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TODAY

A workshop for future graduate students will take place in the EMU Walnut Room from noon to 1:30 p.m.



INSIDE

Dusty Roberts follows his older brother's lead and takes to the Duck mats

Journalism magazine students earn national awards for in-depth reporting

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WEATHER

Cold and mostly clear
Low 15. High 35.

University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

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Wyden declares Senate victory



Lisa Rockower, Lane County coordinator of Ron Wyden's campaign, celebrates early Tuesday night, while wearing a party hat covered with a plethora of pro-Wyden stickers, ribbons and buttons. A 1-percent margin separates Wyden from opponent Gordon Smith.

ELECTION: Republican Gordon Smith concedes to Democrat Ron Wyden, but results are not official

PORTLAND (AP) — Democratic Rep. Ron Wyden narrowly won a special Senate election Tuesday to replace Bob Packwood. It was the nation's first vote-by-mail congressional election.

With 90 percent of precincts reporting, Wyden had 554,628 votes or 48 percent; Republican Gordon Smith, a wealthy businessman and state Senate president, had 538,774 or 47 percent; and four other candidates divided the remainder as of 11:30 p.m. Tuesday.



WYDEN

Oregon law does not require the winner to get a majority of all votes cast.

The victory buoyed the hopes of the national Democratic Party, which now has narrowed the Republicans' Senate majority to 53-47.

Wyden becomes the first Democrat elected to the Senate from Oregon since the 1960s.

Smith called Wyden to offer his congratulations after earlier telling 500 supporters at a downtown hotel that he would wait to concede the race.

"The fact of the matter is, there are an awful lot of votes yet to be counted," Smith said. "There is 1 percent vote margin separating us, and a lot of those votes come from where I live."

Overall among Wyden voters, education was cited as the most important issue, followed by the environment and the Republican performance in Congress.

Among Smith voters, top priorities were the federal budget negotiations, taxes and abortion.

Voting began three weeks ago and turnout had already surpassed 60 percent by Tuesday morning. More than 160 drop sites were available around the state for voters.

Elections officials estimate the mail-in balloting saved the state \$1 million in the primary and general elections.

Democrats celebrate victory; Republicans optimistic

By Sherry Rainey and Samantha Martin
Community Desk

Democrats reactions to the tight senate race were positive, with Ron Wyden the projected winner with 48 percent of the votes at 11 p.m. Tuesday.

About 75 Democrats talked, laughed and ate together — supporting each other as

updates of the election came in.

"We're feeling good and optimistic, but uncertain," said Lisa Rockower, Lane County coordinator for the Democratic party on the Wyden campaign, at 9 Tuesday evening.

"You never know [the results] until it's called," Rockower said. "We've never had

a vote-by-mail election before, and we couldn't anticipate what would happen."

Mike O'Leary, chairperson of the University College Democrats, remained optimistic, too.

"We did very well in Lane County,"

Turn to **DEMOCRATS**, Page 3

Police on the prowl for suspect of repeated sexual assaults

ATTACKER: Victims of three sexual assaults describe similar suspect

By Abe Estimada
Community Reporter

Police are searching for a suspect involved in at least three sexual assault incidents, which occurred on Monday, in the west and southwest University area.

Victims described the suspect as a white male with shoulder length, reddish-tinged hair in his mid-30s, standing 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing about 175 pounds. The women also said the assailant was wearing purple pants and a red shirt.

One victim reported Monday that she was struck by the suspect on the right side of her head after knocking his hands away

from her chest and accidentally hitting him in the face.

Authorities said Monday's incidents seem to be connected to a string of five other sexual assault cases dating back to Jan. 13. One victim, who was assaulted at the corner of Franklin and Agate streets on Jan. 22, said her assailant was about 6 feet 2 inches tall.

Because of the differing

descriptions of the suspects, police said two, maybe even three, predators could be wandering the University area.

One victim, a 20-year-old Lane Community College student, said she was going for a walk at 9 a.m. on Monday when she was assaulted at East 22nd Avenue and Alder Street. The victim said by telephone interview that she wanted to remain unidentified.

The LCC student first saw the suspect in front of her about a block away. She said the assailant looked like a "pizza delivery man" because of the red shirt he was wearing.

She said she was about a half a block away when the suspect turned into someone's yard. As the student approached the yard,

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