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# The Bulletin

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**Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo**

# PARROTS IMPRESS FAIRGOERS



Chris Biro, executive director of Bird Recovery International, kisses Thor, a scarlet Macaw, before presenting The Pirate's Parrot Show at the Deschutes County Fair in Redmond.

BY DYLAN JEFFERIES  
The Bulletin

**R**EDMOND — Familiar animals were present at The Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo this Thursday: chickens, rabbits, goats, sheep, pigs, cows and horses.

One unfamiliar sight, however, soared overhead. Parrots. The birds, majestic and brilliantly hued, flew in wide circles above funnel cake carts, sellers in booths slinging wares and wide-eyed fairgoers.

See **Parrots** / A6



Curious parrots watch Biro as he hosts The Pirate's Parrot Show.

**BEND** | HOUSING

# As crisis worsens, focus is on middle housing

BY BRENNNA VISSER

The Bulletin  
As Bend tries to tackle its housing crisis, one kind of housing has taken center stage: middle housing.

Middle housing is for people who make more than 80% of Bend's area median income, which is \$64,300 for a family of four, but who also do not make enough to afford a large portion of the homes on the market.

For perspective, someone making 150% of Bend's area median income — which is roughly \$120,000 — can afford a home priced at \$566,980, according to a presentation from the city. The median home price is \$650,000.

Without being able to qualify for subsidized housing, a large segment of the population who work in jobs like nursing, teaching and policing are — as Bend's Affordable Housing Manager Lynne McConnell told the city planning commission Monday — “left to the wolves.”

“This is a problem that indicates a broken housing system,” McConnell said.

See **Housing** / A4

# State to require masks indoors for K-12 students

BY NICOLE BALES AND BRIAN RATHBONE

The Oregonian  
Gov. Kate Brown on Thursday moved to require masks indoors for K-12 schools to protect against the spread of the coronavirus, and to prevent disruptions to in-person instruction.

Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority and state Department of Education to create a rule requiring masks indoors statewide, an announcement that prompted Central Oregon school districts to pause plans for the 2021-22 school year.

See **Masks** / A4

# Heat wave returns to Central Oregon

BY KYLE SPURR

The Bulletin  
A month after a historic heat wave hit Central Oregon, the region is facing another scorcher this week.

Temperatures won't reach record-breaking levels like last month, but the National Weather Service office in Pendleton issued a heat advisory 11 a.m. Thursday through 8 p.m. Saturday.

“Central Oregon won't see too much in terms of triple digits,” said Cole Evans, meteorologist at the weather service.

“We are expecting more of that in the lower basin in Oregon and Washington.”

Parts of Eastern Oregon and Washington could see the thermometer reach 108 degrees Friday.

Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency Thursday for 23 counties, not including Central Oregon, due to the heat.

The heat wave will be short-lived and end Saturday night with the arrival of rainfall, Evans said.

See **Heat wave** / A4



The sun rises into a hazy orange sky near Lava Butte in 2008. A heat wave is descending on Central and Eastern Oregon this week.

**INSIDE**

• Oregon OSHA says it will 'aggressively enforce' rules to protect workers from extreme heat, A7

# About half of seniors on Medicare could qualify for fans, air conditioners

BY BETSY HAMMOND

The Oregonian  
A new provision of federal law means fans, air conditioners and air filters can be covered by insurance for people on Medicare Advantage plans, which currently cover about half of Oregon seniors, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden said Wednesday.

He urged insurance companies including Kaiser,

Samaritan and Regence Blue-Cross BlueShield to cover the costs of those devices, which are not primarily medical but serve to keep seniors healthy and alive during periods of high heat. Under the rule, Medicare insurers are allowed but not required to cover air cooling and purifying machines.

See **Seniors** / A6

TODAY'S WEATHER



Patchy clouds  
High 95, Low 67  
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