



# SUNNY OUTLOOK

# The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

## Citizen scientists help study local bats for OSU-Cascades

*Volunteers listened for the elusive spotted bat*

BY MICHAEL KOHN  
The Bulletin

By harnessing the power of "citizen scientists," researchers from Oregon State University-Cascades completed a study of an elusive species of bat. OSU-Cascades worked with 12

volunteers over the past two years on the project, which focused its efforts on the spotted bat. The team completed 61 surveys, identifying the bat 25 times.

Spotted bats are rarely seen but remain an important species in Central Oregon. They help control insect populations by consuming large amounts of mosquitoes and other agricultural pests. They are notable for their large

ears and distinctive white spots on their black backs. Their ears are believed to be the largest of any bat species in North America.

"Spotted bats are high-flying, hard-charging lions of the sky, trying to catch the big moths," said Tom Rodhouse, the project leader and a courtesy faculty member at OSU-Cascades.

See **Bats** / A13



Tom Rodhouse/Submitted photo

**Tom Rodhouse, an ecologist with the National Park Service and a courtesy faculty member at OSU-Cascades, holds a spotted bat in Clarno in 2003.**

### HOMELESSNESS BILL

# Oregon allowing tents on public property

*Communities must put local rules in sync with legislation now headed for governor's desk*

BY NICOLE HAYDEN  
The Oregonian

Oregon communities must rewrite local rules to allow Oregonians to sit, lie, sleep and keep warm and dry on public property in most circumstances.

House Bill 3115, which passed the Senate on Wednesday afternoon and is en route to Gov. Kate Brown's desk, is a response to a 2018 landmark homelessness case that impacted most Western states with an intent to better support individuals experiencing homelessness.

While local governments should already be following rules set forth by the case known as *Martin v. Boise*, the bill, written at the behest of House Speaker Tina Kotek, forces cities to officially change any ordinance language still on the books to be in line with the court decision.

In its ruling, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said governments cannot criminalize conduct that is unavoidable as a result of experiencing homelessness. To punish a homeless individual for sleeping outside when there aren't enough shelter beds would be comparable to punishing that individual for the fact that they are homeless, a consequence the court described as cruel and unusual.

See **Homeless** / A4

### MORE BILLS HEADED FOR GOV. BROWN

- Prosecutors, prisoners can ask for reviews of convictions
- Affordable housing expanded
- Lyrics for state song changed

Stories on A2

### COVID-19

# State might revamp lottery to spur more vaccinations

BY AIMEE GREEN  
The Oregonian

The number of Oregonians getting vaccinated against COVID-19 has nose-dived since Gov. Kate Brown announced a \$1 million lottery for vaccinated residents a few weeks ago.

The state says it's now looking at ways to spark more enthusiasm — and inoculations among those still unvaccinated — in the three weeks left before the drawing is held.

Charles Boyle, a governor's spokesman, said in an email that the governor's office is "exploring options for drawings earlier in the month to continue to generate excitement throughout the next several weeks."

Brown also hinted at a news conference Friday that more prizes may be added to the offerings in coming days, though she hasn't yet shared any details.

See **Lottery** / A13

# LAST BURN OF SPRING

Prescribed fire outside La Pine finishes the season in the Deschutes National Forest



**Jack Abendroth and Gillian Moore clear a containment line around a burning log while working a prescribed burn along Forest Road 21 near La Pine on Wednesday.**  
Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

BY MICHAEL KOHN • The Bulletin

The Deschutes National Forest conducted its final prescribed burn for spring Wednesday, with a burn northeast of La Pine that served as part of a training program for firefighters.

Fuels specialists and fire crews burned small trees and brush on the ground in approximately 20 to 50 acres along Forest Road 21, northeast of La Pine and east of U.S. Highway 97. Ignitions were completed in one day.

The primary purpose of the burn was to train firefighters within a controlled environment, but the burn also met ecosystem objectives. Prescribed fires are conducted to reduce fuel loads that if left untreated can burn out of control during a wildfire.

Smoke from the burn may linger in the area for up to a week, but the smoke impact is expected to be minimal to nearby communities.

The burn wrapped up a busy season for local fuels specialists. In total, prescribed burns were applied to 4,478 acres of the forest in 37 separate locations, according to Jean Nelson-Dean, a

spokesperson for the Deschutes National Forest. Of this area, 332 acres were on non-Forest Service lands.

Nelson-Dean said the prescribed burns will help to fight potential wildfire, and protect homes and community infrastructure. The prescribed burns also help forests recover more quickly if a wildfire does pass through.

With the prescribed fire season over, does smoke indicate an actual wildfire is active? Not necessarily, said Nelson-Dean. Smoke could indicate field burning. People interested in updates on prescribed burns and wildfires in Deschutes County can text "COFIRE" to 888-777.

When wildfire does occur, it is simply part of a natural cycle for Central Oregon forests.

"Central Oregon has a fire-adapted ecosystem, which means that fire and smoke are a part of maintaining a healthy forest here," said Nelson-Dean. "Just like Western Oregon forests require rain to be healthy, Central Oregon forests require fire, which we do our best to use in a controlled manner under the best conditions to move smoke up and out of the area."

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### INSIDE

Early start to the 2021 fire season: Northeast Oregon burns, and the region's snowpack dries up, **A4**

