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Petition to make the Deschutes County Commission nonpartisan is under way

BY BRENN A VISSER

The Bulletin
A group of Deschutes County residents is hoping to collect enough signatures to get an initiative on the ballot that, if passed by voters, would make the Deschutes County Com-

mission nonpartisan. Deschutes County is one out of 10 counties in Oregon that make county commission races partisan, meaning candidates must win the nomination of their political parties in a primary election before winners face off in a

general election. Usually, candidates are only fielded from the Democratic and Republican parties. But a small group of residents, which has the support of one current commissioner, Phil Chang, is hoping to change the system.

"Local government is not partisan," said Mimi Alkire, a Sunriver resident who is a chief petitioner for the initiative. "It doesn't even make sense to feel like we need people who are on our side of the fence."

See **Nonpartisan / A4**

CALDERA HIGH PROJECT Family of roofer sues for \$19M

Estate alleges negligence by construction company

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin
The family of a Bend roofer killed in August in a fall off the Caldera High School gymnasium roof has brought a \$19 million wrongful death lawsuit against Kirby Nagelhout Construction.

The suit, filed Thursday in Multnomah County Circuit Court, alleges the Bend-based builder allowed workers to move materials on a sloped roof in an unsafe manner and failed to require proper safety harnesses, among other claims.

Kirby Nagelhout and its subcontractor, River Roofing, have already been cited and fined for the accident by state safety officials.

Neither River Roofing nor Bend-La Pine Schools are named as defendants in the lawsuit.

Kirby Nagelhout president Jeff Deswert said he was not aware of the court filing Thursday morning.

"I know about the unfortunate accident, but I don't know anything about the lawsuit," he said.

See **Roofer / A6**

Pandemic | Central Oregon

St. Charles Bend at capacity with COVID-19, trauma patients



Kyle Spurr/The Bulletin

Emily Kroytz, a registered nurse in St. Charles Bend's intensive care unit, right, checks in with hospital staff who are caring for an unconscious COVID-19 patient on a ventilator Thursday.

BY KYLE SPURR

The Bulletin
Emily Kroytz, a registered nurse in St. Charles Bend's intensive care unit, ended a 16-hour shift this week and came home in tears. Kroytz and the other ICU nurses have not seen this many COVID-19 patients at once in

six months. As of Thursday, all 24 beds were full in the ICU, including five patients with the virus. Three of the infected patients are on ventilators.

Another 36 COVID-19 patients were being treated in the hospital. "It takes an emotional toll," Kroytz said. The full capacity in the ICU is due to the

ongoing spread of COVID-19, but also an increase in patients who put off medical treatment during the pandemic and are now showing up to the emergency room with neglected illnesses. In addition, the hospital is seeing heart attacks and major injuries that will likely increase through the summer.

See **ICU / A4**

Bend man pleads not guilty

Kilby accused of 3 murders

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin
Accused triple murderer Randall Richard Kilby pleaded not guilty in his two pending homicide cases Thursday morning in Deschutes County Circuit Court.

Kilby, 35, will be back in a week to schedule trial dates.

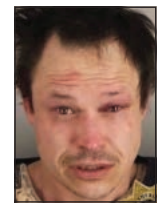
"Thank you, Your Honor. Have a good morning," was all the defendant said in the 12-minute hearing.

Kilby is charged with two counts of first-degree murder and three of second-degree murder for a pair of alleged attacks that stunned a quiet southwest Bend subdivision this winter.

In one case, Kilby is accused of fatally attacking his friend Daphne Banks, 43, on Christmas morning. In the other, he's accused of murdering his roommates, brothers-in-law Jeffrey "Jeff" Taylor, 66, and Benjamin "Benny" Taylor, 69, around March 20.

That Kilby was out of custody after the alleged attack on Banks has been a major point of contention for friends and relatives of the victims.

See **Kilby / A4**



Kilby

County offers position to community development director



Lelack

BY BRENN A VISSER

The Bulletin
The Deschutes County Commission has officially offered Nick Lelack, who is the county's current community development director, the job of county administrator.

The commission voted unan-

imously to offer Lelack the position Wednesday, pending negotiations over issues including salary and benefits. The county administrator is the chief executive of the county, overseeing departments in the day-to-day work of the government.

"Not only is he highly qual-

ified, but he has an intricate knowledge of the challenges facing our community," Commissioner Phil Chang said.

While other qualified applicants were considered, Lelack had the benefit of being able to hit the ground running compared to someone outside of the

community who would need time to get up to speed, Chang said.

Lelack has served as community development director since 2012 and serves on the state Land Conservation and Development Commission.

See **Manager / A6**

TODAY'S WEATHER



Intervals of clouds
High 69, Low 40
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