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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

## CITY BUDGET

### Bend plans for a more stable future after a year of instability

BY BRENN A VISSER  
The Bulletin

After a year of pandemic-related uncertainty, the city of Bend is counting on a return to normalcy with a proposed two-year budget that's nearly a billion dollars.

About a year ago, the city was anticipating up to an \$8 million shortfall due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and cut 37 vacant positions as a cost saving measure.

But the impacts have not been nearly as severe as city staff once feared, leaving room to reinstate those positions, as well as add new ones, in this proposed budget, according to a budget summary issued by the city.

"Overall these revenues are coming in stronger than predicted," City Manager Eric King wrote in the budget summary. "The 2021-2023 proposed budget assumes the majority of the COVID-19 impacted revenues return to pre-pandemic levels or higher."

The proposed budget, which was publicly introduced to the City Council on Wednesday, is \$919.4 million, a 3% increase over the previous budget. Of that budget, \$395 million accounts for the city's operating revenue that comes from things like water, sewer and stormwater fees and property taxes.

See **City** / A14

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

### Candidates highlight Warm Springs in school races

BY KYLE SPURR  
The Bulletin

The Jefferson County School Board has two positions on the May 18 special district election ballot with candidates who want to bring more representation to Warm Springs.

Incumbent Jamie Hurd is facing Lorien Stacona, a case manager for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, for the Position 2 seat. Jaylyn Suppah, a community planner in Warm Springs, and Jacob Struck, a construction superintendent, are campaigning for the Position 3 seat, which opened when board member Tom Norton Jr. did not seek reelection.

Board Chair Laurie Danzuka is running unopposed for her seat.

See **School board** / A4

## READY FOR MARKET MANIA?

Farmers market season kicks off in Central Oregon



The downtown Bend Farmers Market opened Wednesday, kicking off market season.

The weekly outdoor market, located in Brooks Alley above Drake Park, runs from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Oct. 13.

The NorthWest Crossing Saturday Farmers Market in Bend's NorthWest Crossing neighborhood opens in June.

The Redmond Farmers Market at Centennial Park also opens in June and runs from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays.

The Sisters Farmers Market runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays at Fir Street Park, starting June 6 through October.

The Madras Farmers Market runs from June through September, on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sahalee Park.

In Prineville, the Crooked River Open Pastures Farmers Market is open Saturdays from June through September in Stryker Park.

— Bulletin staff report



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photos

ABOVE: Shoppers fill their baskets during the opening day of the Bend Farmers Market on Wednesday. AT TOP: Mike Cosca, of Denver, chooses strawberries from Groundworks Organics at the Bend market.

## Bend-La Pine

### Schools cut hours amid COVID-19 upswing

BY JACKSON HOGAN  
The Bulletin

Bend-La Pine middle school students will be losing a day of in-person instruction each week and high school students about two hours nearly every day due to increased COVID-19 cases among youth in Deschutes County, starting Monday.

The change comes about a month after returning to full time school.

Interim Superintendent Lora Nordquist said the primary reason for this schedule shift is to accommodate the many students who've struggled with school recently due to quarantining — whether they're currently missing classes, or struggling to catch up after returning.

"Many of our staff were being overwhelmed by the need to support students who were out for long absences," Nordquist told The Bulletin. "This (schedule change) seemed to be the best option."

In the last 28 days, there have been 130 COVID-19 cases detected in Bend-La Pine Schools, according to the district. By far, the schools with the highest case counts are the three major high schools in Bend, which each have more than 20. No other school has more than six cases at the moment.

See **Bend-La Pine** / A14

**130**  
Number of new COVID-19 cases detected in Bend-La Pine schools in the last 28 days

## OSU-Cascades

### Staff, students react to fall vaccine mandate

BY JACKSON HOGAN  
The Bulletin

More than 1,500 combined students, faculty and staff at Oregon State University-Cascades will be required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine before returning to the Bend campus this fall.

But while some students, including the student body president, say they're happy that the university is encouraging vaccinations, they do have a few quibbles.

"I think for one, it would be nice to get back to a somewhat normal life, and that's the gateway to do it," said OSU-Cascades sophomore Quentin Comus, who said he has received the vaccine. "But it shuts doors for those who might be skeptical about it for any reason."

Taha Elwafati — a fellow sophomore at OSU-Cascades and the president of Associated Students of Cascades Campus — said he was fine with mandating vaccines, but he hoped exemptions would be allowed for those with medical or personal concerns. He also hoped the university wouldn't hide the fact that some people do get side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine.

"When you're (saying) it's 'too good to be true,' I think that's where it's off-putting to people who do have general concerns about medication in general, or vaccines," said Elwafati, who is fully vaccinated.

See **OSU-Cascades** / A14

