

# Maxwell

Continued from A1

“He was a phenomenal teacher (and) a phenomenal human,” Reese told the school board. “It was truly an honor to get to know Bob Maxwell and all he represented.”

The name was unanimously chosen by a naming committee made up of Bend High administrators, teachers, students and other locals, including members of the local Band of Brothers veterans’ group, Reese said.

“As a student, I know we view him as one of our own family members in the Lava Bear family,” Bend High senior Molly Hodson, who was in the committee, told the school board.

This is not the first time Maxwell’s name was offered as a school building name. Despite a community survey showing overwhelming support for the new high school being named after him, the



Ryan Brennecker/The Bulletin file

**Medal of Honor recipient Bob Maxwell places a wreath in front of the U.S. Army flag while taking part in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at First Presbyterian Church in Bend in 2017. Maxwell, who died in May 2019 at 98, was once a teacher at Bend High.**

board in 2020 voted to name it Caldera High School instead. The sole reason they gave was that Maxwell had not been dead for five years.

However, at the time, board members said they liked the

idea of naming a building at Bend High School after Maxwell.

Reese noted Tuesday that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Bend was renamed after Maxwell in 2020.

“I don’t think we’re setting precedents by making an exemption,” he said.

Although board members Tuesday didn’t explicitly say if they’d grant an exception to the five-year rule or not, a couple board members seemed to think positively of the idea.

“As a Bend High alum, and wife of a military veteran, this one feels close to home,” said board Chair Carrie McPherson Douglass.

The new building at Bend High School is set to open this fall, and will have four classrooms, a multipurpose room, and more. It’s being built on the exact grounds where Maxwell held his auto mechanics classes, Reese said.

The school board will have a public hearing about waiving the five-year naming rule at its next regular meeting on June 15.

■ Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com

# State legislators to boost state school fund to \$9.3 billion

The Oregonian

Oregon lawmakers are on track to once again boost K-12 school spending by hundreds of millions of dollars above what state analysts say is necessary to maintain the status quo.

By the end of this week, lawmakers are set to vote out of committee a state school fund budget that would send \$9.3 billion to districts around the state to largely spend as local officials decide. It’s roughly \$300 million more than the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Office determined districts would need to continue today’s level of programs and services for the next two years.

That boost, coming during a pandemic and its associated economic downturn, could push Oregon closer to national average spending on public schools. The most recent federal data, from 2017-18, indicated Oregon’s average \$11,900 per-student school spending was 6% below the U.S. norm, while neighboring Washington was 3% above it.

# Reopening

Continued from A1

“The message from the governor is very conflicting. I feel like I’m constantly doing fractions and percentages in order to remain open.”

The governor’s plan allows for limits to be lifted on seating capacity at restaurants, bars and other venues affected by the risk levels. It also will continue to require the face-covering and physical-distancing mandates while indoors, which follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations.

In addition, the governor is requiring counties to develop specific plans on addressing inequities to underserved populations like the homeless, migrant farmworkers, shut-ins and Latinos. In order for a county to progress out of restrictions, it will need a plan submitted to the Oregon Health Authority addressing how the county will vaccinate these populations.

Previously restrictions were placed on businesses based upon case counts and hospitalization rates. The new measures work toward a goal of a 70% vaccination rate statewide.

On Wednesday, the St. Charles Health System reported that it had 40 COVID-19 patients, nine of whom were in the intensive care unit and six were on ventilators. The hospital has 24 intensive care unit beds.

The county was unable to provide specifics at the county commissioners’ meeting on what its efforts will be to reach underserved communities. A plan was being developed and data was needed, said Sadr-Azodi.

“A lot of effort has gone into closing this equity gap in our community, but we don’t have good data,” Sadr-Azodi said.

The county has worked to provide shut-ins with vaccine access and provided free transportation to vaccination appointments

*“The message from the governor is very conflicting. I feel like I’m constantly doing fractions and percentages in order to remain open.”*

— Cheri Helt, co-owner of Zydeco restaurant in Bend

through Dial-A-Ride, provided interpreters at the fairgrounds vaccination site, and partnered with Volunteers in Medicine to set up clinics for Latinos.

“It’s important we continue to get people vaccinated,” Molly Wells Darling, Deschutes County Health Services incident commander told commissioners. “We don’t want to see our businesses winding up closing because there’s an outbreak.”

Wells Darling said once the mass vaccination clinic at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center closes at the end of May, county health officials can turn their attention to creating pop-up vaccination clinics at businesses.

“We want to help businesses encourage employees to get vaccinated,” Wells Darling said. “If we have businesses that it would be helpful for their staff, we’ll do a pop-up clinic and get them on our calendar.”

Other efforts to reach the underserved population are to send teams out to the homeless communities, churches and other places that serve meals and provide services.

“If you haven’t received your vaccine now is a great time — it’s never been easier,” said Morgan Emerson, Deschutes County Health Services spokeswoman. “We are working with pharmacies, primary care clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, community-based organizations and local businesses to maintain easy access to vaccines.”

■ Reporter: 541-633-2117, sroig@bendbulletin.com

# GOP

Continued from A1

Bentz replaced U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, who retired following 20 years in the House. Like Walden, Bentz is the lone Republican in the Oregon congressional delegation that includes two senators and the other four House members.

After he lost his reelection bid for the White House to Democrat Joe Biden, Trump continued to tout conspiracy theories. He also promoted debunked claims that the election had been stolen from him by widespread voter fraud.

Bentz had been among a group of incoming GOP lawmakers who issued a statement in December calling for “a congressional investigation and review into what has happened in states where election irregularities have been observed.”

On Jan. 6, Bentz came to the Capitol planning to challenge the certification by Congress of the Electoral College votes in Pennsylvania. A mob of pro-Trump rioters stormed the Capitol, forcing lawmakers into hiding as rioters ransacked the chambers and fought with police.

Several hundred rioters are being prosecuted for a wide range of assault and other charges stemming from the attack.

After National Guard troops and police removed the last rioters several hours later, Bentz joined other Republicans in challenging Pennsylvania’s vote. Congress rejected the challenges to Pennsylvania and other votes and certified the election of Biden as president and Kamala Harris as vice president.

In a press release issued just before 4 a.m. the day after the riot, Bentz said that the certification meant Biden was the legally elected president. He said he had questioned the outcome because he had heard from constituents who believed the election was tainted by unspecified fraud.

“My goal was to protect the integrity of our elections and to prompt all states to uphold election laws as determined by their state legislatures — all in accordance with our Constitution,” Bentz said.

Soon after the siege, Bentz sided with House Republican leaders who sought to derail efforts to punish 10 Republicans who voted to impeach Trump for “incitement to riot.”

**Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ore., says he backs the choice of Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., right, to replace the recently ousted Rep. Liz Cheney as the No. 3 Republican on the House minority party’s leadership team.**



Cheney, a former state department official and daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, was the most high-profile Republican to favor the impeachment of Trump.

Bentz initially helped House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., repulse an attempt on Feb. 3 by the Freedom Caucus, the party’s most conservative House members, to remove Cheney for her impeachment vote.

In a closed-door meeting, Cheney told colleagues “I won’t apologize for the vote,” according to the Associated Press.

McCarthy, who himself had said Trump bore responsibility for some of the turmoil on Jan. 6, said he accepted Cheney’s explanation.

“Liz has the right to vote her conscience,” McCarthy said. “At the end of the day, we’ll get united.”

Bentz said he was convinced by Cheney’s argument that she had voted as an individual House member, not in her role as conference chair.

Immediately after the attack, criticism of Trump was not rare. But after Biden’s inauguration on Feb. 20, much of the Republican criticism of Trump ceased. McCarthy sought Trump’s favor, while the Freedom Caucus launched plans for primary challenges against Cheney and GOP House members who voted to impeach.

Cheney said she was alarmed by the party’s turning away from such recent events that she found devastating to the core institutions of American democracy.

In frequent statements, Cheney repeated her call for the party to reject Trump as the first step in rehabilitating the image of Republicans as a part of the long history of peaceful two-party government.

Cheney wrote a guest opinion piece for the Washington Post last month, saying the party “is at a turning point, and Republicans must decide whether we are going to choose truth and fidelity to the Constitution.”

While Cheney saw GOP silence as breaking trust with Americans, the House Republican Caucus increasingly looked at her drumbeat of criticism of Trump as undercutting her role as the face and voice of Republican policy in the House.

Bentz joined with McCarthy, other former Cheney backers, and the already disenchanted Freedom Caucus to question Cheney’s effectiveness as a GOP leader.

In a speech to a nearly empty chamber earlier this week, Cheney seemed resigned to her fate, but would continue to call on the party to dump Trump as its leader.

“We must speak the truth — our election was not stolen and America has not failed,” Cheney said.

Cheney said she had made a promise to uphold the U.S. Constitution, not perpetuate the rule of one president who refused to admit defeat — no matter the cost.

“This is not about partisanship,” Cheney said. “This is about our duty as Americans. Remaining silent and ignoring the lie emboldens the liar.”

It took the House Republican Caucus a little over 20 minutes on Wednesday to vote Cheney out.

Cheney said afterward that if Trump runs for the White House in 2024 as he has suggested, “I will do everything I can to ensure that the former president never again gets anywhere near the Oval Office.”

Bentz says he backs the choice of U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., to replace Cheney. Stefanik is endorsed by both McCarthy and his top lieutenant, U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La.

Some Freedom Caucus members sought to derail Stefanik’s rise, saying earlier votes against Trump’s tax cuts and some immigration policies showed a moderate streak out of step with the caucus.

But Stefanik has risen as an ardent Trump backer since the then-president’s first impeachment trial in early 2020. Trump himself has called Stefanik “a winner.”

In his statement on Tuesday, Bentz said Stefanik would put the party’s focus on fighting Biden.

“There is no doubt in my mind that Congresswoman Stefanik, with Leader McCarthy and Whip Scalise, will look forward, not back, and that together Republicans will win back the House in 2022.”

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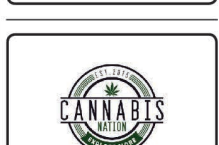


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