

COUNTRY TIME

Country music concerts hit Bend, In GO!

The Bulletin

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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8



Fairgoers get inverted Wednesday on the Freak Out ride at the Jefferson County Fair in Madras.

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

CITY STYLE TO COUNTRY STYLE

Jefferson County rodeo queen embraces life in the dirt

BY ANNA KAMINSKI • The Bulletin

MADRAS — Until last year, Kethry Nolan had never been to the Jefferson County Fair. For the majority of her life, she dressed in pantsuits and always made sure her fingernails were clean and manicured. The pandemic changed all that. These days, Nolan, 20, often wears flared blue jeans and Western wear shirts with brown boots and a hat to match. It's what the Prineville resident wore as she gave an opening day speech Wednesday at the fair as the Jefferson County 2022 Rodeo Queen — except her shirt was turquoise and embroidered with red flowers. “I feel so much pride,” Nolan said after the speech, as



Jefferson County Rodeo Queen Kethry Nolan, 20, of Prineville gave an opening day speech Wednesday at the Jefferson County Fair in Madras.

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

the sun began to bake the county fairgrounds. All around her, dust hung in the air, cows mooed and goats bleated in the distance. This is what Nolan calls her new life. It's why she was comfortable Wednesday making her way through the fairgrounds and talking to anyone who caught her gaze. “I used to resemble what city life looked like,” she said. In December, Nolan's duties as queen commenced right when her title was announced, but June and July have been her busiest months. She travels from town to town giving speeches, handing out ribbons to prize animal owners and, most notably, making runs on her horse through the rodeo arena. “I belong in the ring,” Nolan said.

See Nolan / A13

Jefferson County Fair and Rodeo

The Jefferson County Fair and Rodeo continues through Saturday at the fairgrounds, 430 SW Fairgrounds Road, Madras.

Man cited in Mayfield Pond death accidentally hit victim

Jesse Aaron Ray, 39, accused of negligent wounding, unlawful use of a weapon

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin

Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies arrested a man Wednesday in connection with the death of Bend-area resident Neil J. Martell, who investigators believe was struck by a single 9 mm bullet three weeks ago near Mayfield Pond. Jesse Aaron Ray, 39, was allegedly shooting into a berm on June 30 when he accidentally struck Martell from around 190 feet away, authorities said.

See Death / A4

BEND-LA PINE SCHOOLS \$250M bond headed for fall ballot

BY BRYCE DOLE

The Bulletin

Bend-La Pine Schools will ask voters in the fall to approve a \$250 million bond to improve the district's schools, safety and security, with the vast majority of funds going toward Bend High School. The board voted unanimously Tuesday to place the school bond on the ballot for the November election. If approved, the bond would fund improvements to old buildings at Bend High School, including buildings along its baseball field, along with other projects around the district. “We believe through the authorization of these funds that we could do this with essentially no impact to taxes for our patrons,” Superintendent Steve Cook said in the meeting. The bond would fund 87 projects that a district committee this year deemed a priority that need to be addressed in the next five years. More than \$178.2 million would go toward Bend High School, according to the committee's plan. The bond would also finance new door-lock systems, roofs, fire alarms and the addition of multipurpose instruction spaces.

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State urges Oregonians to mask up against COVID-19

BY FEDOR ZARKHIN

The Oregonian

Oregon health officials on Wednesday urged Oregonians in the 21 counties with high COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations to mask up, warning that the state's hospital system is again under extreme strain. COVID-19 hospitalizations are significantly lower than at the peaks of past surges. But a combination of staff shortages due to burnout and summer vacations, a high volume of patients who delayed care for other conditions earlier in the pandemic and elevated coronavirus infections likely due to the highly transmissible BA.5 subvariant has substantially reduced hospital systems' capacity to care for current patients. “No area of the state is spared,” Oregon Health Authority epidemiologist Dr. Dean Sidelinger said during a news briefing Wednesday.

See Masks / A4

DESCHUTES COUNTY Commission approves ballot measure that would restrict psilocybin in county

BY BRYCE DOLE

The Bulletin

The Deschutes County Commission moved to place an ordinance on the November ballot that would ban the manufacture and therapeutic use of psilocybin in rural parts of the county. The move, decided 2-1 in a public meeting Wednesday, comes a week after commissioners heard a groundswell of support from community members over the potential

MORE INSIDE

- Other states consider legalizing psychedelic mushrooms, A3

benefits of psilocybin, a hallucinogenic drug obtained from some mushrooms. If approved by voters, the measure would prohibit the production, processing and therapeutic use of the drug in unincorporated Deschutes County. In the 2020 election, Oregon voters approved Measure

109, becoming the first state in the country to legalize the use of psilocybin in therapy. Deschutes County voters approved the measure 52.8%. Measure 109 also allowed counties to decide whether or not to allow psilocybin therapy, which has been shown in some studies to have the potential to help people with maladies like post traumatic stress disorder, addiction and depression. Deschutes County is the latest of several Oregon coun-

ties that have chosen to ask voters to restrict or allow the drug's manufacture and use. Commissioners voiced a variety of concerns in the Wednesday meeting. Commissioner Tony DeBone, who voted in favor of the ordinance, maintained that by placing it on the ballot, the county and voters have more time to learn about potential land use rules around psilocybin facilities.

See Psilocybin / A4