



Candidate forum

Competing visions of Bend's future

Mayor, council candidates outline views for voters

BY ZACK DEMARS
The Bulletin

A lot more than just names are on the ballot for Bend residents voting in this fall's City Council election. The races, with two people running for mayor and nine others running to fill three council seats, are shaping up to be something of a referendum on a City Council that's been supportive of providing homeless services and tends to prefer denser development over urban sprawl.

Candidates made rapid-fire pitches Monday to local chamber of commerce members gathered at Bend's Open Space Event Studios, making their cases for why they should be chosen to chart the city's course for the next several years. The forum largely focused on housing, transportation and development in the Bend Central District. In the race for mayor, candidate Melanie Kebler pointed to her work on the current council as she asks voters to choose her over Chris Piper, a former city councilor. "Right now what I'm consistently hearing out there when talking to

folks is that the biggest pressure on our businesses is a lack of workers," Kebler said. "We've got to make Bend the place where workers can afford to live, and a place where businesses don't just survive but they have the opportunity to thrive and to scale up and be that pillar of our community." Kebler told the crowd Monday that housing has been her priority as a councilor, saying previous councils hadn't done enough to address homelessness but that this one has helped establish shelters and a city-county joint office on the issue. She said the council's work to get property off Stevens Road included in city limits will

also increase housing stock. In his opening remarks, Piper pitched himself as an alternative to a council that he said has become too political. "I'm running for mayor because I'll bring a different point of view that will contribute to the progressive council's conversations," Piper said. "We will walk into (council) chambers and check our political hat and shed our personal agendas at the door, so that council focuses on the fundamentals of city government and that residents are feeling respected and heard."

See Forum / A4

SAFEWAY SHOOTING

Bend council to discuss city gun rules

BY ANNA KAMINSKI
The Bulletin

Two Bend city councilors have expressed interest in banning the possession of loaded firearms in public, a partial response to last month's deadly shooting at the east-side Bend Safeway. The council is expected to discuss gun safety measures at a work session Wednesday. While state and federal laws retain most of the authority in regulating firearms and ammunition, Oregon cities are able to regulate loaded firearm possession and the sale of used firearms via city ordinances. Councilors Melanie Kebler and Barb Campbell said they are interested in developing city ordinances that limit the use and sale of some weapons.

See Council / A13

High Desert Museum



Bulletin staff report
The new North American river otter pup at the High Desert Museum will be introduced full time into the Autzen Otter Exhibit with the exhibit's two other resident otters on Wednesday, the first time museum patrons can see him. The otter pup, which was orphaned and found at a golf course near Sunriver, was brought to the museum for care in June. When the otter arrived at 8 weeks old, he weighed 2.4 pounds, was emaciated and dehydrated, and there was no sign of his mother. Now, he is about 5½ months old and weighs 15 pounds, the High Desert Museum said in a news release Tuesday. The otter pup has already spent time inside the exhibit with the other otters, Brook and Pitch. The otter pup was introduced in doses over the course

of months as part of helping him become confident in the habitat and also allowing the three otters to become familiar with each other, the museum said. "We supervised early interactions while the baby otter was small to make sure everyone stayed safe," Museum Curator of Wildlife Jon Nelson said in a prepared statement. "He's not quite as big as the older otters yet, but they are all getting along well and enjoying playing, eating and napping together. They do quite a bit of roughhousing, and the baby holds his own with Pitch and Brook." Before exposing the otter pup, it also needed time to become a proficient swimmer. Wildlife curators helped the otter splash in the museum's stream and in a children's play pool before bringing him into the water inside the exhibit.



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Save on your favorite snacks!

2.99ea

Lay's 7.5-8.5 oz Chips & Smartfood Popcorn
Everyday Bi-Mart 3.49-3.99

BI-MART

Your membership matters, and we show it with employee-owned pricing!