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Good day to our valued subscriber Bob Roberts of La Grande

HOUSE DISTRICT 58



Associated Press file photo

The Oregon House of Representatives is shown during a recent session. Greg Barreto, District 58 representative, has declared he won't seek re-election in 2020. No candidates have yet filed to run on the Republican ticket.

Reckless driver to appear in court

Arrested on multiple charges for wild driving on I-84

By Dick Mason
The Observer

A plea hearing date has been set for Jelson Colindres-Barahona, of Sea Tac, Washington, who was arrested by the Oregon State Police Nov. 11 on seven charges related to driving recklessly on a 17-mile stretch of Interstate 84 between North Powder and La Grande.

The plea hearing for Colindres-Barahona is scheduled for 1:15 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Union County Courthouse.

Colindres-Barahona, 34, was arrested by the OSP after allegedly driving an SUV wildly on Interstate 84 westbound 3 miles north of North Powder until being stopped 5 miles west of La Grande. He allegedly drove 1.5 miles in the wrong direction in the eastbound lanes of I-84 in the milepost 283 area, about 3 miles north of North Powder, said OSP senior trooper Robert Routt. The trooper, in a written report, said Colindres-Barahona almost crashed into a commercial vehicle while driving the wrong way.

Colindres-Barahona was clocked by the OSP driving at speeds of 95 mph, 106 mph and 110 mph. He made two passes of vehicles in a construction zone in an area in which vehicles were present, according to the OSP. Once Colindres-Barahona pulled over he was arrested reportedly without incident, at about 8:30 a.m. Routt said on Friday.

Colindres-Barahona was arrested on charges of unsafe passing on the left, no operator's license, exceeding the speed limit by driving more than 100 mph, reckless driving, driving under the influence of intoxicants (controlled substance), reckless

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NO HEIR APPARENT?

Search for Greg Barreto's replacement reveals names, no serious candidates yet

By Antonio Sierra
EO Media Group

PENDLETON — Greg Barreto's announcement he will not seek a fourth term as the state representative for House District 58 revealed a field devoid of candidates.

The Republican from Cove, however, said he is working to remedy that situation. He said he identified two potential party members for his position and asked them to run. One turned it down, he said, and the other has not ruled it out but is hesitant.

He also said he is not keen on politicians hand-picking their successors. The choice of the district's representative, Barreto said, should be up to the voters.

Local Republican committee chairs and insiders identified a few potential

candidates, but no one has yet jumped in the race.

The Republican representative in neighboring District 57, Greg Smith of Heppner, threw out three names who could enter the GOP primary — Pendleton Mayor John Turner, Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash, and Tim Seydel, the vice president of university advancement at Eastern Oregon University.

But when interviewed, all three men said they didn't intend to jump into the race.

A former Blue Mountain Community College president and a retired Marine, Turner lost the 2014 Republican primary to Barreto, the president of Barreto Manufacturing.

Turner said he doesn't have as much time to spend in Salem as he did in 2014

and he's happy in his current role.

Elected to the Pendleton City Council in 2016, Turner said he won't make a decision on running for a second term as mayor until January.

Seydel called it a "huge compliment" to be named as a potential successor.

"I have a lot of respect for the (state) senators and representatives who represent Eastern Oregon," said Seydel, who has worked at Eastern for 20 years and is an EOU graduate.

But Seydel, who visits legislative sessions frequently in Salem to advocate for Eastern, said the possibility of running is not on his radar.

"I'm not even thinking about it. At this point I am not planning on running," he said.

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Nash



Seydel



Turner

Best of La Grande High School saluted

Tiger Booster Hall of Fame inducts athletes, staff, community supporters during weekend ceremony

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The Gilbert Event Center at Eastern Oregon University served as the school's temporary library in 2014-15.

Today the facility does not lend books, but Saturday night it was

filled with La Grande High School graduates whose accomplishments speak volumes.

Many of LHS's finest alumni and athletes were saluted at the Gilbert Center during the annual LHS Tiger Booster Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony. The Tiger

Booster Hall of Fame was created to honor outstanding alumni, teams and community supporters who have "made La Grande proud."

Those inducted into the Tiger Booter Hall of Fame Class of 2019 were Doug Trice, named Outstanding Male Athlete; Kaci Boylan, Outstanding Female Athlete; Delmer Hanson, Outstanding Alumni; M.J. Goss Motors, Outstanding Community Supporter; and the 1985 boys

track and field team. Retired LHS Principal Andrea Waldrop was also touted, being inducted into the Tiger Booster Wall of Fame.

Doug Trice, a 1970 LHS graduate, was recognized for his athletic accomplishments and his work as a Special Olympics volunteer. He was a star running back for the LHS football team in the late 1960s and later made his mark in the football

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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

Tonight 40 Low Rain and drizzle
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