

COURT

Continued from Page A1

Church holds sacred, and the church's stance on abortion has not changed in hundreds of years.

"The Catholic Church has stood in opposition to abortion since the 15th century," Maxwell continued. "It's a mortal evil, you can't change what's true."

John Herman, a member of the parish of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Grande, echoed that sentiment.

"They can call it whatever they want, but it's still taking another person's life," he said.

Maxwell and his church parish are not alone. Anti-abortion protests are not uncommon in Eastern Oregon, and in fact it was a major concern Planned Parenthood addressed in the press conference May 3. Several questions revolved around security measures at the soon to be Ontario Clinic and how the organization would address suspected protesters.

Officials gave assurances they have been diligently planning for this for a while, but refused to make an affirmative statement to the question.

Oregon's senior U.S. senator, Ron Wyden, in a statement blasted the Republican party and the draft.

"The Republican party has



Union County activists express their opposition to abortion in downtown La Grande on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, on the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion across the United States. About 30 people took part in the demonstration at Fourth Street and Adams Avenue.

Dick Mason/The Observer, File

set the stage for a total erosion of Americans' constitutional rights," Wyden said. "They have made clear they won't stop at gutting the right for a woman to make decisions about her own body. Repub-

licans know that the majority of Americans don't support eroding fundamental rights like privacy, so instead, they packed the Supreme Court with right-wing extremists willing to do their

dirty work behind closed doors."

Wyden said if this was a final draft, the United States will be one of a handful of countries moving backward on women's rights and mark a "devastating

loss of constitutionally guaranteed bodily autonomy and privacy for more than half of America."

He stated abortion is health care.

"Ending this protected and established right — a right generations of women have now known and that the overwhelming majority of Americans support — would harm the health, safety and lives of millions of women and families," Wyden said. "This is going to be the fight of our lives, and we must use every tool at our disposal to stop this attack on constitutionally guaranteed rights."

According to Politico, Chief Justice John Roberts confirmed the authenticity of the draft but stressed the document "does not represent a decision by the Court or the final position of any member on the issues in the case."

Politico also noted the draft opinion includes "a 31-page appendix of historical state abortion laws ... replete with citations to previous court decisions, books and other authorities, and includes 118 footnotes."

And the "appearances and timing of this draft," according to Politico, "are consistent with court practice."

East Oregonian news editor Phil Wright and The Observer reporter Dick Mason contributed to this report.

ACTORS

Continued from Page A1

Easing loneliness

The Opera House Youth Actors were given the chance to perform at Disneyland based on the quality of an audition video they made, Hale said. Each member of the group had to raise \$2,000 to go on the tour.

The performance at Disneyland came on the final portion of a tour that began with multiple stops in Utah, where the Opera House Youth Actors received a tour of the new \$84 million Hale Center Theatre in Sandy, Utah, in April 2022 while on their way to perform at Disneyland in California.



Elgin Opera House/Contributed photo

The Opera House Youth Actors receive a tour of the new \$84 million Hale Center Theatre in Sandy, Utah, in April 2022 while on their way to perform at Disneyland in California.

a workshop for the Opera House Youth Actors. Hale credited Tinney with being extremely generous with his time.

The group also attended a workshop put on by the Brigham Young University Young Ambassadors Utah and performed for residents

at an assisted living center in Provo.

Gray said that performing at the assisted living center was particularly fulfilling because she believes some of the seniors living there were likely coping with feelings of isolation.

"It was nice to give a smile to ease their loneliness," Gray said.

Imagination Campus

The Opera House Youth Actors next traveled to Anaheim where they attended a Disney Broadway workshop at Disneyland's Imagination Campus before performing their medley of songs at the outdoor theater. The workshop was led by Disney producers and directors who had the Opera House

Youth Actors performing a scene from "Tangled," a musical adventure fantasy comedy. Hale noted that his group learned the music, choreography and script for the scene in less than two hours. No surprisingly the auditions for the "Tangled" scene were conducted at blistering pace, often in only 15 to 20 seconds.

"They learned that when you are an actor it is important to be ready to give a quick, strong audition," Hale said.

Kaylie Davis said the audition process was a heartening for the Opera House Youth Actors.

"Everybody was cheering for each other during the auditions," Davis said.

Elgin Opera House

Youth Actors member Lily Troutman, a student at Central Elementary School, said experiences like the Imagination Campus workshop and the performance at the Disney California Adventure Park helped create strong bonds among the group during the tour.

"It was really exciting," she said. "We learned how to trust each other while performing."

The members of the Opera House Youth Actors also got to enjoy rides at the Disneyland complex, an experience Hale said they richly deserved.

"This is one of the hardest working performing arts groups in the country," Hale said. "It was nice to see them play together after a busy season."

WHERE WILL MOMENTUM TAKE YOU?

2.99%
APR*

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

Don't keep those home renovations or that dream vacation waiting!

With low introductory rates and our NEW interest-only payment option, our Momentum HELOC allows you to take advantage of your home's equity with low, manageable payments.

Get moving today!

HZCU.ORG/MOMENTUM

*OAC. Introductory rate valid for 6 months from the date the loan is booked. After the first 6 months a variable rate will apply, based on the Wall Street Journal prime rate plus a margin and adjusted quarterly; current rates range from 3.75% - 18.00% APR as of 2/10/22, based on credit worthiness. Maximum APR = 18%. Borrowers may opt for interest-only payments during the initial draw period (10 years). Monthly payments are typically lower with the interest-only payment option; however your principal balance will remain the same until you made additional payments to the principal. After the draw period, the monthly payment will be calculated to repay your loan within the remaining 15 years and may adjust quarterly based on the prime rate.

Your Path. Our Purpose.

OPPORTUNITY NMLS 407890