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Happy Father's Day

Black dads form group to share experiences in Bend



Fodé Ismael Sylla, right, smiles Saturday while playing with a group of visitors to his tent during a Juneteenth celebration at Ponderosa Park in Bend. Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin photos

BY KYLE SPURR • The Bulletin

When Kelly Musgrove got together with other Black fathers in Bend three years ago, they were driven by a singular purpose. They realized some of their children had been bullied in school for their race and struggled with not often seeing people like them in the predominantly white city, where 1% of residents are Black.

"You don't see anyone like yourself," Musgrove said. "Kids have eyes and feelings and emotions, and they have to connect with somebody."

Musgrove, a 55-year-old retired police officer and father of three daughters, continued to meet with the other fathers periodically at Bend's Ponderosa Park to talk freely about racial discrimination and other issues. The fathers reached out to Bend-La Pine Schools and offered to be a resource for students in need, from filling backpacks with donated goods to sitting down with students and sharing their frustrations.

The group wanted to grow its pres-

ence in Bend. A spark came last year when George Floyd, a Black man from Minneapolis, was murdered by a police officer May 25. The incident set off a national call for social justice and police reform that was heard in Bend.

"All of a sudden, we all came together because of that," Musgrove said. "We all saw it and we said we have to do something."

Floyd's murder led the Bend fathers to form The Father's Group, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of children through education, leadership and networking.

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Kelly Musgrove, a member of The Father's Group, prepares food at a Juneteenth celebration at Ponderosa Park in Bend.

Juneteenth celebration in Bend honors Black culture

BY KYLE SPURR
The Bulletin

Bend residents gathered Saturday in Ponderosa Park to celebrate Black culture and recognize Juneteenth, which honors the end of slavery in the United States.

The inaugural Juneteenth Celebration — hosted by The Father's

INSIDE

• Holiday's declaration sparks scramble in states, **A9**

featured speakers discussing the history of Juneteenth, music, dancing and Caribbean food.

The event was planned months

Group, Central Oregon Peacekeepers and Embrace Bend — fea-

in advance, but felt even more timely after Juneteenth officially became a federal holiday Thursday. President Joe Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth the 11th American federal holiday.

"People have been celebrating it long before it became a holiday," said Joanne Bulley, a retired

Bend resident who brought her two granddaughters to the event. "I'm thrilled it became a holiday."

Bulley, who worked as a physician for women, said she was raised in a family that supported diversity and was happy to see that celebrated Saturday in the park.

See **Juneteenth** / A7

OREGON: LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Politics, pandemic mark closing days

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

State lawmakers will return to the Capitol in Salem on Monday with an agenda fully reloaded by legislative leaders.

Most House and Senate members were pleasantly surprised to be told Thursday they could go home and not be back for work until Monday. Both chambers continued committee meetings, but those could be done virtually, as they have been since the Capitol closed in March 2020 because of the pandemic.

Lawmakers still have some heavy legislative lifting left before they can go home. The end of every session focuses on pieces of the state budget, which move through in multibillion-dollar chunks at a time.

School building: One allocation that has caused higher education officials around the state to hold their breath in the past is the capital construction bond authorizations for universities. This year's projected \$442.8 million bond package for seven state four-year college campuses is in Senate Bill 5505. It includes \$13.8 million to build a new Student Success Center at Oregon State University-Cascades in Bend. Eastern Oregon University is slated to receive just over \$27.8 million for the renovation of Loso Hall and just under \$18.3 million for renovation and seismic retrofitting of Inlow Hall. In the past, tight budgets have pitted schools against each other, with Brown or the Legislature switching projects and funding around up until the last minute. With state coffers extremely full for the moment, the package is expected to pass as-is this week.

Redistricting only: The House and Senate are expected back in Salem on Sept. 20 for a special session to approve the long-delayed maps for new legislative and congressional districts to be used in the 2022 election. House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, says she plans on a short session focused on redistricting, without lawmakers wandering into other policy areas. The 2021 regular session was hamstrung by pandemic protocols and slowed by partisan parliamentary moves. Some lawmakers have suggested the special session could include a catch-up on areas such as campaign finance reform that got short-shrift because of tight schedules and big agendas. Kotek said those efforts will have to wait for another time, most likely the 35-day short session of the Legislature early next year.

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Plenty of sunshine
High 90, Low 58
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