

BEND'S MEL LAWRENCE REACHES OLYMPIC FINALS

TRACK AND FIELD TRIALS • SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

The Bulletin

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WILDFIRE SEASON

Fire threatens houses in Warm Springs

BY DYLAN JEFFERIES
The Bulletin

The S-503 Fire on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation grew from roughly 4,300 to 6,200 acres Sunday night and was zero percent contained Monday morning, according to fire officials.

Firefighters arrived with engines and aerial support on Sunday and were able to hold the north side of the fire, which was the main area of concern as the fire spread northeast toward residences in the community of Pine Grove in Wasco County, according to a release from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Evacuation notices were lowered Sunday for residents of Pine Grove from a Level 3 "go now" to a Level 2 "get ready."

Structures and infrastructure in Pine Grove, as well as on the Warm Springs reservation, remain at risk.

See [Warm Springs](#) / A4

Three RV fires burn in one day outside La Pine

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

On Sunday, three separate wildfires started by burning RVs were reported at dispersed campsites on public land outside La Pine.

Firefighters from multiple agencies were able to access the fires before any could become the next state conflagration, but as fire season kicks off in Oregon, Mike Supkis, chief of La Pine Rural Fire Protection District, notes this time they were lucky.

"It really is concerning that in the course of two years we've had six fires, three of them major fires that really ran, right next to this community," Supkis said.

See [La Pine](#) / A4

Correction

An editorial headlined "How should Bend's school district teach controversial subjects?" which appeared Sunday, June 20, on Page A4, incorrectly stated the middle school where the book "Ghost Boys" was read. It was High Desert Middle School.

The Bulletin regrets the error.

Expedited land use plan gets support

Oregon House backs request by Bend to fast-track approval process for housing site

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

In a move with possible statewide implications, the House on Monday voted to fast-track a Bend affordable housing plan by allowing the city to skip much of the

time-consuming land use approval process in state law.

House Bill 3318 was approved 42-16. By the afternoon, the bill had been sent to the Senate Rules Committee. No hearing date has

been set as yet.

With the Legislature expected to adjourn by Friday, the bill would need to move extraordinarily swiftly to a vote that would send it to Gov. Kate Brown.

"The fact that it is already in Senate Rules has to make me think it is being seriously considered," said Erik Kancler, lobbyist for the city

of Bend. "It is late, but it has a chance."

HB 3318 would allow Bend to bring a 260-acre parcel near Stevens Road into its urban growth boundary to be developed as up to 800 units of affordable housing. The other half of the large parcel of land, roughly 380 acres, is already within the boundary and

was sold by the Department of State Lands to a developer. The tract sits east of SE 27th Street.

The bill is co-sponsored by Rep. Jason Kropf, D-Bend, and Rep. Jack Zika, R-Redmond. They argued on Monday that state action was necessary to alleviate an affordable housing crisis.

See [Land](#) / A4

HOMELESS CAMPS IN BEND



Danielle McGovern sits Thursday with her dog Kalohe at their camp on Emerson Avenue in Bend, where an official notice to vacate is duct taped to her tent in the background. Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

LEFT BEHIND

BY BRENNA VISSER
The Bulletin

After living on the outskirts of Bend for roughly seven years, Danielle McGovern decided recently to make camp in town on Emerson Avenue so she could be closer to services.

But on Wednesday, the 51-year-old will be one of dozens who will be removed by the city of Bend, which is citing safety and public health concerns as reasons for closing the street and clearing the camp.

Per state law, the city has a plan to store what is deemed as personal property in a secure storage location for 30 days for people to retrieve.

McGovern considers herself a minimalist, and hopes to be able to move as much as she can back to a forested area off China Hat Road in Bend. She has learned to live with fewer attachments because the constant threat of losing it all is always in the background of her day-to-day life.

Previous moves have shown her that despite her efforts to live with few possessions, she usually loses about half of her belongings each time because of the challenges around moving it.

"I won't take things because I'm scared to lose them," she said outside her tent last week. "I can't have anything sentimental."

See [Cleanups](#) / A4

Past cleanups at area camps show that few campers ever retrieve their belongings

U.S. OLYMPIC TRACK AND FIELD TRIALS | 1,500 METERS

Bend's Mehra finishes 11th to miss out on Tokyo

Bulletin staff report

EUGENE — Bend's Rebecca Mehra came up short in her bid for a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

Mehra finished 11th in the women's 1,500-meter final on Monday at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials at Eugene's Hayward Field.

The top three finishers in the race qualified for the Tokyo Games.

Mehra, 26, and a member of the Littlewing Athletic team in Bend, finished with

a time of 4 minutes, 8.47 seconds. Her personal best in the event is 4:06.28.

Elle Purrier St. Pierre won the race in an Olympic trials-record time of 3:58.03 to claim the national title and punch her ticket to Tokyo. Cory McGee was second in 4:00.67 and Heather MacLean third in 4:02.09, both also securing spots in the Olympics.

Mehra, who moved to Bend in 2018 and works part time for Bend Mayor

Sally Russell, made her way through the first round and the semifinals to earn one of 13 spots in the 1,500 final.

Although she did not qualify for the Olympics in the 1,500, Mehra is not done at the Olympic trials. The Stanford graduate is also qualified in the 800, which starts with first-round heats on Thursday evening.

Two of Mehra's teammates from Bend are also entered in the 800: Sadi Henderson and Angel Piccirillo.



Bend's Rebecca Mehra, second from left, competes in the women's 1,500-meter semifinal Saturday night at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials at Hayward Field in Eugene.

Christopher Pietsch/The Register-Guard

