

The Bulletin

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY bendbulletin.com

SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

COVID-19 infections rise, bring new county risk levels

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

COVID-19 infections are rising in Oregon, putting two-thirds of all counties into what, for now, is the highest possible level of restrictions, Gov. Kate Brown said Tuesday.

The new county risk levels announced Tuesday include nearly a dozen special waivers granted under Brown to keep counties from going into the most severe set of restrictions on activities, businesses and events. Deschutes and Crook counties are listed as high risk, although each would technically qualify for extreme.

See **Risk** / A7

Prineville legislator alleges text harassment by peer

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

Rep. Vikki Breese Iverson, R-Prineville, has gone public with her allegation that she was sexually harassed in texts from Rep. Brad Witt, D-Clatskanie.

Breese Iverson said Tuesday that she was the previously anonymous lawmaker who accused Witt of sexual harassment. She said she was speaking out after the bipartisan House Conduct Committee rejected a recommendation that Witt be removed from chairmanship of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

See **Harassment** / A4

Room tax may pay for trail upkeep

BY BRENN A VISSER

The Bulletin

A proposed change to how hotel room tax revenue will be spent could mean more funding for the upkeep of natural amenities around Bend if adopted by the Bend City Council.

On Wednesday, the council is scheduled to vote on an ordinance that would allow the city to use money collected from the transient room tax to not only pay for tourism promotion, which is what the money currently goes toward, but also to manage natural tourist attractions like trails.

The change would bring Bend in line with other cities, which already allow this revenue to be spent on what state law calls "tourism-related facilities."

See **Tax** / A7

GUILTY VERDICT KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

'The fight doesn't end now'



Bend activists respond to outcome in trial of ex-cop Derek Chauvin

BY KYLE SPURR AND JACKSON HOGAN • The Bulletin

PHOTO: A group rallies in downtown Bend on Tuesday after former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of killing George Floyd. Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

For the last 10 months, and especially Tuesday, Josie

Stanfield got a knot in her stomach when she thought of the message a jury would send if it acquitted the killer of George Floyd.

It would have meant her voice, as well as those of other social justice activists, would have gone unheard. It would have reflected racism still in the legal system.

Instead, she felt relief when the guilty verdict was announced Tuesday for former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who killed Floyd May 25, 2020. Chauvin was found guilty of murder and

manslaughter after kneeling on the neck of Floyd, a Black man from Minneapolis, for more than nine minutes.

"Right now, it is a lot to process, and we feel relieved, shocked, hopeful and ready to fight for the next Black life," said Stanfield, the leader of the Central Oregon Diversity Project.

Floyd's death motivated Stanfield to speak out. Stanfield and other activists led several protests across the region last year, including in Bend and Prineville.

The first protest, March 30, 2020, in Bend drew hundreds of people who marched through downtown streets. Similar protests against racial inequality and police brutality continued almost

weekly throughout the summer.

"We know that the fight doesn't end now and that we have more work to do to prevent more Black deaths in the future," said Stanfield, who joined a small gathering in downtown Bend on Tuesday to share thoughts and feelings on the verdict.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel, who called for criminal justice reform in Oregon and across the nation after Floyd's killing, said Tuesday it would have been an injustice if Chauvin was found not guilty.

"If there was not a conviction in that case, that would be saying to America that officers are above the law," Hummel said.

See **Verdict** / A4

Chauvin is taken to jail after trial, awaiting sentencing

BY AMY FORLITI, STEPHEN GROVES AND TAMMY WEBBER
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Former Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin was convicted Tuesday of murder and manslaughter for pinning George Floyd to the pavement with his knee on the Black man's neck in a case that triggered worldwide protests, violence and a furious reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

Chauvin, 45, was immediately led away with his hands cuffed behind his back and could be sent to prison for decades.

The verdict — guilty as charged on all counts, in a relatively swift, across-the-board victory for Floyd's sup-



Former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, center, is taken into custody as his attorney, Eric Nelson, left, looks on, after the verdicts were read Tuesday at Chauvin's trial in Minneapolis for the death of George Floyd. Court TV via AP, Pool

porters — set off jubilation mixed with sorrow across the city and around the nation.

"Today, we are able to breathe again," Floyd's younger brother Philo-

nise said at a joyous family news conference where tears streamed down his face as he likened Floyd to the 1955 Mississippi lynching victim Emmett Till, except that

this time there were cameras around to show the world what happened.

The jury of six whites and six Black or multiracial people came back with its verdict after about 10 hours of deliberations over two days. The now-fired white officer was found guilty of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Chauvin's face was obscured by a COVID-19 mask, and little reaction could be seen beyond his eyes darting around the courtroom. His bail was immediately revoked. Sentencing will be in two months; the most serious charge carries up to 40 years in prison.

See **Chauvin** / A4

