

Oakland A's coming to Portland on a baseball fact-finding mission

SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

The Bulletin

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Another year without a Pet Parade

Bend park district can't handle such a large event with 5 weeks to go; third cancellation since 1932



Bill Inman, of Bend, holds his dog, Meadow, at the 2015 Pet Parade in downtown Bend. Bulletin file

BY MICHAEL KOHN
The Bulletin

The Bend Pet Parade, usually held on July 4, has been canceled for the second year in a row.

The Bend Park & Recreation District, which organizes the parade, said it is not feasible to provide a safe and enjoyable community event due to its size. The Old-Fashioned Festival held in Drake Park after the parade has also been canceled.

The district says the event typically sees 6,000 to 8,000 participants and spectators. Managing a large event in early July would post challenges, ac-

ording to a release from the district Monday.

Don Horton, the park's executive director, said there were multiple reasons to cancel the parade and festival. Social distancing challenges for COVID-19 was one problem, he said. Another issue was timing.

"It takes months, not weeks to plan events like these, and therefore we can't look five weeks into the future to predict what may happen," said Horton. "At this point, we could not put on a safe event given the time constraints."

See **Parade** / A13

COVID-19 outbreak

La Pine High cases push kids to online only again

Vaccination rates are much lower than in other Deschutes County cities

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

A COVID-19 outbreak at La Pine High School that forced nearly half its staff and students into quarantine has prompted school officials to send students back online for nearly two weeks.

As of Friday afternoon, 15 staff members and students from La Pine High had been diagnosed with COVID-19, which resulted in the massive quarantine, according to a letter sent to families Friday by interim principal Anne-Marie Schmidt.

That quarantine resulted in many classes being taught by substitutes, and some students becoming nervous about contracting COVID-19, Schmidt told The Bulletin. So although it was frustrating putting students back into distance learning, it was the best decision, she said.

"I would describe it as hitting the pause button for a minute," Schmidt told The Bulletin Monday. "It could help those cases from spreading, give everybody some distance."

La Pine High students are expected to return to in-person school on June 4 — the same day seniors graduate. School ends for the rest of the school's students on June 17.

See **La Pine** / A13

Bend road projects continue — and in some cases, open early



A paving crew with Knife River Corp. works on SE Murphy Road near SE Parrell Road in Bend on Monday. Murphy Road improvements are ahead of schedule.

Dean Guernsey/
The Bulletin

BY BRENNA VISSER • The Bulletin

Even as the world stood more still due to the COVID-19 pandemic, transportation projects in Bend have not slowed.

Ryan Oster, the engineering and infrastructure planning director for the city, said despite the pandemic, several major transportation projects in town have stayed on budget and on schedule.

A new roundabout at Columbia Street and Colorado Avenue was completed May 14. The city will now turn its attention to building a roundabout at the intersection of Columbia Street and Simpson Avenue, which is closed and has detours, Oster said. Construction began on May 17 and will be finish sometime in August.

The city also recently finished work to modernize Murphy Road between Country Club and Parrell Road three months ahead of schedule.

Street upgrade improvements include a two-way left-turn lane, shared-use paths, bike lanes, protected pedes-

trian crossings, street lighting, and landscaping between sidewalks and curbs, according to the city website.

This section of road, which has been closed since November, will open Friday evening, Oster said.

This work went faster because contractors and neighbors agreed to fully close the road instead of keeping one lane open to traffic, Oster said.

"It's really ideal to do it all at one time," Oster said.

Before Friday, one lane of the road will be open on Murphy Road from Country Club Drive while each lane is paved one at a time. Crews will also be pouring sidewalks and doing landscaping and irrigation work.

The final phase of the Murphy Road improvements will begin soon with the BNSF railroad bridge overcrossing and extending Murphy Road to connect Brosterhous Road to 15th Street. Improvements include making shared-use paths, safe crossings and bike lanes.

This work will happen through the end of the summer.

See **Roadwork** / A13

BEND

Low-barrier shelter to open at spot of old warming shelter

BY BRENNA VISSER
The Bulletin

The building formally used as a warming shelter in Bend will reopen as a low-barrier homeless shelter starting June 1, according to the city of Bend.

It will become Bend's first long-term, low-barrier homeless shelter, according to Shelly Smith, a senior analyst with the city of Bend.

The Shepherd's House, a nonprofit that helps homeless people, will operate the shelter at 275 NE Second St. The shelter will run seven days a week from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. for at least the next six to nine months, according to the city.

A low-barrier shelter does not exclude anyone based on anything other than being able to cooperate within the shelter, compared with a high-barrier shelter such as Bethlehem Inn, which does not allow people on drugs.

See **Shelter** / A13

Vaccinated-only seating plan gets approval in Oregon

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

The Thursday tip-off of the NBA Western Conference playoff game between the Portland Trail Blazers and Denver Nuggets will be the first big test for Oregon's newly approved vaccinated sections at arenas, theaters and other businesses.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Governor and Oregon Health Authority

as the first indoor sports venue in Oregon with vaccinated sections," Portland Trail Blazers President Chris McGowan said Monday. "Rip City has shown us such tremendous support throughout the season."

Gov. Kate Brown announced the policy early Monday, saying fans going to the Trail Blazers games at the Moda Center would be among the first to try out the new plan.

"When fans left the Moda Center last March, it was one of the first signs this pandemic was about to change our lives in ways we hadn't previously imagined," Brown said. "Vaccines are the key to our return to normal life."

Venues, businesses and "faith institutions" can still opt to remain with their current, more restrictive health and safety measures, according to Brown spokesman Charles Boyle. But after verifying

vaccination, those who are in the new special sections are not subject to mask, physical distancing or capacity limits that are still in place for other sections.

Multnomah County, home to the Moda Center, recently hit Brown's target of 65% vaccination rate among residents. The mark triggers a drop to the looser rules of the state's lower risk tier for COVID-19 infection.

See **Vaccinated** / A4

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Number of COVID-19 cases reported in Deschutes County on Monday — the lowest since late March. Full chart on **A2**

Also: Testing's value shrinks as vaccines beat back the virus, **A4**

TODAY'S WEATHER



Some clouds
High 59, Low 37
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The Bulletin
An Independent Newspaper

Vol. 117, No. 329, 14 pages, 1 section



We use recycled newsprint



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