

## BARRETO

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to work in," Barreto told The Observer Friday. "But it's hard to see something you feel is good and helpful (be) rejected. That's when you want to get the numbers up."  
The Cove resident said there are bills he'd like to see introduced and passed in the next legislative session. While he works to find like-minded candidates for state representative, the possibil-

ity of the other side gaining more numbers is a concern for Barreto.  
"Recruiting is one of the toughest things there is to do," he said. "You're asking people to give up a good part of their life to serve. However, it is one of the most gratifying things."  
Barreto said the best part of his job is getting to help people. He listens to constituents' stories and has the power to pass on the information to others to work

together and solve problems.  
He said one of his biggest accomplishments so far is the delisting of wolves from the endangered species list.  
"That was a policy that directly impacted the people in this district," Barreto said. "Also, increasing the speed limit from The Dalles to Ontario. It means a lot when you can make significant changes."  
One of the main topics of conversation during the interview was the challenges

business owners like himself are facing as far as taxes and minimum wage are concerned.  
He said raising the minimum wage in the state will have an adverse effect. The market should be supply and demand — employers who want quality employees should be willing to pay them better, he said. However, forcing a minimum wage increase across the state will raise the cost of living, he said.

He added Oregon's estate tax is hurting the state. In Oregon, an estate is taxed 16 percent of its worth if it is above \$1 million, including businesses. This is a deterrent for new businesses, he said. Oregon is becoming a "privileged state." It's getting expensive to live in the state — as far as gas, taxes and cost of living is concerned — and businesses are passing

up, he said.  
"What do you want (this state) to look like?" he said. "If you make the wrong policy for the state, then you're going to hear about it."  
Despite the challenges, Barreto said he's proud of what he's done and hopes to continue.  
"It's an honor to do this job and be elected to this position," he said.

## DERBY

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ton, to take part in the Cove rally. Siddle said Bella has been competing in races since last spring and is attempting to qualify for the national competition in Akron, Ohio, in July. Bella's cousins, who are 16 and 20 years old, have been competing in soap box derby races for years and often go to Akron for the national rally.

Siddle said he has seen Bella become more outgoing because of the soap box derby rallies.

"It's given her a lot of confidence in other little things she does," he said. "She used to be kind of shy. It's just been great all the way around."

Bella, whose nickname, "Bellita," is inscribed on the side of her soap box car, "can't get enough" of soap box derby rallies, Siddle said. This season, which began in July, they have already traveled to three rallies and

are planning on making the trek to Las Vegas for a race in November.

Another father-daughter tandem from Camino Island who made the trip to Cove were Rob Inman and his 11-year-old daughter, Addison. Addison also began racing last spring, and in her first year took first place in her division in the region and competed at nationals in Akron.

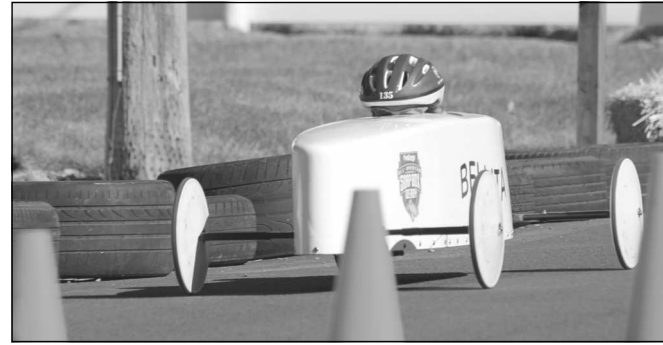
Addison said she has enjoyed soap box derby racing since she began doing it.

"You don't want to stop after you do it your first time," she said.

While at nationals, Addison met other girls from her region and formed friendships. They call themselves the Soap Box Derby Girlz.

"We have five girls in our group, (and) we go to every race we can find," Addison said.

Inman said he likes the competition aspect of racing.



Cherise Kaechele / The Observer

Racers barely look over the top of their car to steer, as one technique for increasing speed is to make the body as small as possible.

"Plus, they're learning a valuable skill: how to drive a car straight down the road," he said.

Addison said awards aren't everything.

"It's not about winning trophies," she said. "It's about having sportsmanship, and being nice and having fun. That's what I'm all about."



Audrey Love / The Observer

Ed Skoog, 2018 Oregon Book Awards finalist, read three of his poetic works to an audience of EOU students and faculty Thursday night at the Oregon East Gala, a publication party for the campus' literary magazine. Skoog also met with students earlier in the day for a writer's workshop.

## BOOK

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nections between communities and the artists of their state," according to Susan Moore, director of programs for writers at Literary Arts.

"The tour is important because it allows authors a chance to visit places around the state they might not normally visit, and allows audiences in towns across Oregon to see authors they might not have a chance to see otherwise," Moore said. "Readers hopefully gain opportunities to connect with Oregon's finest writers and their work, and in turn, writers can expand their audience throughout the state."

Skoog visited EOU in partnership with Oregon East, the university's student-run art and literary magazine, published annually since 1977. Students whose work appears

in this year's issue opened Thursday's gala with readings from the publication and had the opportunity to meet Skoog, hear him read and learn about his work.

He also met earlier that day with professor of English and writing Dr. David Axelrod's advanced creative writing class.

"We led them through some writing exercises to try to come up with new ideas (and) new ways of writing poems," Skoog said. "I don't know if you can teach somebody to write a novel or a poem, but you can encourage people to think creatively and approach ideas in ways they hadn't done before, to add to one's arsenal of creative thinking. I think it's enriching to one's heart and soul to try writing (and) try to learn some new pathways of solving problems (and) imagining solutions."

Skoog said reading his poems aloud is beneficial to the writing and revision process and also, somewhat

unexpectedly, to the "collaborative" aspect of art as well.

"I like to read new work (like I did tonight) so I can hear it. It raises the stakes for the choices I've made in the poems and helps me revise or contextualize them, or think about the next thing to write," he said. "(Writing) seems like it would be a solitary, or non-collaborative art, (but) reading, hearing and seeing people's faces when I read something and having some sense of how it was received is part of the collaboration."

Skoog — originally from Topeka, Kansas, and currently residing in Portland — has been writing since he was nine years old and is already at work on his next book, "Travelers Leaving for the City." He concluded his tour of the area on Oct. 12 with a reading at Fishtrap in Enterprise, alongside another Oregon Book Awards finalist, Matthew Robinson of Portland.

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