

City

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The city also anticipates receiving 16% more in room taxes from the lodging industry next fiscal year. A portion of that pays for tourism promotion and another portion goes toward other city services like police and fire.

Despite these revenue gains, the city anticipates it will need to ask voters to renew an operating levy to support the cost of fire and emergency medical services. A state law keeps cities from raising their property tax rate, even though Bend's rate of \$2.80 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value is low compared to other cities.

"We've essentially had the same tax rate in Bend since 1981," King said in the council meeting.

New positions will be added across the city, with 14 already having been added in the current fiscal year and about 30 more to be added in the next two years, said Sharon Wojda, the city's chief financial officer.

This includes about eight positions in the Bend Police Department, including a new communications staff person to "increase transparency and community engagement," a new detective to support child abuse investigations and an information technology technician to support body-worn cameras.

The proposed budget also includes \$500,000 from the City Council to fund the com-

Online

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munications staff person and increase overtime to allow officers to attend crisis intervention training, according to city documents.

Other positions include an employee to focus on water conservation and 1 1/2 positions in the economic development department to address housing issues, and an equity and inclusion director, which the city is currently hiring for now, Wojda said.

A procurement analyst is proposed to implement the general obligation bond program for the \$190 million transportation bond passed by voters last fall. About \$24 million is budgeted for projects from the transportation bond project list, though that number is subject to change, Wojda said.

What exact projects will be done in the next few years will be decided by a transportation bond oversight committee, which has yet to meet, Wojda said.

The committee will be tasked with picking out projects with the city's promise to not levy too high of taxes in the first year in mind.

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OSU-Cascades

Continued from A1

Yong Bakos, an instructor and program lead of OSU-Cascades' computer science department, also said he hopes the university will accommodate those with legitimate exemptions. But as a whole, he's happy with mandating vaccinations for students and staff.

"Requiring the vaccine is surprising, but positive," said Bakos, who is fully vaccinated. "If we want to keep our schools open, if we want to keep the learning experience in the classroom, then it's important to make decisions based on that collective good."

Steve Clark, spokesperson for Oregon State University, said the university will honor legitimate exemptions. Although there aren't details yet, university leaders are brainstorming how to ensure all students and staff on OSU's campuses either have been vaccinated, or can prove an exemption, he said.

"Throughout the fall term, and leading up to winter term, we will establish checkpoints with students, faculty and staff regarding either their compliance in being vaccinated, or evidence of an exemption," Clark said.

The vaccine mandate will apply to Beaver student-athletes and coaches, too, Clark said. For the moment, however, it will not apply to visitors or students visiting campus events, such as football games in Corvallis, he said.



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin file

OSU-Cascades/COCC vaccine clinic info

OSU-Cascades, Central Oregon Community College and Deschutes County Health Services will be hosting a series of pop-up vaccine clinics, starting next week, intended for staff and students of the institutions.

Students and staff must sign up for the clinic in advance through an online link provided to them, according to OSU-Cascades spokesperson Christine Coffin.

Here are the dates, times and locations for the clinics, with two clinics at each school:

Table with 2 columns: School (OSU-Cascades, COCC) and Dates/Times.

A major reason why OSU leaders decided to mandate vaccines is to help increase COVID-19 immunity in Oregon, Clark said.

As of Monday, about 43% of Oregonians had received at least one vaccine dose, according to the Oregon Health Authority. Deschutes and Benton counties, where OSU's main campuses are located, have higher-than-average vaccination rates, with 48% and 55% of their respective populations receiving at least one dose.

However, those numbers

plummet for younger, college-aged residents. Only 11.5% of Oregonians in their 20s have received the vaccine, according to state data. That number is much higher in Deschutes County, where over 40% of residents in their 20s have received at least one vaccine.

To make receiving the vaccine easier for local students and staff, OSU-Cascades and Central Oregon Community College will be hosting vaccine clinics starting next week, in collaboration with Deschutes County Health Ser-

vices.

However, despite partnering with OSU-Cascades on the vaccine clinics, COCC does not plan to mandate vaccination for students and staff this fall, said college spokesperson Jenn Kovitz.

This is for a couple reasons, she said. Some COCC students live in rural parts of Central Oregon, where vaccines are harder to access. And other students work full time, also decreasing availability, Kovitz said.

"Our student population is very different than OSU-Cascades," Kovitz said. "For reasons of equity and access to higher education, we've made the decision we're going to strongly recommend, not require (vaccines)."

OSU is not alone in mandating vaccines this fall: Western Oregon and Portland State universities will also require vaccinations, according to those institutions' websites. The University of Washington and Washington State University recently announced the same.

However, the University of Oregon is not requiring the COVID-19 vaccination for students, although the university highly recommends it, according to its website.

Representatives from Eastern Oregon and Southern Oregon universities, along with the Oregon Institute of Technology, all said their respective institutions were still deciding whether or not to mandate vaccinations this fall.

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Bend-La Pine

Continued from A1

As of Tuesday night, there have been more than 800 Bend-La Pine students in quarantine over the last 10 days, said Julianne Repman, director of safety and communications for the district.

Every day of the week but Wednesday, students at the four major high schools — Summit, Bend, Mountain View and La Pine — will be released at 1:35 p.m. instead of 3:45, according to a letter sent to families Wednesday

morning from Nordquist.

During that two-hour stretch, teachers will focus on students who need extra academic support, or are in quarantine, the letter stated. Students who depend on the bus for transportation will stay on campus and participate in a supervised study period until the buses arrive.

Wednesday schedules, which were already a little shorter, will stay the same for high schools, Nordquist wrote. Bend-La Pine's three magnet high schools — Realms High School, Skyline and Bend Tech Academy at

Marshall — will retain their current schedules entirely.

The district's five large middle schools — Sky View, Cascade, High Desert, Pacific Crest, Pilot Butte — will have distance learning on Wednesdays only, starting Monday, Nordquist wrote. Schedules will remain the same for the other four days of the week.

Middle-school staff and administrators are still hashing out exactly what at-home Wednesday school will look like, Nordquist told The Bulletin. Smaller middle schools —

REALMS Middle School, Three Rivers and La Pine — will not see a change in their schedules.

The only reason middle schools aren't cutting two hours per day like the high schools, is because busing schedules are difficult to change this late in the school year, Nordquist said.

Elementary school schedules will not change.

Nordquist said cutting back on in-person learning was an extremely difficult decision, and she does expect some angry feedback from families. "There is not a typical year that

there isn't backlash about a decision (we make)," Nordquist told The Bulletin. "We're really trying to think about what's best for staff and students. Keeping that as the north star is really important."

The possibility of students returning to a full-time schedule will depend on COVID-19 case counts moving forward, Nordquist said.

"I hope that things keep getting better in terms of case counts, but I don't know," she said.

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