

The Bulletin

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Baseball: Redmond upsets Bend High
SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8



« GO! GETS READY FOR SUMMER EVENTS (CAUTIOUSLY)

We check in with venues as virus restrictions are set to ease
Plus: Fun cautionary tales from the movies (such as: Stop cloning dinosaurs!)

Preparing to reopen

Deschutes County works to meet new mandates

Businesses are on track to fully reopen May 21, but a health official pushing for more vaccinations worries about mixed messages from the state; owner complains of 'arbitrary' rules

BY SUZANNE ROIG
The Bulletin

While Deschutes County is ahead of many other Oregon counties for vaccinating a large swath of the community, a health official expressed concern Wednesday that new guidelines outlined by Gov. Kate Brown are sending a message that the pandemic is almost over.

On Tuesday, Brown said that by May 21 counties that can show 65% of residents 16 and older have started the vaccination process and have a plan to reach underserved members of the community will have restrictions removed.

"I believe it's a low bar, and it's something we can achieve immediately, but it might send the wrong message that the job is done," Nahad

61%

Deschutes County's vaccination rate for ages 16 and up.

More numbers on A2

anticipate that we will need a higher vaccination rate across our community groups."

Deschutes County has vaccinated 61% of the 16 and older population with at least one dose and 49.1% of the same population are fully vaccinated, according to Oregon Health Authority data.

What the new guidelines mean has Zydeco co-owner Cheri Helt scratching her head. The physical-distancing requirement that has been a cornerstone of the governor's business restrictions is what affects Helt's ability to seat 144 people or far fewer, but that will remain in effect.

"It's been interesting as a restaurateur to have these arbitrary, tightly numbered guidelines," Helt said. "Twenty-five, 50, 75 or 100%, none of these numbers matter if you have to keep everyone 6 feet away."

See **Reopening** / A14



IN GO! » One last movie house is reopening

LEFT: A reader board announces the reopening of the Sisters Movie House, which has been closed since March 2020. **ABOVE:** Drew Kaza, the theater co-owner, opens the front doors. "We've had so many false starts, we're super excited to be having a date that is kind of now etched in stone," Kaza said. It will be the last of Central Oregon's movie theaters to begin showing films on the big screen again. **Story on Page 16 in today's magazine.**

Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photos

Jefferson County becomes 2nd Amendment sanctuary

Commissioners said the action is intended to publicly state their position

BY KYLE SPURR
The Bulletin

The Jefferson County Commission approved a resolution Wednesday to make the county a Second Amendment sanctuary, a symbolic gesture to support the gun rights of residents.

Commissioners said the action is intended to publicly state their position and assure residents the county will not put any resources toward efforts to restrict Second Amendment rights. The goal was not to bypass any existing gun laws, Commissioner Wayne Fording said.

The Second Amendment protects the right of U.S. citizens to own and carry firearms.

"This is a statement," Fording said. "I personally don't see where it gives me the right to break any existing laws, whether they be state or federal. I think it's just a statement from your board."

Prior to the unanimous vote Wednesday, the resolution drew public comment from 11 people. Six were in favor and five were opposed.

Those against the resolution worried it was a stepping stone to change local laws, similar to an ordinance that passed in Columbia County that prevents county officials from enforcing firearm regulations, such as background checks and registration.

See **Amendment** / A4

Bend High wants to name new building after Bob Maxwell

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

Bend's most famous veteran may get a school building named in his honor — and it would be right on top of where he taught auto repair classes.

Chris Reese, principal of Bend High School, unveiled his school's plan to name its new building the Robert D. Maxwell Center during Tuesday night's Bend-La Pine School Board meeting.

But naming the new building after Maxwell will depend on the school board granting an exception to its rule that schools or school buildings can only be named after people who have been dead for at least five years.

Maxwell — who died in May 2019 at the age of 98 — was not only a former teacher at Bend High, but he also received the Medal of Honor in 1945 for risking his life to save fellow American soldiers during World War II. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient. As 23-year-old Army technician fifth grade, Maxwell jumped on a German grenade in September 1944. His action was credited with saving the lives of four American soldiers, including a battalion commander.

See **Maxwell** / A14

Correction

In an article headlined "Gates shut on rural road popular with bikers, hikers," which appeared Wednesday, May 12, on Page A1, the road number in the final paragraph was described by Phil Chang as incorrect. The right number is 4606. The Bulletin regrets the error.

TODAY'S WEATHER



Warm, some sun
High 78, Low 51
Page A12

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Bentz backs Cheney's ouster from GOP leadership

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregon's lone Republican in Congress said his party's House caucus will be better focused now that it has removed an outspoken critic of former President Donald Trump from its leadership.

U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, declined to respond to a direct question of whether he voted Wednesday to remove U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., as the GOP House

Conference chair.

But in a statement after the caucus meeting where a voice vote removed Cheney, Bentz praised the result as positive for Republicans in the narrow 219-212 minority in the House.

"If we are to win back the House in 2022, the Republican Caucus must be unified, and we must focus on the real problems the country is facing," Bentz said in a statement.

It was a reversal of Bentz's ear-

lier stance backing Cheney following her vote to impeach Trump for "incitement to insurrection" by encouraging the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol that left five dead.

A longtime Republican state lawmaker from Ontario, Bentz was elected in November 2020 to represent Oregon's 2nd Congressional District, which takes in most of Eastern, Central and parts of Southwestern Oregon.

See **GOP** / A14



Rep. Cliff Bentz, Oregon's sole Republican congressman, says the removal of Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., from House Republican leadership is a positive step for the party.