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New diversion program aims to give young arrestees a second chance

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin

In 2017, a 19-year-old Bend man was charged with assault for tossing a poop-emoji pillow at an elderly woman shopping in a local department store.

The young man said the act, which

his brother filmed, was part of an on-line challenge, his former public defender, Andrew Doyle, explained.

"It was kind of a silly case," Doyle said. "I never argued he didn't injure this person, who had some pre-existing conditions. But he was just a dumb kid."

Doyle's client was charged in the adult justice system, and Doyle ultimately convinced a jury to acquit him. But the client's brother, who was under 18, was prosecuted in the juvenile system, and was therefore eligible for a quieter conviction diversion process.

See **Diversion** / A4



Andrew Doyle stands in front of the Deschutes County District Attorney's Office on Thursday.

Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Poll: White extremist views strong in Oregon

Majority of state supports multicultural democracy

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

Nearly four in 10 Oregon residents agree with statements aligned with white extremist views, according to a poll commissioned by a major progressive group released Thursday.

A majority of state residents support the ideals of a multicultural democracy, according to the survey conducted by DHM Research.

The poll was commissioned by the Western States Center, a Portland-based nonprofit that says its mission is to monitor extremism in the region and work to "strengthen inclusive democracy."

The poll showed a "disturbingly" sizable population in Oregon from which extremists can gather followers and sympathizers, said Lindsay Schubiner, program director at the Western States Center.

"They are social movements spreading bigotry to attain political power," Schubiner said.

See **Extremism** / A6

Wolf sighting could be a dog hybrid

Reports spread online

BY MICHAEL KOHN

The Bulletin

Possible wolf sightings around the area of China Hat Road southeast of Bend have been posted on social media sites this week, prompting the interest of residents wondering if a wolf has taken up residence in the area.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife received a number of wolf sighting reports in the area around China Hat Road this week.

Andrew Walch, wildlife habitat biologist for the ODFW in Bend, has seen photos and heard reports from concerned residents but was unable to confirm if the animal that had been spotted was a wolf.

See **Hybrid** / A4

Central Oregon

COUNT SHOWS 13% RISE IN HOMELESS POPULATION



Ron La Rue watches a video on his phone shortly after checking in at the homeless shelter located at 275 NE Second St. in Bend, on Wednesday.

Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Increase includes significant jump in homeless youth population

BY BRENNIA VISSER

The Bulletin

The homeless population in Central Oregon increased another 13%, according to preliminary data from the region's Point-in-Time count, which includes a significant increase in the number of homeless youth in the region.

The data comes at a time when the issue of homelessness is at the forefront of local politics, as public bodies like the Bend City Council are trying to handle a growing homeless population.

The annual count is a snapshot in time that shows how many people in Central Oregon were homeless on a single night in Jan-

uary. This year, 1,098 homeless people were counted compared with 969 last year, according to Colleen Thomas, Deschutes County's homeless services coordinator. A similar increase of 12% was seen between 2019 and 2020.

"Even though it was a pandemic year, and we had limited folks providing outreach outside of our normal routines, we still saw an increase," Thomas said.

See **Homeless** / A4

Sheriff's deputy resigns after 8-month investigation

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin

A Deschutes County Sheriff's Office deputy who was under internal investigation for eight months for making inappropriate comments retired before the investigation could be completed, according to newly re-

leased email records.

The sheriff's office won't reveal details of its case against Grant T. Johnstone, who told The Bulletin the accusation against him was true.

Johnstone worked for the sheriff's office from July 2013 until February, when he retired after 25 years as a

law enforcement officer.

Johnstone began his career in law enforcement in Alaska in 1995. Ten years later, he was hired at Tualatin Police Department, where he worked until transferring to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. He was promoted to sergeant in 2017.

On April 17, 2020, a sheriff's office employee complained Johnstone made inappropriate statements. In response, the sheriff's office retained an outside investigator to examine the allegations, a sheriff's spokesman told The Bulletin.

See **Deputy** / A4

TODAY'S WEATHER



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