

SHOOTING

Continued from Page A1

an initiative on the ballot. They also fall during the campaign season, with the governorship, some state races and key congressional seats in competition. Gun control and gun rights divide Oregon voters and candidates.

The shooting also comes at a time of increasing gun violence nationwide. As Brown noted in her statement, the Bend shooting was just one of several this weekend.

In Portland, three people died in separate shootings and officers responded to seven others, according to the Portland Police Bureau. And Salem saw two separate shooting fatalities, with another person injured in a third shooting.

“It was an exceptionally violent weekend here in Salem,” Salem Police Chief Trevor Womack said in a statement. “But I want to assure the community that we are responding appropri-



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Members of the Oregon State Police forensics team approach the crime scene of Sunday night’s shooting at The Forum Shopping Center in Bend on Monday, Aug. 29, 2022.

ately and that these incidents appear to be unrelated.”

Portland is again on track to break its annual homicide record, which was set last year. Of 61 homicides this year, 56 involved firearms, according to Portland Police. There have been 875 confirmed shootings this year in Portland and 271 that left people injured.

At age 18, Oregonians can purchase a gun after passing a criminal background check. A federal loophole allows firearms dealers to sell guns without a background check if it takes longer than three days to complete.

Kropf, a former prosecutor with the Deschutes County District Attorney’s office, told the Capital Chron-

icle that pursuing legislation to prevent gun violence will be a top priority for him in the 2023 legislative session. He and fellow Democrats will look at closing the background check loophole and banning so-called ghost guns, which are untraceable firearms that can be privately made.

“We’ll keep working during the interim to bring bills forward to stop the kinds of tragedy that took place on (Aug. 28),” he said.

In a news release, he expressed sorrow: “My heart breaks for my community in Bend today. My deepest condolences go out to the victims of last night’s attack and their families, as well as my appreciation for the first responders, hospital workers and store employees who acted swiftly to keep people safe.”

A range of reactions

The three gubernatorial candidates also reacted to the shooting.

“My heart hurts for everyone affected by this,” Tina Kotek, the Democratic

candidate, tweeted Aug. 29. “I will keep fighting to keep guns away from those who are likely to harm themselves or others.”

Christine Drazan, the Republican candidate, said in a tweet she was heartbroken. “We need more mental health support and to ensure that we have law enforcement available when and where they are needed to stop crimes before they occur and enforce our laws to ensure we have safe communities and safe streets.”

Betsy Johnson, the non-affiliated candidate, said in a statement, “We must do more to keep guns away from people who should not have them.” She said she would support and enforce a stronger background check system and would raise the age to buy certain semi-automatic weapons from 18 to 21.

Both Johnson and Drazan support gun rights and have “A” ratings by the National Rifle Association. Drazan opposes more restrictions.

Kotek has called for stricter state and federal reg-

ulations and proposed legislation to expand background checks and ban gun purchases by people with domestic abuse charges.

Surveys show a majority of Oregonians support stricter gun laws. Sixty percent of Oregonians polled in June by the nonpartisan Oregon Values and Beliefs Center in Portland supported tighter gun regulations at the federal level, and 56% said the same about the state’s laws. The figures are consistent across demographic categories including geography, age, race and gender, and are in line with recent nationwide polling by Pew.

Also on the November ballot is a voter initiative that would tighten gun laws in Oregon. Measure 114 would ban the sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines, require a firearm safety course, tighten licensing and create stricter background checks on weapon purchases. It would also close the background check loophole and require firearm safety classes for people who purchase firearms.

INVESTIGATE

Continued from Page A1

determined to be of human origin, according to an OSP press release.

Forensic scientists and detectives conducted excavations at the two points of interest from the cadaver dogs. They also excavated the original burial site. The three locations were examined by sifting dirt and material through screens in an attempt to locate even the smallest of bone fragments or other evidence that could be of use in determining an identity through DNA testing.

“Unfortunately, nothing of evidentiary value was discovered during the operation,” the press release stated.

The OSP said the agency and other law enforcement partners will continue to stay in contact with all interested parties in hopes of successfully resolving the identity of the Finley Creek

Jane Doe and bringing closure to her family, according to the press release.

Melinda Jederberg, of La Grande, a leader of the Finley Creek Jane Doe Task Force, which she founded in 2019, said she appreciates the hard work the OSP did at the site and said it has helped the investigation move forward.

“We are very thankful for the work they did,” she said.

Jeberberg hopes OSP can follow up its excavation work with deeper digging at the two sites where the two cadaver dogs alerted handlers earlier that they smelled human bones underground. Jeberberg said that after 44 years, human bones at the site may be deeper than the depth excavated.

Investigators believe bones of the Finley Creek Jane Doe may remain near the burial site because when her skeletal remains were found in 1978 an arm was

missing, said Suzanne Timms of Walla Walla, Washington, who is assisting with the search as a volunteer. Timms is certain the Finley Creek Jane Doe is her mother, Patricia “Patty” Otto, of Lewiston, Idaho, who has been missing since Aug. 31, 1976.

Timms also wants state police to dig deeper at the two sites the cadaver dogs alerted handlers.

“Cadaver dogs are right 95% of the time,” Timms said, adding dogs can smell human bones at least 13 feet deep.

Timms said if bones cannot be found at the Finley Creek site that dental records could be used to prove that her mother was the person buried there. She said that a forensic dentist has examined photos taken of the Finley Creek Jane Doe’s teeth in 1978 and says that they match the X-rays of her mother’s teeth her dentist in Lewiston had.

“He is convinced that they are from the same person,” Timms

said, adding she is hoping Oregon’s state forensic anthropologist will determine the Finley Creek Jane Doe is her mother based on the dental records.

Timms first suspected that the Finley Creek Jane Doe was her mother in 2021 when she saw an image created by a forensic artist, Anthony Redgrave, the operator of Redgrave Research Forensic Services. Redgrave, who is from Massachusetts, was assisting the Finley Creek Jane Doe Task Force, and the image he created looked very similar to Timms’ mother. The images were created based on photos of the skeletal remains found in 1978 — those bones are believed to have been cremated by the state after they were found, Timms said.

Other details have contributed to Timms’ belief that the Finley Creek Jane Doe is her mother. The remains were found with a white shirt and red pants, which is what Patty Otto was last seen wearing

before she disappeared in 1976.

Timms believes her mother was murdered in Lewiston by her father and then taken to Finley Creek where he buried her in a shallow grave.

The OSP’s autopsy records for the Finley Creek Jane Doe, however, do not match those of Patty Otto.

Timms believes the discrepancy is due to an error made by the OSP’s medical examiner while doing examinations of the skeletal remains of two Jane Does in his office at about the same time in 1978. She suspects he assigned his reports to the wrong remains, because his report for the second Jane Doe matches her mother’s autopsy photos and dental records.

Timms applauds the work the state police is now doing on the case, especially that of Sgt. Sean Belding.

“He wants to get this right,” she said. “I have faith in him.”

DEBT

Continued from Page A1

According to Bailey, students classified as being from low-income families are often eligible for Pell grants. In 2021 33% of students at Eastern were from low income families and 65% were from rural areas. These percentages were higher when just looking at the incoming freshman with 40% from low income families and 86% from rural areas.

Undergraduate tuition at Eastern for in-state students — which includes Oregon, Washington and Idaho — is \$25,506 a year.

Fewer community college students carry debt

Though community college is lower cost and has a lower barrier to entry, it still represents approximately 4% of federal student debt.

Matt Browning, president of Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton, said because federal regulations are not out, it is too early to tell how student loan relief will benefit students in a community college.

“By and large, it will be more impactful for our

students once they leave, because it is an agreement between the students and the federal government,” he explained. “What I think it will help do is bring emphasis to affordable access to higher education, which is something that falls squarely in our focus every day.”

He also said members of Generation Z are more aware of debt than preceding generations.

“They watched parents and older siblings really struggle during the great recession,” he said, “they saw parents and siblings lose jobs and lose homes, so I think they’re more debt conscious.”

The independent, nonprofit Institute for College Access and Success completed a nationwide report on student debt from the graduating classes of 2020. In Oregon 53% of students graduated with federal debt, and the average amount of debt was \$26,504.

Tuition has nearly tripled since 1980

The total cost of tuition for four-year public and private college has nearly tripled since 1980, according to the College Board, a nonprofit organization that

expands access to higher education and the SAT and other programs.

The White House in a press release contended federal support has not kept pace with the increasing price of tuition. Pell Grants previously covered 80% of the cost of a four-year public degree. Now, it only covers a third.

Biden’s plan also extends the pause on repaying federal student loans one final time through Dec. 31.

And the plan aims to make the student loan system more manageable

for borrowers by reducing monthly payments and fixing the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

The Department of Education is proposing a new income-driven repayment plan that would cap monthly payments for undergraduate loans at 5% of a borrower’s income rather than the current 10% borrowers pay. For example, a single borrower making \$38,000 a year would pay \$31 a month, according to a government press release.

The proposal also

includes a new rule that borrowers who have worked at a nonprofit, in the military or for federal, state, tribal or local government receive appropriate credit toward loan forgiveness.

Congress has never given the president the explicit authority to cancel

debt, so the White House could face lawsuits over the plan. Legal action could affect the timetable for student loan forgiveness.

AT&T internet
FEEL THE SPEED, EVEN AT PEAK TIMES.

- Get strong, fast Wi-Fi to work and play throughout your home.*
- No annual contract.
- Power multiple devices at once—everyone can enjoy their own screen. Number of devices depends on service capabilities.
- Over 99% reliability. (Excludes 5G. Based on internet availability.)

Request your local DIRECTV dealer
888-486-0359

*Offer requires credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and activation. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper Duo is \$15/mo. more. Offer may apply based on credit qualification.

The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.
eomediagroup.com

TEN DEPOT STREET

“Real Food for the People”
Take-out
Menu Updated Weekly

Open Fri-Sun 5pm-8pm

www.tendepotstreet.com
541-963-8766
tendepotstreet@gmail.com

dish **BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!**

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE \$69.99 MO. for 12 Mos. America's Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100
1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 11/9/22

Offer requires credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and activation. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper Duo is \$15/mo. more. Offer may apply based on credit qualification.

Grande Ronde Hospital & Clinics proudly welcomes **Brandy McLendon, D.O.—General Surgery**

Dr. McLendon earned her medical degree in osteopathic medicine from Des Moines State University in Iowa. She enjoys all aspects of general surgery from acute care to abdominal procedures.

Dr. McLendon uses the most minimally invasive surgical techniques to ensure her patients comfortability when undergoing procedures.

Brandy’s scope of services also include endoscopic colorectal and upper GI screenings as well as diagnostic care.

Dr. McLendon enjoys spending her personal time on her favorite hobbies — reading, cooking, and enjoying the outdoors with her husband, son, and their three Labradors.

Please help us welcome Dr. McLendon and her family to our Community!

GRH Specialty Clinic
GRH.org — 710 Sunset Drive — 541.663.3100

Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!
(844) 989-2328

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

GENERAC PWRCELL SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

Smart security. Professionally installed.
Protection starts with prevention

Get **FREE** Professional Installation and Four **FREE** Months of Monitoring Service*
Use Promo Code 4FREE

CALL NOW TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR SYSTEM
844-894-8790
Δ.vivint

*Qualifying system purchase requires minimum \$299.99 equipment purchase, professional installation and applicable services agreement. DIY system purchases and reactivations of previously installed systems not eligible for offer. Offer not available in all states or provinces. Equipment purchase may be financed separately subject to an agreement with one of Vivint’s third-party financing partners. Monthly \$2.68 cellular network maintenance fee applies. Taxes and local permit fees may apply. New Vivint Customers only. Financing eligibility and terms subject to credit approval by one of Vivint’s third-party financing partners. Qualified customers may finance equipment purchase at 0% APR for up to 60 months. Month-to-month service agreement available when equipment is purchased upfront. System supports up to six cameras subject to sufficient Wi-Fi speeds. Without a Vivint service plan, product and system functionality is limited (including loss of remote connectivity). Speak to a Vivint representative at the phone number in this offer for complete equipment, services, and package details, including pricing and financing details. Products and services in Louisiana provided by Vivint Louisiana Commercial Certificate #52290. See comprehensive Vivint terms numbers on Vivint.com.