

Buehler: Consider teacher oversight in session

A challenge to Gov. Brown

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

About 12 hours after winning the Republican nomination for governor, state Rep. Knute Buehler called on lawmakers to consider emergency legislation to boost oversight of teacher misconduct as part of their special session later this month.

Buehler's proposal would prohibit provisions in teacher contracts that allow the destruction of personnel documents related to complaints and investigations when a

teacher moves to a new job.

The Bend lawmaker said the fix is a higher priority than Gov. Kate Brown's intention for the special session to expand tax breaks to small businesses, a move that Buehler characterized as political posturing.

"I would always choose keeping kids safe over tax reform, especially corporate tax reform designed to be political theater for Kate Brown's re-election campaign," Buehler said in a phone interview Wednesday.

Brown said Wednesday that she "supports the conversation," said Bryan Hockaday, a spokesman in her office. "But, at the request of

Republican House leadership, she has committed to keeping the special session focused on reducing taxes for small businesses."

Buehler said he wants to prevent incidents similar to those involving Mitch Whitehurst. Portland Public Schools retained the teacher and coach for 30 years despite multiple complaints against him of sexual misconduct against students.

A 322-page audit concerning the school district's failures in addressing the problems recommended that Portland Public Schools discontinue the practice of separation agreements that include gag orders that pre-

vent disclosure of conduct.

Brown, a Democrat who is seeking her second and final term as governor, called a special session for Tuesday to expand state tax breaks to sole proprietors. They were excluded from breaks given in 2013 to owners of other types of businesses, such as S-corporations and partnerships, in which business income is taxed at the owner's personal rate rather than higher corporate rates.

The move was meant to console business owners after Brown signed Senate Bill 1528 into law last month. The new law prevented them from claiming a new 20 percent deduction, provided in fed-

eral tax reform, on their state tax returns.

Oregon automatically conforms to federal tax code unless state lawmakers pass legislation specifically to modify it.

Brown said the special session would "stop this unfairness" created in the 2013 state tax reform.

"It's imperative that the Legislature take action now so that many more Oregon small businesses can take advantage of this economic incentive," Brown said this month.

Education is expected to take the forefront in the campaign for the governor's office. The issue is one that

resonates with both Republicans and Democrats, Independents and nonaffiliated voters, whom Buehler would need to win in the Democratic-majority state.

Buehler has said if elected governor he would hold off on signing any bills until lawmakers reached agreement on reforming the state's public pension system to free up more money for education.

He also is a proponent of school choice and more dual credit opportunities for high school students.

Brown's campaign spokesman, Christian Gaston, said she has "a well-articulated vision for our education system in Oregon."

State homeland security grants fund local preparedness projects

Money for tsunami sirens, updated plans

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County has secured almost \$69,000 in state homeland security grants to fund emergency preparedness projects.

Three grants will fund updates to emergency operations plans, support a credentialing system for county emergency volunteers and provide \$30,000 to install two tsunami sirens in Warrenton.

In March, the Warrenton City Commission approved an agreement with the county for the sirens, pending funding.

Some communities on the coast, like in Tillamook County, have questioned the utility of sirens. In 2012, officials chose to dismantle around 30 pole-mounted, 1960s-era tsunami sirens, arguing other communication methods like mass texts or



AP Photo/Caleb Jones
Some emergency planners have questioned the utility of tsunami sirens.

automated reverse 911 calls are more effective warning systems.

"One of the arguments against sirens is that ground shaking should be the warning," Tiffany Brown, director of Clatsop County Emergency Management, said. "But I think in Clatsop County that having a redundant method in place isn't a bad thing — especially with so many people from out of town."

Another \$30,000 will go to

revamping emergency operations plans in Warrenton and Gearhart. Warrenton's last full update occurred in 2010, and Gearhart's back in 2009.

The cities have provided reviews of the plans, which outline the roles and responsibilities of a city during an emergency, but the time has come to conduct a full-scale rewrite, Brown said. There has been a large amount of turnover in staff and elected officials in both cities.

"The greatest conversations happen during these updates," Brown said. "When (the cities) drafted these, they were consultant driven. They didn't really have emergency management programs. Now we are looking at them with our programs in mind."

The third grant — \$8,860 — will go toward building a Citizen Corps system, a database that will help track hours and coordinate credentials for volunteers through Community Emergency Response Teams and other disaster response teams throughout the county.

The project is designed to improve verification capability by providing identification badge printing and volunteer management software.

"Let's say a disaster happens and you can't physically get to your community," Brown said. "This would allow a sponsoring agency to know if you're a county volunteer."

Brown said grant dollars will be available to use starting this fall.



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian
Karen La Bonte has been named the new public works director in Cannon Beach.

New public works director chosen in Cannon Beach

La Bonte has served as the interim leader

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Karen La Bonte has been named the new public works director of Cannon Beach.

La Bonte started with the city as assistant public works director in September, but has been serving as the interim director since her predecessor, Jim Arndt, retired in March.

She was chosen out of a pool of five other candidates, City Manager Bruce St. Denis said.

"Karen has served as interim public works director with distinction and has guided the department through some difficult times," St. Denis wrote in a statement. "I have watched her work with staff and citizens and am impressed with both her interpersonal skills and energy."

Before coming to Cannon Beach, La Bonte

worked at Verizon Wireless for 30 years as an engineer, traveling from New York to California to facilitate project planning and construction. After retiring in 2006, La Bonte decided to pursue winemaking and bought Trio Vintners winery in Walla Walla, Washington. But after facing some health issues, she closed the winery and decided to retire again in her favorite vacation town of 22 years: Cannon Beach.

"I've always considered it my decompression place," she said. "It's where I always thought I would come to retire."

But less than year after the move, La Bonte decided retirement "just didn't fit" her, and applied for the assistant director position.

"It just felt like a good fit. After meeting Jim and the rest of the staff it felt like home," she said.

La Bonte said as director she hopes to continue to build a strong network between the city, residents and business owners.

"I just hope to make a positive impact," she said.

Ilwaco council rejects upscale vacation rental

Pitched for exclusive neighborhood

By **PATRICK WEBB**
Chinook Observer

ILWACO, Wash. — City leaders have turned a unanimous thumbs down to a short-term rental house in the community's most exclusive neighborhood.

The application for a conditional-use permit from Lindsay Yamane at 2144 Reservoir Road was rejected Monday.

The decision came after the City Council reviewed letters from several residents who were against the permit.

City Councilor Jared Oakes said the permit should be rejected, but the application raised broader questions of where such rentals fit into their vision of the community.

He urged city leaders to schedule that debate. Councilor Missy Bageant agreed, saying the council needed a discussion that went beyond one single application.

The project divided people in the Sahalee and adjoining Discovery Heights neighborhoods. Councilor Kristen Mathisen excused herself from the discussion and vote because as a neighbor she signed a letter saying she had no objections to the rental just before she became a council member.

Yamane was the sole speaker in favor Monday. Earlier this year, he bought the three-bedroom house near his own home on Reservoir Road for \$285,000. He has described how the vacation rental would be efficiently run by Vacasa, an international rentals company, with an on-call representative in Astoria in case problems arose.

"We fell in love with Ilwaco and want others to enjoy that opportunity," he said. "We don't have a 'party house.' We



Patrick Webb/Chinook Observer
Lindsay Yamane makes the case for allowing a vacation rental at the property adjoining his home on Reservoir Road. Behind him are City Council members Jared Oakes, Missy Bageant, Fred Marshall and Mayor Gary Forner.

have too much of an investment into the property."

He said Ilwaco has approved other conditional-use permits in residential zones. "If there's a violation, you can pull our permit."

Yamane said he works for a Seattle company and has his own construction company based in Ilwaco, plus a small engineering consulting firm. He said he lived in Ilwaco about one third of his time; his wife, Shelley, operates a hair salon in Portland. "We have plans to be here a long time," he said.

City Planner Sam Rubin

had recommended approval of the permit, subject to conditions about issues like fire safety, parking and trash collection. He reported that a rental, with a maximum occupancy of eight, would not increase traffic in the neighborhood.

Earlier this month, after a lengthy discussion, the Planning Commission split 3-2 in favor of recommending approval.

Councilor Fred Marshall questioned whether planners had adequately examined Rubin's findings point by point, especially whether the business would be detrimental

to neighbors.

Commissioner Jackie Sheldon assured him they had — in considerable detail. Sheldon was one of the two commissioners who had voted against the permit, saying earlier that such a business was incompatible with a residential neighborhood.

When Marshall pressed repeatedly for exact details, he was cut off by Mayor Gary Forner. "The Planning Commission did their job to the best of their ability," the mayor said. "I believe you are out of line."

Paul Niemi, head of the Discovery Heights homeowners group, said residents feared noise from vacationing renters would have a detrimental effect. "While the Yamanes are wonderful people, I think it changes the use of the neighborhood and the future uses of the neighborhood," he said.

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500

ADOPTION EVENT THIS SATURDAY

Warrenton Kia
www.warrentonkia.net



is hosting an adoption event for the Clatsop County shelter dogs on **Saturday, May 19, from 11:00 to 1:00** at Kia's dealership located at **801 SE Marlin Ave.** Our volunteers will be on hand with several adoptable dogs all hoping to find their forever homes.

Please join us – you may meet your next family member.



1315 SE 19th St., Warrenton
503-861-7387 • 503-861-0737
Open 12-4 pm, Tues-Sat • www.dogsncats.org



Clatsop Post 12
Friday May 18th
Spaghetti Dinner with Salad & Garlic Bread
\$8.00 • 4PM Until gone • **6PM** "Karaoke Dave"

Saturday May 19th
"ARMED FORCES DAY"
Chicken Noodle Casserole & Bread Lunch
12PM • Noon • Donations

Program 1PM
Welcome • National Anthem
Presentation of Colors & Service Flags
Prayer

Korean War Recognition
Presentation of 50-60 Membership Certificates
POW/MIA CEREMONY • Post Everlasting - 3 Chaplains

Meat Loaf Dinner
4PM Until Gone - Donations
6PM Music by "Greg Parke"
Welcome To All Veterans, Families of and Friends

**ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION**
1132 Exchange Street • 325-5771