



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Members of the Elgin High School band practice at Elgin High School on Thursday, April 21, 2022. The band, which includes students from grades seven through 12, earned its first-ever automatic qualifier to the OSAA state competition in Corvallis.

BAND

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take more time to get the rhythms down and stuff like that, making sure they sound good.”

Gifford also noted that the band members try to stay as composed as possible on the day of an important performance like the district competition. As a senior with the most experience in the band, she makes it a point of emphasis that the band members not over stress themselves

before going on stage. At the 1A level, Elgin will be competing against eight teams from across Oregon at the state competition. Junior trumpet player Andrew Buckley stated that being around other bands with different skill sets will be a good learning experience for the Elgin band.

“I’m definitely nervous, but it’s going to be really fun,” he said. “Hopefully we can bring home a trophy.”

While each individual

band member must have their instrument ready and notes memorized, the band is very much a team.

“Everybody works together really well,” Buckley said. “It’s nice being able to play with a band that is good at listening to each other, which helps the sound of the whole band.”

“It’s definitely very important,” Gifford said. “We’re kind of like a small family. We have to get along and we all lean on each other when it comes

to playing our instruments well.”

In 2019, Elgin scored high enough to qualify for state but the band’s season ended after a mix-up made it ineligible for state qualification. Gifford is one of two seniors who were a part of that band, which has been a big motivation during the group’s strong showing this year.

“We lost out on going to state a couple years ago and then COVID happened, so this was really exciting since it’s my senior year,”

STAMPEDE

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always tell it was him by his laugh.”

The first Xtreme Bronc Riding event will be held during this year’s Elgin Stampede, which is set to run from Wednesday, July 6, to Saturday, July 9. The bronc riding event, scheduled for July 7, is formally titled the Elgin Stampede Bucking in the Blues Ty Hallgarth Memorial Xtreme Bronc Riding. Xtreme Bronc Riding is sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association but it will be separate from the Stampede’s regular PRCA rodeo on July 8-9.

Burgess said Hallgarth liked everything about rodeo and particularly enjoyed watching bucking horses, but helping people and being with them is what he liked most.

“He had a love for people and was genuinely a great guy,” Moore said. “He was a genuine friend.”

Moore also recalled Hallgarth’s humility, saying he never sought recognition for his contributions to the Elgin Stampede.

“He did not want fame or glory. He just did it because he loved it,” Moore said.

A statement on the Elgin Stampede’s website following his death painted a picture of the void Hallgarth, who grew up in Elgin, left behind.

“We lost our organization’s president, but more importantly, we lost a Stampede family member and an incredible friend,” the statement reads. “A big smile. A contagious laugh. A work ethic and talent that put all of us to shame. A love for rodeo and for our community. Our world is different without him, and his absence will be felt for years to come.”



Elgin Stampede president Ty Hallgarth, 53, rides in the Elgin Stampede Grand Parade on Saturday, July 10, 2021.

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TREATMENT

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addiction and at or near the bottom in access to treatment in nationwide surveys by the federal government and mental health groups.

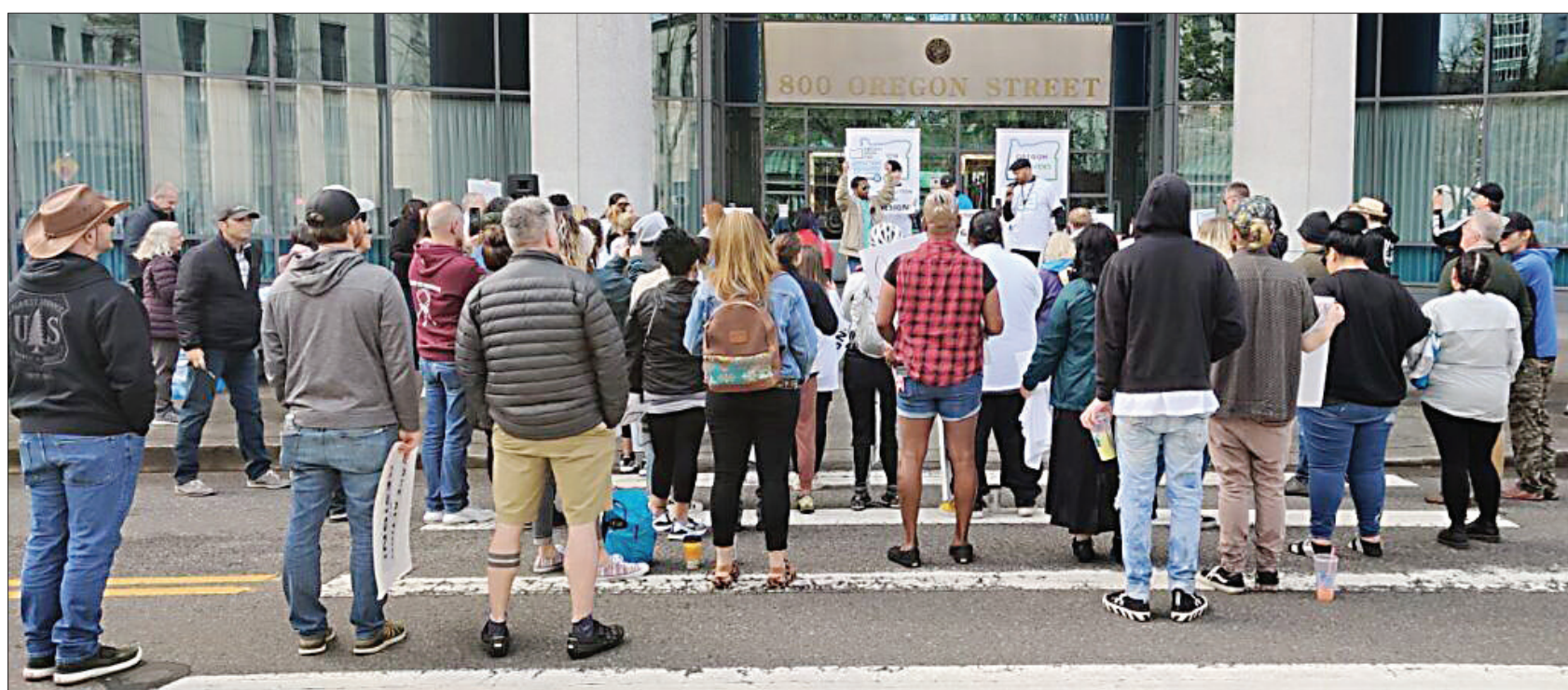
“We need to just find the beds,” Marshall told the group, referring to residential treatment facilities.

One mother, who asked to remain anonymous to protect the identity of her 29-year-old son, told the Capital Chronicle that her son is living on the streets of Portland. He’s been on a waiting list for residential treatment twice — one was a two-month wait and the other for more than six months — but he never entered treatment because he lost the desire.

On the platform, Marshall stood in between two signs with cellphone numbers: one of an unnamed Oregon Health Authority official with responsibility for addiction services and a top health adviser to Gov. Kate Brown. He told the crowd to text those individuals — “be nice,” he said — to ask for immediate action.

Almost immediately, people whipped out their cellphones, punched in the numbers and fired off messages.

Another speaker, Tony Vezina, executive director of 4th Dimension Recovery, a Portland-based recovery group, said the government doesn’t need to create more advisory groups. They are not effective in managing



Lynne Terry/Oregon Capital Chronicle

Moms, dads and recovery advocates rally in front of the Oregon Health Authority building in northeast Portland on Saturday, April 23, 2022.

OREGON RECOVERS 12-STEP PLAN

- Create a coordinated response
- Make one person accountable
- Stop poisonings
- Warn public
- Rapidly build workforce
- Release funds
- Create immediate access to detox
- Create seven-day respite centers
- Create immediate access to treatment
- Create immediate access to recovery housing
- Aggressively promote recovery
- Invest in prevention

the crisis, he said.

Oregon Recovers invited a number of public officials to the rally, but none showed up. Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum emailed Marshall, saying she was sorry she could not be there, according to an email that was read out loud.

Rosenblum referred to Oregon’s \$97 million share

of a national settlement with Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family in the email sent to Marshall that was read and the Capital Chronicle later obtained:

“I do hope — anticipate — that we will start to see the beginning of the flow of opioid settlement funds to Oregon in the very near future. It is also my hope that these funds can be dis-

tributed reasonably quickly through the various mechanisms that have been set up for the different allocations. Throughout this settlement process, we have been guided by the urgency of this moment. There is no time to waste in saving lives,” Rosenblum wrote.

Oregon Recovers has crafted a 12-step plan for tackling addiction in Oregon. It includes putting one person in charge and providing immediate access to detox, treatment and housing.

It also calls on the state to invest in prevention. Marshall said the state

needs to create an online resource that’s similar to the one on the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission’s website that allows users to locate the nearest liquor store that sells a certain product.

“We need that for treatment,” Marshall said.

Union County will begin their roadside spraying program to control vegetation and noxious weeds that are encroaching on county road shoulders and right-of-ways. In most locations, spraying will extend four to eight feet from pavement edges. Property owners who do not want herbicides applied near their property must sign an “Owner Will Maintain” agreement with the county which must be updated annually. The county will provide signs for the owners participating. Property owners wishing to participate can sign up for the “Owner Will Maintain” program at the Union County Public Works Department located at 10513 N. McAlister Road in Island City. Any questions, please call Brian Clapp 541-805-5399 or email bclapp@union-county.org.

Reelect David Baum
Oregon Trail Electric Board, Position 8

STATEMENT TO VOTERS: The electric utility industry is seeing significant changes due to increased demand, new technologies, government mandates, high prices of natural gas and oil, and weather renewables (solar and wind). Weather renewables work only when the Sun is shining and the Wind is blowing.

Currently OTEC purchases 100% of its electrical power from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and some of the lowest electrical rates in the country. But BPA is being challenged with increasing costs, reduced revenue, and threat of the removal of the four lower Snake River dams. As the board member involved with the Wildfire Mitigation Plan, we have aggressively pushed forward with the drafting and finalization of a Wildfire Plan.

As we negotiate a new contract with Bonneville (BPA), my legal experience is a valuable evaluation tool. My focus will be to continue to work diligently in areas of Power Supply, Transmission and Distribution. I will strive to keep your electrical rates low.

Our CEO, Les Penning and staff with board support will not be raising your electrical rates for 2022.

It’s been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your representative on the board of Directors. I have gained significant knowledge and experience about cooperatives during this time. I will continue to work hard at keeping electric rates low while providing safe and reliable electricity to our members along with excellent customer service. I have knowledge, experience, energy and time to serve.

I ask for YOUR VOTE and look forward to our future challenges.

Paid For By David Baum / The Committee to Reelect David Baum

2022
I ♥ Northeast Oregon
PHOTO CONTEST
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