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# The Bulletin

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**WILDFIRE SEASON**

# Massive lightning strikes are top concern

BY GARY A. WARNER  
 Oregon Capital Bureau

A statewide swath of lightning strikes is the “trigger event” that most worries state fire officials planning for what could be a second consecutive severe fire season.

Lightning strikes are “a typical event that we have on an annual basis that gives me most concern,” said

Doug Grafe, the Oregon Department of Forestry fire chief.

Grafe and other state fire, emergency, environmental and health officials held a press call Thursday to lay out strategies to try to keep 2021 from looking like 2020.

Firefighters plan for the worst and hope for the best. Sometimes they get a nightmare like the Labor Day 2020

fires that burned over 1 million acres in Oregon, destroyed thousands of homes and left 11 dead.

The fires also sent billows of ash that filled the Willamette Valley. Winds drove the toxic flow eastward that for a few days made the air quality in Sisters and Pendleton the worst in the world.

Oregon is still digging out from

those fires that broke out amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the Thursday press call, leading emergency, fire and health officials talked about improvements since last year: better warning systems, an initial wave of 30 aircraft with better instrumentation to see flame through smoke, pre-positioned fire crews and federal agency assets that are in Or-

gon because they never went home last year.

An air-quality blog will give faster readings on where air quality is becoming dangerous. In light of the 2020 fires, the state is adding more Spanish language materials to reach communities that may not be plugged into the existing fire warning systems.

See **Fire season** / A4

**Emerson Avenue in Bend**

# CLEANUP SLATED



Dawn Kane, 49, pauses for a moment to think when asked where she is going to move to next while talking to The Bulletin outside her tent along NE Emerson Avenue in Bend on Thursday.

*City cites safety and health concerns; homeless advocates call policy ‘inhuman’*

BY BRENN A VISSER  
 The Bulletin

In the last nine months, Dawn Kane has made her home out of a blue and green tent off the side of Emerson Avenue in Bend.

The 49-year-old Kane moved to the area after spending roughly 10 years living on Bureau of Land Management land

near Redmond in the hopes of being closer to services. It worked — Kane qualified for a housing voucher in November.

But after more than six months, she has yet to be placed in a home because there are none available in Central Oregon, she said. And now, the city of Bend will be telling her to pack up and leave Emerson Avenue. This is because the Bend

City Council gave City Manager Eric King the authority Wednesday to move people out of the right of way when camps are deemed “unsafe.”

“I just haven’t had the best luck in the world as far as things coming my way,” she said. “When good things happen, they go away.”

See **Homeless** / A6

**GRADUATION SEASON**

# Teen survives addiction and trauma to earn diploma

*Jaidra Miles still in awe that she graduated high school*

BY JACKSON HOGAN  
 The Bulletin

Editor’s note: This is part of a series of articles about exceptional high school graduates in the class of 2021 across Central Oregon.

Her childhood was so bleak, that Jaidra Miles thought she’d never finish high school.

She grew up with a single mother who could barely afford to pay the bills. By age 12, Miles began using drugs, eventually leading to multiple charges and court-mandated rehab, she said. And Miles flunked out of school during her freshman year at Crook County High School.

But now, Miles, 17, is living a sober life in Prineville. And in February, she officially graduated as part of the class of 2021 for Prineville’s alternative high school, Pioneer High School, over a year ahead of schedule. “Sometimes, I don’t believe that I did it,” Miles said of graduating. “If I told 13-year-old me that I was going to be where I am now, I would’ve said, ‘That’s a joke.’”

See **Grad** / A4

# Bend City Council votes to oppose crude oil by rail

BY BRENN A VISSER  
 The Bulletin

The Bend City Council officially opposes crude oil coming through the city by rail, though the resolution passed by the council is largely symbolic.

On Wednesday, the council unanimously adopted a resolution that takes a stand against oil trains moving through Bend due to the safety and environmental risks.

The resolution does not mean oil trains are banned from Bend — cities aren’t able to do that, according to city staff. But what the resolution does do is join several other cities in Oregon to put pressure on the federal government to instill more regulations for oil traveling by train.

“It’s important for us as one of many cities to come together with this message,” Mayor Sally Russell said in the council’s meeting Wednesday.

See **Oil** / A4

# Heckathorn appointed Jefferson County sheriff



Heckathorn

BY GARRETT ANDREWS  
 The Bulletin

Jefferson County commissioners interviewed finalists for sheriff at Wednesday’s meeting and in the end, voted to promote Undersheriff Marc Heckathorn to the top post.

Outgoing Sheriff Jim Adkins, 57, announced in April he would step down this summer.

Heckathorn’s first day will be July 1. He will earn \$98,000 per year as sheriff.

Following Adkins’

retirement announcement, the county held an open application period that yielded packets from three interested people. Heckathorn, 45, and Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office Cpl. Jason Pollock were named finalists

and interviewed in person by the commissioners. Jackson County Sheriff’s Office deputy Ian Lance did not make the cut, with commissioners speaking in favor of hiring a local candidate.

See **Sheriff** / A4

TODAY’S WEATHER



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