

Nancy Connolly will serve another term on Sisters City Council

By **Jim Cornelius**
Editor in Chief

Current Council President Nancy Connolly is stepping up to serve another term on the Council. She, like the other two candidates for open positions, is running unopposed.

That status does not please the councilor, who first ran for office in 2014.

“I was very, very disappointed that nobody else chose to run,” she said.

Nevertheless, she is not serving grudgingly — she has work she wants to see completed. With a new city manager coming on board, she thinks it is important for the City Council to maintain “continuity and stability.” And she wants to see the work of the Sisters Country Horizons visioning project brought to fruition.

“Because I’m involved

in that, I want to see that through,” she said. “The future is ours to seize and mold right now, so why wouldn’t you want to be part of that?”

Like every public official or candidate in the region, Connolly is acutely aware of the pressure to address the question of housing affordability. She expressed satisfaction with the City’s recent \$300,000 investment in a project providing affordable apartments, and she is open to the idea of creating a pool of funding to support workforce housing.

Like the other councilors, Connolly has her eye on the 2020 expiration of the City’s contract with the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office. She wants the council to ask some fundamental questions regarding of the level of law enforcement presence they desire, how best that can be

delivered and to plan for the future.

She is not looking to make immediate changes and said that overall she is satisfied with the service the City receives from the sheriff’s office.

“I am,” she said. “I wish we had more tickets issued, just because I think speeding is getting out of hand.”

She believes that property crimes, which have occasionally spiked in Sisters over the past year, are “crimes of opportunity” and that the City may need enhanced police presence at certain times.

“I think for now we’re OK, but when we start negotiating that contract a year from now, I think we need some changes,” she said.

One of Connolly’s greatest satisfactions may sound prosaic, but it’s vital. She is very glad to see that the sewer main that is attached to the Highway 20 bridge across Whychus Creek is going to be buried — a significant safety enhancement.

“I’m thrilled that that piece is happening,” she said.

Traffic and its impacts are a significant issue in Sisters, and Connolly is hopeful that the City can get a grant for a mini-roundabout at Locust and Cascade Avenue as it lays the groundwork for a large roundabout at the east end of Sisters.

Though the councilor has a full-time job in Sisters schools, she has a reputation for always being prepared



PHOTO PROVIDED

Connolly ready for another term on Sisters City Council.

and doing her homework before meetings, and she serves on a large array of committees and as a liaison with other governmental and quasi-governmental agencies.

Old growth could be key for native songbird species

BLUE RIVER (AP) — Hotter, drier summers are having an impact on some of the migrating songbirds that come to Oregon and Washington to breed each spring.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports that because of rising temperatures, the areas where hermit warblers can live and find food are shrinking by up to 4 percent each year. Now researchers with Oregon State University are developing an experiment to track the tiny songbirds through the Pacific Northwest.

OSU researchers have already found that warbler populations declined in areas with young forests but in some cases increased in old-growth forests despite the warming climate. Researchers Hankyu Kim and Adam Hadley are conducting a new experiment to determine why the warblers are doing better in old-growth areas.

Kim has gotten inside the head of the hermit warbler. He knows what makes the tiny songbird tick.

“These birds are territorial in the breeding ground, they set up their territories and they fight with each other to defend it,” he said.

Kim uses a nearly invisible net strung between two fishing poles, a plastic warbler decoy, and a looping bird-call

recording to lure hermit warblers so they can be captured, tagged and released. The tiny radio tag allows Kim and Hadley to track the birds through the dense forests of the Oregon Cascades.

They hope to determine how the birds use the forests and whether they use the temperature variations between the top and the bottom of the forest canopies to mitigate the effects of climate change.

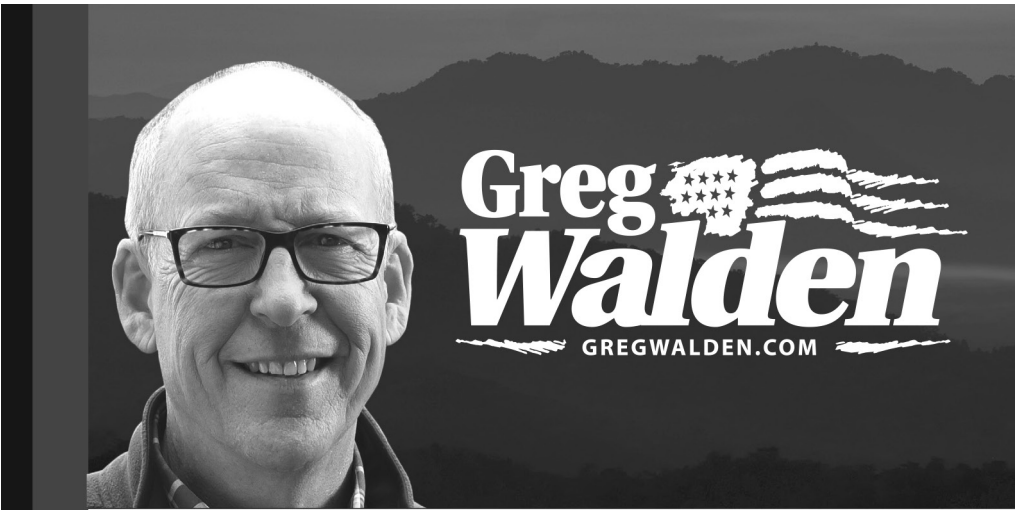
Hadley says it’s possible that when it’s warmer, the birds stay to the bottom and more shady parts of the trees.

Learning how the birds move could help explain how warblers and other species deal with rising temperatures.

“We have these long-term population monitoring routes across the Northwest. And a surprising number of species are declining,” said OSU professor Matt Betts. “Actually, more than about half of the species that live in a forest like this are in decline.”

Earlier research by OSU’s Betts and Sarah Frey found warblers declined in areas with young forests, including those replanted after clear-cut logging. But hermit warblers are doing better in other areas.

“In landscapes that had more older forest, their population declines were lowered, or even reversed, even though the climate has been warming,” Frey said.



Fighting the OPIOID CRISIS



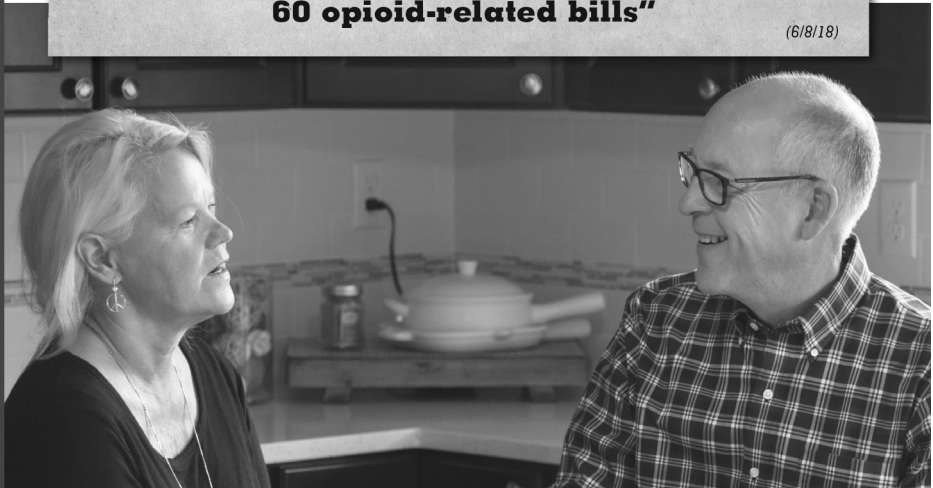
GREG IS LEADING A BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO COMBAT OUR OPIOID CRISIS.

The bills that he helped pass give law enforcement more tools to fight this epidemic and provide our local communities with resources to help design and implement better treatment and recovery programs.

Greg took the input he collected at home -- from discussions with local law enforcement officials, physicians, parents, recovering addicts, and treatment providers -- and put it to work in Washington. **Using their experience and ideas, he helped write and pass the most significant effort by Congress against any drug crisis in history.**

EAST OREGONIAN
“Walden helped craft & advance nearly 60 opioid-related bills”

(6/8/18)



“Everybody is touched by the opioid issue, but I haven’t seen anybody else get out there and fight for it like Greg Walden. He is fighting for all of us. That’s the kind of person I want to represent me.”

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– Winnie, mother from Grants Pass