

# A TRUE 'GAMER' FOR LAVA BEARS

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# The Bulletin

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**BEND** | HOMELESS VETS

## Veterans Village on track to house some by June



Heart of Oregon Corps Construction trainer, David Ralston, right, works with Terry Clevenger to frame a wall that will be part of one of the homes at the Veterans Village in Bend.

Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photos

BY BRENN A VISSER • The Bulletin

**W**ith construction underway, the Central Oregon Veterans Village is set to house some homeless veterans as soon as June 1. On Friday, eight volunteers from the youth advocacy organizations Heart of Oregon Corps and J Bar J Youth Services built the walls that would soon become homes for six homeless veterans.

The project is the first of its kind in Central Oregon, but modeled off existing villages like the one in Clackamas County. Erik Tobiason, the president of the Bend Heroes Foundation, which is behind the project, said it's been incredible to watch local governments and private residents come together to make the project happen.

"It's amazing. A year ago, we were just talking to the city and county about this idea ... a year later, we're building houses," Tobiason said Friday. "We're going to have these people out of the woods in a few weeks."

Located on a plot of Deschutes County-owned land next to the public safety campus off U.S. Highway 20 in north Bend, the village will have 15 residential cabins and a community building for homeless veterans once the project is complete, Tobiason said.

The village will be managed by the homeless nonprofit Central Oregon Veterans Outreach.

For more information about the project or on how to donate, visit [centraloregon-veteransvillage.org](http://centraloregon-veteransvillage.org).

Reporter: 541-633-2160, [bvissier@bendbulletin.com](mailto:bvissier@bendbulletin.com)



Erik Tobiason, president of Bend Heroes Foundation, right, works with volunteers and Heart of Oregon Corps personnel to build homes at the Veterans Village in Bend.

**"It's amazing. A year ago, we were just talking to the city and county about this idea ... a year later, we're building houses."**

— Erik Tobiason, the president of the Bend Heroes Foundation

**COVID-19 pandemic**

## Brown defends powers in crisis

*Oregon tops the nation in rate of infections, hospitalizations*

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown said Friday that she has no intention of rolling back orders issued this week to fight the nation's worst rate of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations now hitting Oregon.

"Cases are widespread, driven by new, more contagious variants," Brown said during a virtual press conference Friday morning.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Friday that Oregon has the

highest rate of new infections and hospitalizations in the nation. Cases of COVID-19 have risen 38% in the past two weeks, while hospitalizations are up 43%. Nationwide, both are in decline.

Fifteen counties already exceeded the extreme risk numbers at the very top of the state's four-tier COVID-19 risk chart. But Brown had ordered that the counties would not need to resort to the most severe restrictions as long as the state's hospital system was not overly taxed. She set 300 COVID-19 hospitalizations as the tripwire for restoring the ban on indoor dining and strict limits on activities and gatherings.

When cases topped 300 on Monday, Brown lifted the moratorium on extreme risk limits, putting 15 counties into extreme risk restrictions Friday. On Friday, the state reported 339 COVID-19 patients in hospitals around the state.

See **Brown** / A4

## Double homicide location is sold

*New owners hope to restore historic look of scene of tragedy*

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin

Though the August double homicide of Ray Atkinson Jr. and Tasha Newby remains unsolved, the underlying legal disputes surrounding the Bend home where the couple was killed have nearly concluded. A neighbor and her husband recently purchased the house at 932 NE 12th St. where the killings took place, according to probate attorney Brian Thompson, who is representing a party involved in a dispute over the house.

See **Home** / A4

**Correction**

In a story headlined, "Virus cases surge," which appeared Friday, April 30, on Page A1, the number of counties in Oregon was incorrect as well as the number of patients at St. Charles Bend. The number of counties in Oregon is 36, and there were 36 patients with COVID-19 at the hospital.

The Bulletin regrets the errors.

**OSU-CASCADES**

## Academic dean Ketsdever chosen as interim VP

*He will replace Becky Johnson, who was named interim president*

BY JACKSON HOGAN

The Bulletin

Oregon State University-Cascades didn't need to travel far to find a new boss: Andrew Ketsdever, the university's dean of academic

affairs, will become OSU-Cascades' interim vice president on Saturday.

Ketsdever will replace Becky Johnson, who is moving to Corvallis to become Oregon State University's interim president. Ketsdever said he's excited to get right to work with his administrative and faculty teams.

"We can't do it without everyone being involved, so regardless of what the title says, this really is a team effort here," Ketsdever, 52, told

The Bulletin. "We can't do it without the folks who put their blood, sweat and tears into this place."

Ketsdever arrived at OSU-Cascades in 2018 as the associate dean, before being named dean of academic affairs in September. That position — the de facto second-in-command — oversees academic and research programs.

He will serve as the interim vice president for a year.

Ketsdever said his existing connections with local schools, industry leaders and Central Oregon Community College will be beneficial to the university.

"We have a large number of stakeholders throughout Central Oregon that we support, and support us, and it's important for us to continue those relationships and not miss a beat when we (change leaders)," he said.

See **Ketsdever** / A7

TODAY'S WEATHER



Clouds, sunshine  
High 66, Low 40  
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