

Graduation

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Crook County High School tops Central Oregon graduation rates

Central Oregon's two largest districts — Bend-La Pine Schools and Redmond School District — reported lower graduation rates compared to the 2020 class, but each reported its second-highest graduation rate ever. Culver School District also reported a slight drop of just over 2% to roughly 91.8% of seniors graduating.

But in the Jefferson County, Crook County and Sisters school districts, graduation rates increased.

Crook County High School reported the highest graduation rate in Central Oregon with a 7% leap to roughly 98.2%, a new school record. In all, 161 of the school's 164-student senior class earned their diplomas on time.

"When I saw the outcome, I was so happy for everyone to see the payoff," said Crook

County Superintendent Sara E. Johnson. "It was really hard work, like climbing a mountain."

Johnson said the school district developed a strategy for reaching students who were struggling or dropping out of school last year. After drawing up databases to assess barriers among at-risk students who hadn't been at school, educators traveled across towns to help those students and entice them back into the classroom, sometimes using gift cards.

Johnson also attributed the high graduation rate to the district's willingness to bring students back into the classroom, even while other schools stayed remote in effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Gill pointed specifically to rural schools in Jefferson and Crook counties as having shown resilience in the face of the pandemic. Jon Wiens, Oregon Department of Education's director of accountability and reporting, also remarked on how Jefferson County's graduation rate was especially im-

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— Charan Cline, superintendent of Redmond School District

pressive given its high poverty rates.

Madras High School Principal Brian Crook described a similar on-the-ground strategy to Crook County's. Liaisons traveled to underserved families in Latino communities across Jefferson County and on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, helping them get connected to online classes by checking Wi-Fi hotspots, Chromebooks and helping students engage with classwork. Madras High reported a slight drop of 0.3%, but remained above a 90% graduation rate.

"We have resilient kids who deal with a lot of adversity," said Crook, pointing to graduation rates among the school's Latino and Native American students, groups that reported graduation rates upwards of 94%.

Central Oregon's largest districts report slight decline

After a year in which every noncharter, nonalternative public high school in Deschutes County saw a bump in graduation rates in 2020, all high schools in Bend-La Pine Schools saw graduation rates decline among students who graduated on time. But the district still posted its second-highest graduation rate on record.

"These rates are reflective of the collective hard work of our students and our staff," Superintendent Steven Cook said in a press release. "We know the positive relationships staff built with students make all the difference."

Some schools, such as Bend High School and Summit High School, saw declines of less than 2%. But La Pine High

School saw its graduation rate among four-year students decline by more than 17% to 59%.

Mountain View High School's decline was nearly 7%, to 85% of seniors graduating.

Bend-La Pine school improvement director Dave VanLoo said he was "really pleased" that last year's graduation rate remained above pre-pandemic levels, continuing more than a decade of improving rates.

And he noted that rates among English language learners and historically underserved students improved compared to 2019.

But VanLoo said there is more to do to improve graduation rates among economically disadvantaged students. That includes La Pine High students, many of whom are on free or reduced lunches and experience higher rates of poverty and internet connectivity issues.

Redmond schools also saw slight declines, but the district posted its second-highest

graduation rate ever reported. Redmond High School reported a 2.5% decline to 80%. Ridgeview High School saw a steeper drop from about 91% in 2020 to 83% in 2021.

For Redmond School District Superintendent Charan Cline, the data is promising. Cline and VanLoo each said graduation rates may have been artificially high in 2020 due to the state-issued pass/fail option, which allowed students who were passing their classes prior to the pandemic to automatically receive class credit. Gill said the two years were comparable.

With the district's five-year graduation rate continuing an upward trend, Cline said last year's data shows how staff helped students who may have lost touch with the value of school.

"It says to me that all our staff members are working extremely hard to help students succeed in special circumstances," Cline said.

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Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

A new development is being proposed for the existing parking lot east of Lava Road and the Box Factory, top left, that includes Spoken Moto, bottom right, and the food cart pod.

Box Factory

Continued from A1

In a virtual meeting with the Southern Crossing and Old Bend neighborhood associations, some neighbors expressed excitement for the general idea of the development, but some raised concerns about traffic congestion and parking.

Richard Ross, of the Old Bend Neighborhood Association, said while he was pleased with the housing the development would provide, he wanted to know more about the cumulative traffic impacts that would come from this development and another development in the works at the 21-acre Korpine site next door.

"Old Bend is already stressed out from growing, unmanaged, cut-through traffic through our streets," Ross said in the meeting.

While there will definitely be an increase in traffic in the area from the project, one element of the project is designed to address some of that concern.

If approved, NW Lava Road — which is the road that separates the Box Factory from

the adjacent parking lot and connects to Industrial Way — would become something called a "woonerf," which in Dutch loosely translates to "living street."

"It's a street that values the quality of life over the speed of cars," said Kurt Schultz, a principal architect with Sera Architects.

This kind of street, which is popular in Europe, is designed in a way to allow cars and people to share the roadway together, but encourages cars to move slower than they would on a regular road, Schultz said.

Developers also plan to incorporate roughly 470 parking spots on the property by creating a two-level parking structure, as well as some surface parking spots to replace the parking lot that currently exists, Schultz said. Developers also hope to create bike storage that would accommodate one bike per residential unit.

Other aspects of the project, like whether any of the units will be affordable, remain to be seen, though it is the company's intent to include at least some in the project, according to Michi Slick, Killian Pacific's director of development. The in-

tent is also to gear some of the townhomes toward providing child care services, Slick said.

She also said the company will ensure the townhomes in the project will not become vacation rentals by banning that use in the lease they would offer tenants.

Currently, the developers are in a pre-application stage with the city. The goal is to submit official land use applications by March, according to Schultz.

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DEATH NOTICES

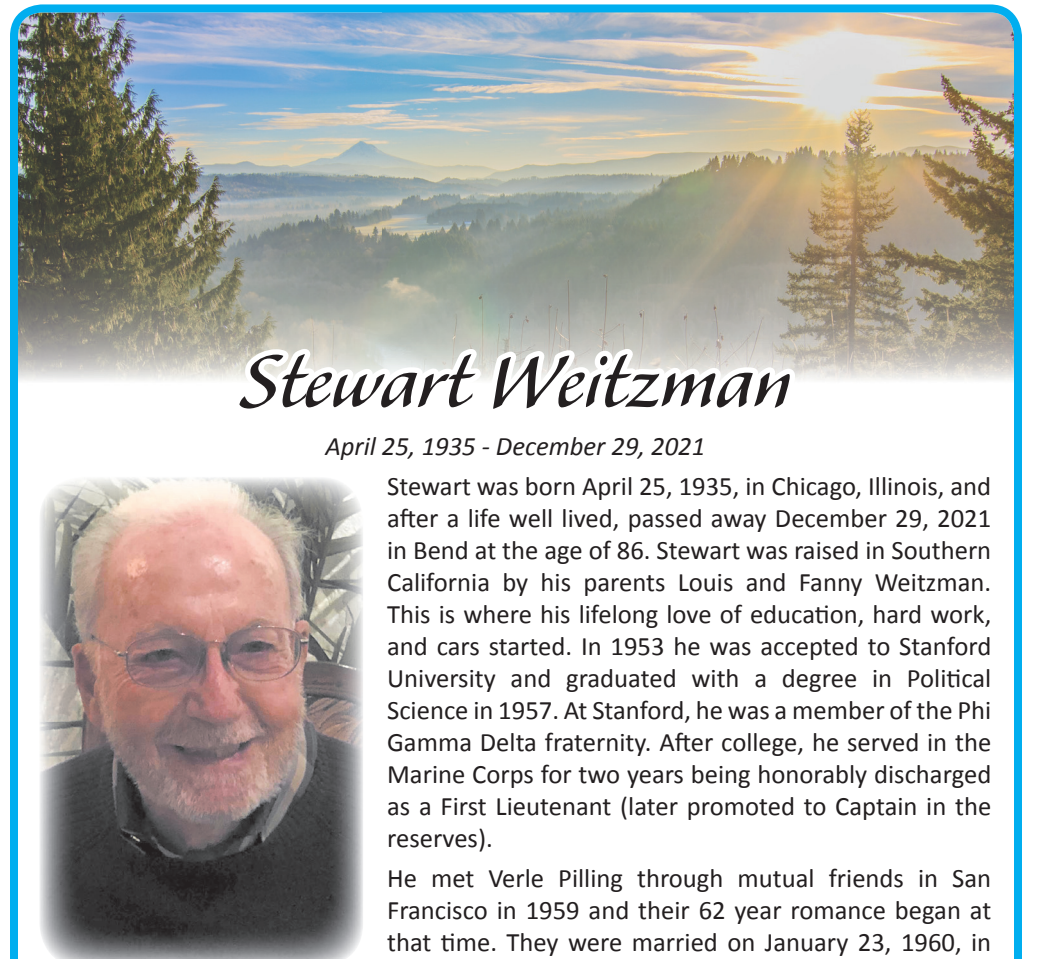
Donald Scott Berry of Sisters April 11, 1953 - January 13, 2022

Arrangements: Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines 541-385-5809
Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm
Email: obits@bendbulletin.com

OBITUARY



Stewart Weitzman

April 25, 1935 - December 29, 2021



Stewart was born April 25, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois, and after a life well lived, passed away December 29, 2021 in Bend at the age of 86. Stewart was raised in Southern California by his parents Louis and Fanny Weitzman. This is where his lifelong love of education, hard work, and cars started. In 1953 he was accepted to Stanford University and graduated with a degree in Political Science in 1957. At Stanford, he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. After college, he served in the Marine Corps for two years being honorably discharged as a First Lieutenant (later promoted to Captain in the reserves).

He met Verle Pilling through mutual friends in San Francisco in 1959 and their 62 year romance began at that time. They were married on January 23, 1960, in Palo Alto, California. They later moved to Portland,

where they raised their two sons, Marcus, and Todd. Stewart worked in several sales-related jobs in the early 1960's, primarily in the pharmaceutical industry, before starting to pursue his MBA at Portland State in 1967. While in the MBA program, his entrepreneurial spirit was born as he started his first company, Pacemaker Corporation, a manufacturer of preventive dental products including fluoride gels. Pacemaker grew rapidly and after developing several products that earned US patents, the company was sold in 1978. After consulting and working for several startups, he founded Weitech in Sisters in 1989. Weitech was a manufacturer of electronic pest control products. At this time, he and Verle moved full time to Black Butte Ranch. Stewart served as the Chairman of the BBR homeowner's board and as the President of the Sisters Chamber of Commerce. Weitech experienced rapid growth and his son Todd soon joined the company. Weitech was sold in 2002 and Stewart retired. Stewart and Verle enjoyed soaking up the sunshine in Indian Wells, California during the winters.

Stewart also enjoyed reading, classical music, travel, politics, car magazines, golfing, tennis, playing Shanghai, and was always scanning the classifieds for a new business opportunity. He was a decisive leader, a very generous man, and those who knew him appreciated his witty sense of humor. After 24 years living at Black Butte Ranch, he and Verle moved to Touchmark in Bend, where they have happily lived for the past 9 years. Stewart had struggled with Parkinson's Disease for the past several years, but ultimately succumbed to colon cancer.

Preceded in death by his parents Louis Weitzman and Fanny Weitzman, and his brother Morrel Weitzman. Survived by his wife of 61 years, Verle; brother Ronald (Morley) of Carmel, California; son Marcus (Chelley) of Mesa, Arizona; son Todd (Diane) of Sisters; and five grandchildren, Joshua, Christopher, Sarah (Matt), Abigail (Jared) and Becky (James). A celebration of life will be held in late spring. Memorial contributions can be made to Partners In Care Hospice House at 2075 NE Wyatt Court, Bend, Oregon 97701 or Parkinson's Resources of Oregon at 8880 SW Nimbus Avenue, Suite B, Beaverton, Oregon 97008.

OBITUARY

MARTHA CHRISTENSON

August 20, 1933 - January 13, 2022

Born in Shawnee Oklahoma, at three years old, her family migrated across the country, picking crops and living in farm camps along the way. The family settled in Tulare California, picked cotton and lived in a farm camp until she was in 4th grade when they could afford their own home. Martha grew up in Tulare, sang on the radio, earning the nickname, "The Nightingale of Tulare."

She raised her family in Beaverton Oregon,

attended the First Congregational Church, and worked for the school

district. Living in Bend since 1981, she was known for her Luau parties and was very involved in The Ladies of the Elks.

Martha was preceded by her husband of 58 years, Norman Chester Christenson in 2013. She is survived by her 4 children, Jocelyn Simmons (Randy), Stacey Simons (Robb), Shelley Dunagan (Jim), Russell Christenson, 7 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Martha was well loved by all her friends and family.

Arrangements by Baird Funeral Home, Bend.

