



STRAWBERRY MOON SETS THE MOOD

**IN GO! »** INSIDE THIS EDITION

# The Bulletin

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

bendbulletin.com

SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

## Record number of chinook return to the Deschutes River

**BY MICHAEL KOHN**  
The Bulletin  
It's been an uphill battle for fish in the Deschutes River — their historic numbers have fallen due to the construction of dams and diversions that have disrupted their native habitat. But this year a project to help recover their numbers is finally showing signs of suc-

cess.  
So far this year, 59 spring chinook salmon have been collected from the Pelton Trap and released above the Pelton Round Butte dam complex, according to Allison Dobscha, a spokesperson for Portland General Electric. That's a record number for the fish transfer project.

Fish habitats in the Upper Deschutes River were decimated over the past century, partially due to farming and agriculture. But the biggest culprit was the installation of a series of dams along the Lower Deschutes west of Madras. The dams blocked access to the upper reaches of the river and also altered the tem-

perature of the river water.  
"This is the best return of spring chinook we've experienced since adults started returning to the project in 2011," said Dobscha. "We've seen returns in the low fifties before, but 59 surpasses those records and we still have weeks to go in the run."  
See **Chinook** / A14

## Plan gives employers relief for payroll tax

**BY PETER WONG**  
Oregon Capital Bureau  
Many Oregon businesses will see smaller increases in their unemployment payroll taxes, and even forgiveness of some amounts, as a result of a bill now headed to Gov. Kate Brown.  
House Bill 3389 was re-passed by the House on a 56-0 vote Wednesday after it cleared the Senate on a 25-4 vote the previous day. There was no de-

bate in either chamber.  
The sole Senate amendment was to add \$500,000 for 17 short-term positions to incorporate the changes into the Employment Department's computer modernization project. The first phase of the project, which starts in July, will include collection of payroll taxes that employers pay into the state unemployment trust fund.  
See **Payroll** / A14

HOMELESS IN BEND

# CITY CLEANS UP EMERSON AVENUE CAMP



LEFT: Tanya Rogers and John Stone sort through their belongings at The Shepherd's House shelter after being evacuated from their camps on Emerson Avenue in Bend on Wednesday. RIGHT: The Central Oregon Peacekeepers, a social justice group, were on hand to support homeless people during the evacuation.

Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photos

Workers contracted by the city of Bend began clearing out a large homeless camp Wednesday morning on Emerson Avenue where safety and public health concerns had fueled community discussion over its impact on the area.  
Just one person was at the camp when the workers arrived.  
What remained were large piles of personal belongings and trash surrounded by abandoned tents behind the Les Schwab Tire Center. Workers picked through the piles, throwing

**BY DYLAN JEFFERIES AND KYLE SPURR** • The Bulletin

away trash and stashing possessions for storage. Bend Police officers set up a barricade around the camp, and several officers stood watch over the sweep.  
The road was home to about 38 camps and had steadily grown in size since the start of the year. The city posted an evacuation notice Thursday. Social welfare advocates estimate 50 people were displaced by the

sweep Wednesday.  
"There will be some touch-up tomorrow, but things are mostly finished," said Grant Burke, the city's facilities manager, Wednesday afternoon. "There was lots of soiled clothing. Lots of defecation. Tents filled with mold and maggots. But not all of them. Some of them were clean."  
About six members of the Central Oregon Peacekeepers, a social justice

organization, arrived to protest the sweep. They had a table set up with water bottles, doughnuts and other snacks.  
"We heard from one of the camp residents that it was still dark when police came and started hassling people to get out," said Luke Richter, leader of the Central Oregon Peacekeepers. "I guess that was the best-case scenario in their heads, to warn people to get off the street before this is all happening."  
See **Camp** / A13

# Amid clamor to increase prescribed burns, obstacles await



Firefighters light native grasses near Harrisburg in 2010. Hundreds of millions of acres of forests have become overgrown. Officials want to sharply increase prescribed burns.

**BY ANDREW SELSKY**  
The Associated Press  
SALEM — In the 1950s, when University of California forestry professor Harold Biswell experimented with prescribed burns in the state's pine forests, many people thought he was nuts.  
"Harry the Torch," "Burn-Em-Up Biswell" and "Doctor Burnwell" were some of his nicknames from critics, who included federal and state foresters and timber groups.  
Six decades after Biswell preached an unpopular mes-

sage to those who advocated full-on fire suppression, he is seen not as crazy but someone whose ideas could save the U.S. West's forests and ease wildfire dangers.  
Millions of acres have become overgrown, prone to wildfires that have devastated towns, triggered massive evacuations and blanketed the West Coast in thick smoke.  
Today, officials want to sharply increase prescribed fires — those set intentionally

**RELATED**

• \$195M wildfire bill advances, with some reservations, **A3**

and under carefully controlled conditions to clear underbrush, pine needle beds and other surface fuels.  
Last month, four Democratic U.S. senators — Ron Wyden of Oregon, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Maria Cantwell of Washington and Dianne Feinstein of California — introduced legislation that requires federal land managers to significantly increase the number and size of prescribed fires on federal lands. Wyden

said it would more than double funding for prescribed burns.  
"We would have a technically skilled prescribed fire workforce," Wyden said in a phone interview. "We would streamline the smoke regulations in winter months."  
Wyden and the Biden administration are also seeking creation of a 21st century Civilian Conservation Corps, to provide more boots on the ground to work on forest health.  
See **Burns** / A13