

The Bulletin

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MILESTONE ON MARS

THIS LITTLE HELICOPTER JUST MADE HISTORY » A4



SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

< A big retirement. Plus: Redmond teams honored

4 of 8 may skip candidate forum

Half of those running for Bend-La Pine School Board fail to respond to invitation

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

This year, something unprecedented has happened to Carol Loesche, president of the League of Women Voters of Deschutes

County: Four Bend-La Pine School Board candidates have completely ignored her calls and emails to participate in her organization's traditional nonpartisan candidate forum.

Those four candidates are Jon Haffner, Gregg Henton, Wendy Imel and Maria Lopez-Dauenhauer. That means there's a very strong chance the League Of Women Voters and City Club of Central Oregon's virtual forum Thursday will only feature four of the eight candidates running for a seat on the Bend-La Pine School

Board. And all four of the candidates likely to skip are competing in separate races.

"It's just wrong," said Loesche. "Their job is to let the voters know what their positions on things are. To not even participate, how are we supposed to know what they stand for?"

Joey Drucker — the executive director of City Club of Central Oregon, the other Bend nonpartisan organization co-hosting the virtual forums — is also frustrated with being stonewalled.

See **Forum** / A13

Proposal for private airstrip near Redmond is turned down

Decision could be appealed to state

BY BRENNIA VISSER
The Bulletin

The future of a proposed private airstrip west of Redmond Airport is in limbo after it was denied approval because of its potential impacts to surrounding farmland.

In September, Alex Polvi, a Deschutes County resident, submitted an application to build a dirt airstrip on his 123-acre property off Harper Road west of U.S. Highway 97 between Tumalo and Redmond. The airstrip would sit roughly 6 miles away from Redmond Airport and measure 2,000 feet long.

The proposal drew mixed reactions, with many neighbors testifying they supported Polvi's project and found the extra noise from his airplane would be negligible compared to the planes that already fly overhead from Redmond Airport, and with others arguing the airstrip would disrupt the people and wildlife of the area.

A hearings officer decided in March that Polvi did not do enough to prove that his project wouldn't affect surrounding farm and forest lands, or that the project wouldn't significantly increase the cost of farm and forest practices in the surrounding area.

See **Airstrip** / A13

Redmond Police want new station

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

A proposal to build a new Redmond Police station that could cost at least \$15 million will be presented at Tuesday's Redmond City Council work session.

Redmond Police Department officials say their department has far outgrown its current 12,850-square-foot facility and will ask the council for permission to begin looking for property to build a new headquarters.

If approved, voters could be asked to pass a levy to help fund the project.

"We are in the very early stages of this process," said Redmond Capt. Devin Lewis. "This isn't even a first step — more like a half a step."

The current facility, built in 1998, is located on a 1-acre lot at 777 SW Deschutes Ave. It's deficient in several ways, Lewis said. There is a shortage of secured parking and storage space. Evidence now is stored in three locations off-site due to space limitations. The HVAC and plumbing systems are failing, which has led to \$150,000 in maintenance costs in the past four years.

See **Police** / A4

Residents get health help and locals-only RV rates in rush of Senate action

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

With the end of a GOP slowdown in the Oregon House, the sluggish pace of bills moving between it and the Senate has turned into a torrent.

The Senate added 64 House bills to its plate on Monday, raising the likelihood that more than halfway through the 2021 session, some of the first legislation of 2021 will finally reach the desk of Gov. Kate Brown.

Before the flood, the Senate was able to dispatch a short list of bills still requiring votes before they were sent to the House.

See **Senate** / A13

MORE SPACE COMING



Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory begins major expansion

PICTURED AT TOP: Astronomy interpreter Paul Ponce stands inside the Sunriver Observatory while waiting for visitors to arrive Saturday. Crews broke ground last week on the expansion project that will double the size of the observatory. BELOW: Ponce opens a set of doors leading to the new area. Construction is expected to last until July, when visitors will be welcomed into the larger space with six new telescopes.



Story by **KYLE SPURR** • Photos by **RYAN BRENNECKE** • The Bulletin

After five years of planning and fundraising, a \$5 million expansion of the Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory is underway.

Crews broke ground last week on the first phase of the expansion — doubling the size of the observatory. Construction is expected to last until July, when visitors will be welcomed into the larger space with six new telescopes.

The second phase of the nature center expansion is scheduled to start in 2023. It will feature a 7,700-square-foot Discovery Center that will include a planetarium theater with a full projection system and seating for up to 94 visitors. The center will also build an 1,800-square-foot pavilion on the back of Lake Aspen.

See **Sunriver** / A4



RENDERING ABOVE: The Lake Aspen Learning Center will provide an outdoor learning space for the more than 5,000 students who are a part of the observatory's K-12 Outreach and Education Program.

Submitted by Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory

