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**To:** [MENZA Candice \\* PUC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: OPUC Docket WA 83 -- Notice of Filing  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:58:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [BendBulletin\\_20210515.pdf](#)  
[BendBulletin\\_20210523.pdf](#)

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**We are in a drought. This application should be denied or severely restricted.**

**Regards,**

**Dennis Dishaw  
Sunriver, Oregon  
(818) 612-0913**

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**From:** MENZA Candice \* PUC <[Candice.MENZA@puc.oregon.gov](mailto:Candice.MENZA@puc.oregon.gov)>  
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**Subject:** OPUC Docket WA 83 -- Notice of Filing

Docket Name: SUNRIVER WATER LLC EXCLUSIVE SERVICE TERRITORY APPLICATION

Description: Bend Bulletin's Affidavit of Publication by Leanna Williams.

Use the link below to view this document:

<http://edocs.puc.state.or.us/efdocs/HAH/wa83hah12478.pdf>

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**HOOD RIVER  
FRUIT LOOP  
ADAPTS**

Farmers find success in 2020

**BUSINESS » A5**

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**COVID-19 | Fully vaccinated can ditch masks**

## Trader Joe's removes face-covering mandate

BY SUZANNE ROIG

The Bulletin

Most stores in Bend will not be dropping the mask requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 for fully vaccinated people, despite the change in federal and state guidance. Trader Joe's and Costco are two

exceptions. On Friday, the stores announced that customers will not have to wear face masks if they are fully vaccinated. No proof of vaccination is required at Costco stores, according to the store's website.

The change in mask requirements does not apply to St. Charles Health

System. Health care facilities are among the places where face coverings and physical distancing are still required indoors, according to the hospital. Patients, visitors and caregivers are still required to wear a face covering at St. Charles.

At Trader Joe's Bend store, the man-

ager who was not authorized to speak to the media, said that most customers are still wearing a mask when they enter the store. Workers are asking bare-faced customers if they were fully vaccinated. Customers who are maskless and unvaccinated, will be asked to wear a mask. The store is still

limiting the occupancy inside.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday stated that fully vaccinated people, for the most part, won't be required to wear a face covering indoors or outdoors, even in crowded locations.

See **Masks** / A7

**CENTRAL OREGON | A LOOK TO SUMMER AND DROUGHT**

## Reservoir levels stir farmers' fears



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Ed Palmer walks along the shoreline of Wickiup Reservoir with his dog Snoopy on Friday while out exploring the area.

*Farmers in Jefferson County fallow 30% to 60% of their fields as Wickiup drops to 43% of capacity*

BY MICHAEL KOHN • The Bulletin

**E**ven in years of drought and low water supplies, Phil Fine, a Jefferson County farmer, usually has something positive to say about the upcoming growing season. But so far this year even Fine struggles to identify any silver linings for his farming community.

"I am the eternal optimist, but this year is probably worse than last year," said Fine, who grows carrot seed, bluegrass seed, alfalfa, and wheat.

"We have less water, and we are just as dry if not drier. Then the temperatures came up, and we got tons of wind, that just dries everything out. It's going to be a tough summer."

Drought, weak snowpack, and water rationing are creating challenges again for farmers in North Unit Irrigation District, which serves Jefferson County. This year marks the fourth straight season of water rations that force farmers to fallow large chunks of their land.

Fine said farmers are fallowing 30% to 60% of their

property this year in order to have enough water for their remaining crops.

"We are getting by, but that is as good as it's going to get this year. A foot of water in this country is not nearly enough," said Fine, referring to the 1-acre-foot of water that North Unit farmers are allotted due to the rations.

See **Reservoirs** / A4

**Levels by the numbers**

Central Oregon reservoir levels as of Friday.

- Wickiup:** 43% full
- Crescent Lake:** 27% full
- Prineville:** 58% full
- Ochoco:** 25% full
- Haystack:** 81% full

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**

## Deschutes County, Bend have \$52 million to spend

*Money will go toward offsetting effects of pandemic*

BY BRENNIA VISSER

The Bulletin

With millions of dollars coming from the federal government from the American Rescue Plan Act, the city of Bend and Deschutes County are now trying to determine the best way to spend it.

Out of the \$2.6 billion allocated to Oregon, more than \$14 million is coming to the city of Bend, and more than \$38 million to Deschutes County.

The money will be delivered in two parts — one half now, and the other half a year from now — and is meant to help cities and counties recover from impacts of the pandemic. However, the money is spent, it has to fit into one of six categories: equity-focused services, public health response, negative economic impacts, public sector revenue loss, premium pay for essential workers or infrastructure projects.

See **Rescue plan** / A4

**BEND | PROPOSED RV SITE  
BY MURPHY ROAD**

## Campground faces challenges

BY BRENNIA VISSER

The Bulletin

A 176-space RV campground could be coming to south Bend at the corner of U.S. Highway 97 and Murphy Road, but city planners are recommending the proposed project be denied for a variety of reasons.

The proposed project, which spans roughly 21 acres, includes a community center and office building, as well as recreational facilities.

See **Campground** / A7

## Healthy food program expands to serve Central Oregon veterans

BY KYLE SPURR

The Bulletin

The VeggieRx program that prescribes healthy food to those in need is expanding this year to reach veterans across Central Oregon.

Starting in June, the fresh produce

prescription program will partner with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs to serve veterans in Bend, Prineville and other local cities where they may be homebound.

Hannah Brzozowski, a registered dietitian and VeggieRx program di-

rector for the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance, said the state veterans organization is connecting the program with veterans to help them overcome poor access to fresh food and diet-related diseases such as diabetes.

"We are meeting a population we

wouldn't have the capacity to otherwise," Brzozowski said.

Brzozowski and others with the program will prepare food kits full of produce from local farms and hand them out to 75 veterans once a week for 12 weeks over the summer.

The program will distribute food to veterans at St. Charles Prineville each Thursday, starting June 17, and at the Bend Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic every Wednesday, starting June 30.

See **Food** / A7

TODAY'S WEATHER



Warm, sunshine  
High 77, Low 46  
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# The Bulletin

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**DESCHUTES COUNTY**

## Irrigators seek drought declaration

*County is experiencing its driest spring in 127 years*

BY MICHAEL KOHN  
 The Bulletin

Deschutes County is going through its driest spring since records started 127 years ago. That fact combined with low levels of water in the Central Oregon reservoirs has prompted irrigators to seek a drought declaration from the state.

On Wednesday the Deschutes Basin Board of Control sent a letter to the Deschutes County Commission requesting the drought declaration. The commissioners will consider the request when they meet this Wednesday. Deschutes County declared a state of drought last year.

An official declaration of drought, recognized by the governor, allows farmers to tap into state and federal financial assistance programs. The financial assistance could help farmers

who aren't able to plant on all their acres due to water restrictions.

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control comprises eight irrigation districts, including Arnold, Central Oregon, Lone Pine, North Unit, Ochoco, Swalley, Three Sisters and Tumalo. Collectively they convey water to over 150,000 acres of farms and ranches, as well as local cities, parks, and schools.

The letter, written by basin board president Craig Horrell, requests that

county commissioners declare a state of drought and they, in turn, ask Gov. Kate Brown to issue an executive order recognizing the severe drought.

"The DBBC believes County action and support from the state is needed," Horrell stated in the letter. "This may include assistance from the Oregon Water Resources Department and other Oregon executive branch agencies, operating within their statutory authorities."

See **Drought** / A4

**PRINEVILLE**

## Off-duty firefighter rescues woman

*Jared Hopper didn't wait for help, rushed into burning home*

BY KYLE SPURR  
 The Bulletin

Bend firefighter Jared Hopper was off-duty Friday morning when he saw heavy smoke billowing out of a house in Prineville.

A distressed neighbor told Hopper a disabled woman lived in the home on Mariposa Avenue and couldn't get out.

Hopper, 28, who has worked as a Bend Fire & Rescue firefighter and paramedic for the past three years, didn't hesitate.

Without waiting for help or equipment, he ran into the smoke-filled house and found the woman, who had a broken foot in a boot.

Hopper lifted the woman off her bed and into a wheelchair, then whisked her out of the house.

He pushed her across the street, safely away from her burning home.

See **Rescue** / A9

**KLAMATH PROJECT**

## Zero water allocation pushes farms to the brink



Holly Dillemath/For the Capital Press

Midland cattle rancher and Klamath Drainage District board member Luther Horsley is preparing for a devastating summer in the Klamath Basin.

BY GEORGE PLAVEN  
 AND HOLLY DILLEMUTH  
 Capital Press

**K**LAMATH FALLS — What was already forecast to be a historically bleak water year in the Klamath Project has quickly become a living nightmare for farms and ranches fighting for survival in the drought-stricken basin.

**"I don't think there are any of us who are insulated from this. Everybody is going to feel the effects, even businesses on Main Street."**

— Ben DuVal, who grows alfalfa hay and raises registered Black Angus cattle near Tulelake, California

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation shut down the Project's A Canal for the entire irrigation season May

12 in response to worsening conditions — allotting zero surface water from Upper Klamath Lake for thirsty

crops and livestock.

It is the first time in more than a century the A Canal will deliver no water. Meanwhile, irrigators are left to wonder how they will pay the bills as fields turn to dust.

"We know what a zero allocation is going to mean to our individual farms and the community as a whole," said Ben DuVal, who grows alfalfa

hay and raises registered Black Angus cattle near Tulelake, California. "It's going to mean a lot of farms go out of business."

DuVal, who is also president of the Klamath Water Users Association, said he has already had that difficult conversation around his own kitchen table.

See **Klamath** / A4

**MT. BACHELOR**

## Ski resort to build summit hiking, biking trail

BY KYLE SPURR  
 The Bulletin

Mt. Bachelor ski resort is moving forward with plans to build a new 5.5-mile hiking and mountain biking trail that will loop from the mountain's base to the summit.

The ski resort's proposal also includes plans to create better access for a snow cat to groom more ski runs and the addition of two snowmaking guns. There is no timeline yet for the snow cat trail and guns, but construction is expected to begin on the hiking loop this summer, said John McLeod, Mt. Bachelor president and general manager. The trail is expected to take about two years to complete, he said.

See **Bachelor** / A5

TODAY'S WEATHER



Variable cloudiness  
 High 66, Low 44  
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## HOME & GARDEN SECTION

INSPIRING IDEAS FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT

Our biannual Home & Garden sections highlight ideas and suggestions from experts on landscaping, gardening, home projects and decorating ideas.

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