate."

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Teachers

Continued from A1

'The majority of our teachers are really excited to be back with students," Barclay said. "That's where they do their best work. That's where students learn the most."

The unusual hybrid schedule for Redmond and Ridgeview high schools · two half-days, four days a week — has particularly been a pain for teachers at those schools, said Branaugh, who teaches social studies at Ridgeview High.

"The consistency of a schedule that they're used to, where they're here four days a week full time, I think will be good," he said.

In Bend-La Pine, all grades returned to a full-time in-person school schedule on Monday. Redmond schools will do the same on April 19.

Although teachers appreciate Bend-La Pine actually enforcing COVID-19 mitigation rules like mask wearing and social distancing, they don't appreciate having to be the ones

to make sure students follow those rules, Barclay said. It's also nearly impossible, particularly at the larger high schools, to enforce distancing rules in cramped hallways, she said.

"When you talk about a high school with 1,500 to 2,000 students, and 75 teachers, there's not enough people to make sure (rules) are being followed all the time," Barclay said. "Educators are spending their whole time being the enforcement police, rather than being able to have time with students between classes, or have a break or go to the bathroom."

Dave McKae, a math teacher at Cascade Middle School, said Bend-La Pine Schools' transparency on COVID-19 cases in schools — and the small number of cases since schools reopened — has reassured him about teaching

in-person.
"Seeing how limited that has been has definitely made everyone feel a little more comfortable," McKae said. "We're not seeing evidence of transmission at school, between students or staff members."

Not counting a February outbreak of Summit High School students allegedly caused by a maskless party outside school — Bend-La Pine Schools has had 17 mini-outbreaks of COVID-19 in 2021, with 18 students and five school staffers testing positive, according to Oregon Health Authority data. Redmond has had four small school outbreaks, with three students and one staffer testing positive.

The vast majority of these school-reported outbreaks only resulted in one student or staffer testing positive, according to state data.

Nationally, many teachers are also feeling more comfortable returning to their classrooms.

The American Federation of Teachers — a national union primarily representing educators with about 1.7 million members — conducted a nationwide survey of 1,702 members in late March and early April about returning to school.

Eighty percent of K-12 teachers said they were already vaccinated, and another 6% said they planned to get vaccinated, according to the survey. Only 11% of K-12 school staff surveyed said their school district went too far in returning to in-person school.

Due mostly to the wide availability of vaccines for educators — along with rapid COVID-19 testing, enforced mask wearing and social distancing many teachers nationwide feel more comfortable returning to in-person school, said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers.

"The vaccines have been a real game changer," Weingarten told The Bulletin. "The fact that educators have rolled up their sleeves, both to get the shot ... and to make sure they're meeting the needs of students, is pretty incredible.

Teachers in Oregon are mainly represented by the other major nationwide teachers' union, the National Education Association, but unionized Oregon school support staff are members of the American Federation of

Teachers, Weingarten said. Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com

