



Great Nordeen and Tour of Meissner races bring the Central Oregon nordic ski community together • **Explore, B1**

CENTRAL OREGON | EDUCATION IN 2021

Graduation rates hold steady in many schools

Crook County High School reported the highest with a 7% leap to roughly 98.2%, a school record

BY BRYCE DOLE
The Bulletin

In any other year, graduation rates among the Oregon high school class of 2021 would have been hailed as the highest ever reported.

But record-high rates in 2020 meant that many noncharter, nonalternative public high schools statewide saw a lower percentage of students receiving their diplomas on time, in four years.

That held true among many schools in Central Oregon. But new data released by the Oregon Department of Education on Thursday has many educators and district officials satisfied, and others outright thrilled.

In a year marked by instability, when students and staff adjusted to pandemic mandates and transitioned repeatedly between remote

and in-person learning, many Central Oregon schools were able to maintain high overall graduation rates. Some schools posted their highest or second-highest rates ever.

“I think it’s incredible work by our students, their families who oftentimes served as secondary teachers this last school year, and the educators that transitioned into a completely

different mode of delivering instruction,” Colt Gill, head of the Oregon Department of Education, told The Bulletin.

Statewide, the graduation rate for the class of 2021 was 81%, a gain of 3% from four years ago as well as a gain of about half a percentage point from 2019.

See **Graduation / A4**

Bend development

315-unit development proposed next to Box Factory



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

A new development is being proposed for the existing parking lot east of Lava Road and the Box Factory that includes Spoken Moto.

Project includes housing, retail, new kind of road design

BY BRENNIA VISSER
The Bulletin

A multistory, 315-unit residential and retail development is being

proposed next to the Box Factory in Bend.

The project would be five to six stories tall and include a mix of townhomes and apartments, as well as grass courtyards and a major change to NW Lava Road to prioritize the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, according to documents submitted to the city

of Bend by the developer. There would also be about 12,000 square feet worth of retail included in the development.

The 4.7-acre site would be bordered by Industrial Way and NW Lava Road, which is currently home to a large parking lot, a food cart pod and the coffee shop Spoken Moto.

The development is proposed by Killian Pacific — the same developers who built and own the Box Factory. The company also plans to add eco-friendly design elements, like wood siding that sequesters carbon and pollinator-friendly landscaping, according to a presentation from the developers.

See **Box Factory / A4**

BEND | ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Council buys Rainbow Motel for \$4.5 million

City envisions future transitional shelter, possibly City Hall site

BY BRENNIA VISSER
The Bulletin

With the purchase of the Rainbow Motel off Franklin Avenue, the city of Bend sees nothing but potential beyond its use as a transitional homeless shelter.

“This is as big of a move as it appears,” Councilor Anthony Broadman told The Bulletin on Thursday.

At its meeting Wednesday, the Bend City Council approved buying the 1 acre property at 154 NE Franklin Ave. for \$4.55 million.

The money for the purchase comes from the city’s general fund, which is primarily made up of property tax revenue.

The city has a vision for the future of the site to be any number of public-focused projects, including as a new site for City Hall, affordable housing or a civic plaza.

“In terms of where the future of our city is, this is an important geographic spot,” he said.

See **Motel / A4**

Clarification

A guest column headlined, “We need more housing all over Bend, even on Awbrey Butte” which appeared Wednesday, Jan. 19, on Page A8 included many remarks in quotes.

To clarify, the remarks in quotes were to show the similar arcs of arguments that are made about new development coming into existing neighborhoods, as the author wrote.

They were not, with the exception of “neighborhood character,” direct quotes from the previous guest column it was responding to, “West View Development is too big.”

Manslaughter charged in fatal collision near Madras

Sergio Suarez-Sanchez charged in death of AnnaMarie Wallace, 56

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

A Madras man is facing manslaughter charges following a collision

Monday morning that claimed the life of a Jefferson County nurse.

Police allege Sergio Suarez-Sanchez was intoxicated when he was involved in a two-vehicle collision around 10:34 a.m. on state Highway 361, the Southwest Culver Highway, between Madras and Metolius.

According to Oregon State Police, Suarez-Sanchez, driving a Chevrolet

Tahoe, crossed into the northbound lanes and collided head-on with a Ram 3500 driven by John Wallace, 60, of Metolius.

Wallace’s passenger, his wife AnnaMarie, was pronounced dead at St. Charles Madras.

Suarez-Sanchez was transferred by helicopter from Madras to St. Charles Bend, where he was treated for inju-

ries. Police received a search warrant to test Saurez-Sanchez’s blood for alcohol and other intoxicants.

A probable cause statement from Suarez-Sanchez’s arrest shows that though police were unable to interview him due to his injuries, officers suspected Suarez-Sanchez was impaired shortly after arriving on scene.

See **Manslaughter / A6**

TODAY’S WEATHER



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High 50, Low 30
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