



Mrs. Oregon runner up

Prineville's Kaley Blasdell does well in pageant

See NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, A3



Back on the volleyball court

CCHS program playing as a club for competition

See SPORTS, B1



Owner & Neighbor
Dr. Robert B. Pamplin, Jr.



Central Oregonian

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 • Vol 138, Issue 68 • centraloregonian.com • 75 cents

Local legislators retain seat after election

■ Democrats claim state treasurer, attorney general and secretary of state offices, all ballot measures approved

By Jason Chaney
Managing Editor

Crook County's representatives in the Oregon Legislature will go unchanged, according to the results of the 2020 general election. Republican incumbent Vikki Breese-Iverson handily defeated Democratic challenger Barbara Fontaine for House District 55 Representative, and Republican incumbent Dennis Linthicum won Senate District 28 by a

wide margin over Democrat Hugh Palcic. Iverson won 73.11% of the vote district-wide, and 77.66% of Crook County voters chose the incumbent. "I am happy and humbled that I received an overwhelming percentage of the votes in House District 55," Iverson said. "Rural Oregon has a champion in me. I plan to be an effective leader in Salem and help Oregon move forward. I am excited that Republicans picked up

See ELECTION / Page A12

COVID numbers set state and local records

■ Crook County had highest daily COVID-19 numbers this past week

By Ramona McCallister
Reporter

Weekly case counts of COVID have steadily surged in Crook County for the past four weeks. Crook County has seen one more fatality from COVID in the past week, in addition to two deaths in mid-October. "I am expecting we will have our highest week total this week," commented Crook County Public Information Officer and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Vicky Ryan on Friday, Nov. 6.

See COVID / Page A2

Salute to Veterans inside today's edition



By Mark Garber
Pamplin Media Group

When Pamplin Media Group published its first "Salute to Veterans" special section six years ago, our urgent motivation was to record the stories of World War II veterans, who were dwindling in number as the years marched along.

Back in 2014, it had been 70 years since D-Day and almost 70 years since the end of hostilities in a war that reshaped the world in nearly every way. We wanted to document the living history of individuals who comprised what's become known as the Greatest Generation. The following year, in 2015, we decided to repeat the effort, even as it got harder to find these surviving veterans, now aging into their 90s.

The articles and photos produced by our news staff back then gave readers a remarkable insight into the heroism and horrors of that era. Along the way, we discovered that the best stories went beyond the great battles — although those were certainly compelling. What mattered to the people we interviewed were the relationships they formed, the insights they gained and the life lessons they learned from their time in the military.

Over the past several years, we decided to move forward in time with the veterans in our communities, through Korea, Vietnam, two Gulf Wars and Afghanistan. Some of the people we interviewed for this year's Salute to Veterans section had military careers that spanned multiple wars.

One of the vets featured in this year's section is Prineville resident Donald Tutor, who served in the U.S. Army Infantry and U.S. Air Force

See VETERANS / Page A8

RESTORING RIPARIAN HABITAT

It took four years but the Marks Creek project is rumbling ahead with the heavy machinery work to be finished during the fall



A beaver bank lodge is shown in a restored downstream section of Marks Creek.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINA RICHIE

By Marina Richie
For the Central Oregonian

Two belted kingfishers flash blue wings above a beaver dam and angle into the trees shading Marks Creek. The birds' ratcheting cries merge with the distant roar of an excavator dumping rocks in a dry creek bed upstream. The contrast could not be more jarring. The potential for transformation could not be more exciting.

I've come with Reese Mercer, program director of Beaver

Works Oregon, to witness the 2020 restoration of a 3,000-foot-long stretch of Marks Creek on private land. If I had only hiked among the heavy equipment, rocky rubble, and juniper-log lined newly cut meanders in the hot sun, I would have had my doubts. How could this mess save a stream and bring back beavers?

The evidence is irrefutable in the 2006-restored stretch downstream, where kingfishers nab fish in cool pools created by beavers. In fact, at least 30 beaver dams and three lodges flourish along 1,400 feet of lush stream that's hopping with

frogs, swimming in fish, and buzzed by dragonflies. Likely, one to two established colonies of beavers thrive.

Side-by-side comparisons of photos of this part of the creek in 2002 and today show an amazing shift from treeless cut-banks and shallow warm waters to forest-lined deep, cold meanders.

You can see the restoration in progress along 3,000 feet of Marks Creek from Highway 26, going east from Prineville right before the Ochoco National Forest boundary. Marks Creek is a

See CREEK / Page A8

Redmond man injured in officer involved shooting

■ Officers from Central Oregon Emergency Response Team fire weapons at man during local high-risk stop

By Jason Chaney
Managing Editor

A high-risk stop performed by Central Oregon Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Prineville resulted in an officer involved shooting and injury to a Redmond man Thursday.

According to a report from Crook County District Attorney Wade Whiting, the Central Oregon Major Incident Team was activated to investigate an incident near Highway 26 and Ryegrass Road involving CERT officers discharging their weapons during a high-risk traffic stop. CERT executed the traffic stop based upon information that 25-year-old Redmond man Donald Matthew Freauff was in Crook County with an outstanding parole warrant.

During the stop, Freauff sustained non-life threatening injuries and was transported to St. Charles-Prineville. After receiving medical treatment, he was discharged and lodged at the Crook County Jail, facing new criminal charges. Freauff was charged with felon in possession of a firearm, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, recklessly endangering another person and reckless driving.

Whiting said additional charges are expected as the investigation continues and grand jury proceedings are scheduled for next week.

In accordance with Senate Bill 111, the involved officers will be placed on administrative leave pending the results of the investigation. Further information will be released as the investigation continues.



\$22,000 WEEKEND DRAWINGS

Every Friday & Saturday in November

7-10PM

WIN up to \$1,000 CASH!

Today could be **YOUR** Lucky Day!

IndianHeadCasino.com • 541-460-7777 • US-26, Warm Springs, OR 97761

See Players' Club for details. Management reserves all rights.

INSIDE	Opinion A5	Kitchen and Cuisine B3
Neighborhood News A3	Obituaries A6	Classifieds B4
Business A4	Sports B1	House & Home B7

2020 ag recap
See FARM & RANCH, B2

