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The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

Congress incumbents weigh in with huge war chests

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

A U.S. senator from Oregon has raised over \$4 million for his campaign to win another six-year term. Not Sen. Ron Wyden, who is up for reelection this year. The bankroll is held by Sen. Jeff Merkley, who wouldn't run again until 2026. Wyden has \$6 million in the bank for the 2022 race to hold the seat he first won in 2016. The six candidates who have filed to run against Wyden all together have under \$60,000 in the bank. The numbers will rise after new campaign finance data for the final three months of 2021 is released later this month. But Wyden's fundraising lead is extremely unlikely to shrink. The Oregon senators' ongoing fundraising underlines the reality that incumbents' campaigns for the U.S. Senate — and U.S. House — slow but never stop between elections. Jim Moore, a political science professor at Pacific University in Forest Grove, says a large cache of money acts as a firewall against political surprises for officeholders. “Incumbents almost always have several hundred thousand dollars in the bank — and if they do not have strong challengers, that amount will grow,” Moore said. “Kurt Schrader is a great example of this in the Oregon delegation.” Schrader is the least liberal House member from Oregon with the most politically competitive of the state's five current congressional districts. He's won every race since he was first elected in 2008 but never by more than 55%. That is hair-thin compared to others in the Oregon delegation. With redistricting for the 2022 election, he's also the incumbent of a 5th Congressional District that was shifted significantly east. The new district is a swath running from Portland over the Cascades to Bend. It's still a competitive district, with a projected 3% Democratic voter tilt, according to the political website FiveThirtyEight.com. The 5th District race has drawn candidates in both the May primaries and November general election. Jamie McLeod-Skinner, of Crooked River Ranch, a former candidate for secretary state and for the 2nd Congressional District, is running to Schrader's left in the May Democratic primary. Along with political lines, the two Democrats are from opposite sides of the mountains.

See **Congress** / A13

Winter storms bring above-average snowpack



Cory Barnett, of Newberg, walks the perimeter of the Mt. Bachelor parking lot as his wolf hybrid, Cinder, trots along the snow berm. Mt. Bachelor reports 254 inches of snow this season and a 72-inch base. Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

BY MICHAEL KOHN • The Bulletin

Following a dry stretch in November and most of December, heavy snowfall in the Cascades boosted snowpack levels to percentages well above normal. The fresh snow doesn't end the drought affecting the area but could help to alleviate some of its worst impacts. It has also been a welcome sight for skiers, sled riders and snowshoers. As of Monday, snowpack in the Upper Deschutes and Crooked River area was 130% of average, based on the past 30 years of data, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Precipitation for the water year, which

began Oct. 1, is 110% of normal. Statewide, the picture is even better. Oregon snowpack is 148% of average, ranging from 113% in the Malheur basin to 195% of normal in the Hood, Sandy and Lower Deschutes area. Statewide precipitation is 113% of normal for the water year. As of Monday, snow depths include 39 inches at Three Creeks Meadow (elevation 5,960 feet), near the Jefferson View Shelter on Forest Road 700; and 73 inches at McKenzie Snotel site (elevation 4,770 feet), which is close to Scott Lake.

See **Snowpack** / A14

CROOK COUNTY SCHOOLS

Board to ask voters for \$66M bond

BY BRYCE DOLE
The Bulletin

Crook County residents will have the opportunity to vote in May on a new school district bond meant to replace roofs, boilers and improve safety in its nearly 100-year-old school buildings. The \$66 million bond would also allow the district to offer additional career and technical education, performing arts programs and improve outdoor facilities like Ward Rhoden Stadium, according to a press release from district spokesperson Jason Carr. And if passed, it would allow the school district to receive an additional \$914,414 in grant funds from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program. A local planning committee involving 35 parents, business owners, farmers, students and educators reviewed the condition, capacity needs and educational adequacy of district facilities and made recommendations to the school board. The board voted unanimously Monday to place the bond on the ballot.

See **Bond** / A14

JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ex-deputy charged in alleged case of revenge porn

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

A former Jefferson County corrections deputy is accused of sending sexually explicit pictures of a woman to people she previously dated. Joshua Tyler Oliveira, 36, on Wednesday made his initial appearance in Deschutes County Circuit Court, where he stands accused of three counts of unlawful dissemination of an intimate image, also known as “revenge porn.” The Prineville resident resigned from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in July, the same month he was cited by Redmond Police, according to police and court records.

See **Deputy** / A13

‘Joy Luck Club’ writer kicks off Author! Author! series

BY DAVID JASPER
The Bulletin

The Deschutes Public Library Foundation will kick off the 10th year of its Author! Author! literary series with a virtual appearance Thursday by Amy Tan, the writer behind “The Joy Luck Club,” “The Bonesetter's Daughter” and other bestsellers. The 7 p.m. event will fea-

ture Tan, 69, in conversation with longtime Bend artist and musician Jason “MOsley WOtta” Graham, followed by a Q&A with audience members. On Tuesday, Tan said that although she won't be visiting this time around, she is familiar with Central Oregon from her time attending Linfield College in McMinnville, and

various ski trips with friends who live in Bend. “I know what it looks like. It's beautiful there,” Tan said Tuesday. “Whenever we went back and forth home (San Francisco) and then back to school, we would go past Bend.” Most of the events Tan has done since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic have

been virtual programs akin to her upcoming Author! Author! appearance. She's something of a fan: Tan misses meeting fans at signings and other events, she said, but she doesn't miss the delays and other hassles of airline travel. “I think people are getting



Tan

used to this as the format that's being used,” Tan said. “In a way, even though they can't see me on stage, I think it lends itself to something more personal, because people can ask questions and can see clearly — and ask things that normally might not be asked on-

stage.” Such occasions “give me the opportunity, because we're so close up, to show people for example what my journals look like, or even they'll see where I live, or what my writing space is,” Tan said. “It's a different take on how I am as a writer, I think.”

See **Author** / A13

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