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BEND | RIVERBEND PARK AREA

5-story senior living community proposed

BY BRENNNA VISSER
 The Bulletin

A 170-unit apartment complex for adults 55 years and older is being proposed at the corner of Shevlin Hixon Drive and SW Columbia Street, across the street from Riverbend Park in Bend, but has generated concern because of a possible height variance.

The developer, Brighton Development Inc., is seeking to build an “active adult community,” with a mix of one- and two-bedroom apartments, a pool, outdoor plaza, fitness

studios and other amenities, according to city documents. It would be called Bri at Old Mill District, according to city documents.

But more than a dozen residents have taken issue with the developer’s request for a height variance, which would let the building be five stories, or 60 feet, tall.

The zoning on this land currently only allows for a building to be 45 feet tall.

The first level would be parking while the rest would be residential, according to

plan documents.

The land, which sits adjacent to Deschutes Brewery, is roughly 3 acres and is often used as overflow parking for people using Riverbend Park.

Opponents object to the height out of concerns that a building this tall would be “out of character” for the area and would compound issues at an already congested area. Several questioned the need for another story, when no commercial uses are being offered at the site.

See **Riverbend** / A7



An aerial view shows the vacant lot for sale at the corner of Shevlin Hixon Drive and SW Columbia Street in Bend on Friday.
 Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Warm Springs

NEW JAIL, POLICE STATION GET OK

Closed in August, jail has leaky roof, unreliable power, discolored water, numerous other issues

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
 The Bulletin

WARM SPRINGS — While putting together a recent funding request, Warm Springs Police Lt. Crystal Greene rounded up every unfulfilled maintenance order her department had filed with the federal government over the past 20 years.

Each form represents a different deficiency with the Warm Springs jail, built in 1987-1989, from a leaking roof to an unreliable power generator to a concrete wall that moves when pushed.

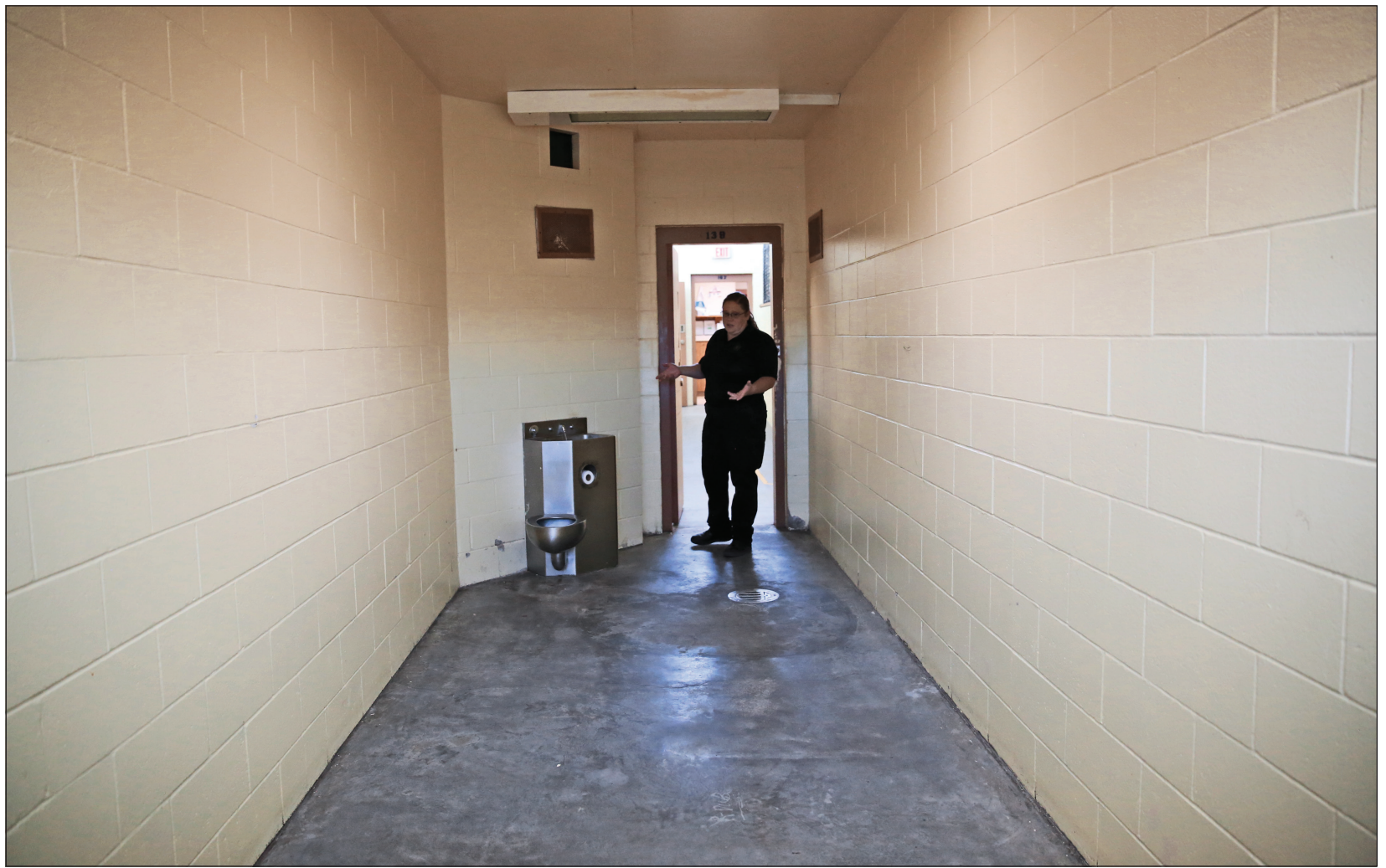
When she was done, Greene had filled a binder an inch and a half thick. “The deterioration has been occurring for years,” Greene said. “All the maintenance work orders entered into the maintenance program at the (Bureau of Indian Affairs) have just been unaddressed, and this leads to the overall deterioration of the building.”

This month, the tribe received federal approval to build a new, modern public safety facility and is now planning a 60-bed detention center to be funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

For Greene, who started at the department in 2006 and today oversees corrections, the news was a major relief.

“It’s exciting,” she said. “There’s a lot of work to be done, but it will be worth it at the end of the day.”

The jail has been effectively shut down since August, when the tribe determined it could no longer en-



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Lt. Crystal Greene shows a Warm Springs jail holding cell where, as in other parts of the facility, the water pressure is very low and sometimes comes out brown in color.

sure the safety of inmates in light of COVID-19 protocols. On a number of occasions, an inmate would be booked into the jail and then jail staff would learn the person had been experiencing COVID-like symptoms. Since August, the department has transported most inmates to the

Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities in The Dalles.

Up until August, the jail was subject to an increasing number of major maintenance and design issues.

The common areas can’t accommodate more than 12 people at a time, which affects activities like church

services and GED courses. The fire alarms issue false alarms nearly every day, the result of dirty sensors. And the poor ventilation was noticeable to jail staffers after leaving for the day, to say nothing of the inmates forcibly housed there.

“You can absolutely feel the differ-

ence when you leave,” Greene said.

The security monitors in the officer work station went down several years ago, and Evolve, the company that maintained them on behalf of the federal government, is no longer in business.

See **Warm Springs** / A4

Documentary, panel to explore homeless solutions

BY KYLE SPURR
 The Bulletin

Seattle-based filmmaker Melinda Raebyne spent the winter of 2017 at a homeless camp in her city and was left with a new perspective on the issue of homelessness.

Raebyne found the residents to be hard workers who struggled to overcome various traumas in their lives. The result of her interactions led to her award-winning 2019 documentary “Stories of Us: Camp Second Chance.”

“If people could go one day

at a camp and watch things, I think their minds would be blown away,” Raebyne said.

Raebyne will screen her film Aug. 7 in Bend as part of an event that hopes to explore solutions to homelessness.

The event, It Takes a Village — Ending Homelessness in Bend, is being hosted by Companion Animal Medical Project and Family Kitchen. It runs from 7 to 10 p.m. and will take place at Louisiana Avenue between Wall and Bond streets outside Bend City Hall.

See **Documentary** / A7



Submitted

In a still from her 2019 documentary, “Stories of Us: Camp Second Chance,” filmmaker Melinda Raebyne interviews people who are experiencing homelessness in Seattle.

Bend neighborhood advised to boil all water due to E. coli

88 homes west of the city are affected

BY KYLE SPURR
 The Bulletin

Deschutes County health officials have advised anyone using one of 88 homes west of Bend to boil their water after samples last week found E. coli in the water system.

The advisory, which was issued July 16, includes water used for drinking, cleaning and showering. Jeff Freund, an environmental health specialist with Deschutes County, said eight samples were taken during a monthly check and one of them tested positive for E. coli, a bacteria that can cause food poisoning symptoms.

See **E. coli** / A4

