

Buehler: Vowed to end homelessness

Continued from Page 1A

President Donald Trump has sought to expand offshore drilling to improve economic security and energy dominance. Brown, a Democrat, asked the Trump administration to exempt Oregon, but has not heard back. Florida, which has a Republican governor, has received an exemption.

Buehler, a Republican, said he is against offshore drilling but raised doubts about whether it would even become an issue in Oregon. No one has attempted to drill off the coast since 1964, and little was recovered.

"I'm certainly against drilling offshore, but that is more about distraction, and the governor is trying to distract people's attention from the big issues in Oregon," Buehler said. "No one's going to be drilling off the Oregon Coast. It's very expensive. It's very risky, and there's lots of very inexpensive places to drill for oil right now, so it's more political theater than actual, real policymaking."

Buehler, a Bend orthopedic surgeon, ate breakfast at Pig 'N Pancake after speaking with diners.

The gubernatorial candidate also reiterated his opposi-



Linh DePledge/For The Daily Astorian
State Rep. Knute Buehler and his wife, Patty, spoke to diners at Pig 'N Pancake in Astoria on Saturday during a campaign stop.

tion to a gillnetting ban on the Columbia River.

Former Gov. John Kitzhaber, who was behind a 2013 agreement between Oregon and Washington state to phase out gillnetting on the river's main stem, recently appeared in several videos advocating for the states to keep the ban in place. Brown criticized the state Fish and Wildlife Commission's consideration last year to allow some gillnetting, eventually leading the commission to back down.

The two states are in the process of reviewing

the agreement.

"Unfortunately she tends to avoid taking a stand, and that vacuum starts to be filled by other people," Buehler said of Brown. "It's another example where we need leadership from a governor to really start to deal with these problems and not have former governors, you know, weighing in on such important issues."

Buehler said homelessness is one of the main problems he heard about in his visit to Astoria. The City Council earlier this month unanimously passed a ban on camping in

the woods, leading to intense debate.

Buehler has vowed to end homelessness within five years of taking office. His plan, released in August, calls for 4,000 emergency shelters throughout the state.

"It's become a big, big problem in the Portland metro area, but now it's just not isolated there," he said. "It's so big now that it's going to take leadership from the governor to help solve. It's beyond the ability of local nonprofits or even local government to deal with it."

Money: Cost of state races has jumped nearly \$18M in 20 years

Continued from Page 1A

Facing a hotly contested Democratic primary in May, Mitchell's campaign fundraising started earlier and had surpassed \$400,000 as of Friday.

A member of the Service Employees International Union, Mitchell has received more than \$225,000 from labor and education unions; more than \$57,000 from Future PAC, the campaign committee for state House Democrats; and more than \$46,000 from the Oregon League of Conservation Voters.

Nearly 40 percent of her fundraising so far has been in-kind contributions from groups campaigning on her behalf.

In the primary, Mitchell scored an upset victory over Tim Josi, a Tillamook County commissioner and former state representative heavily backed by regional industries and incumbent politicians, and John Orr, a local attorney and environmentalist whose campaign was more grassroots and raised less than \$20,000.

Lower faced no opponent in the Republican primary and began most of her fundraising during the general election, so far gathering more than \$164,000.

After coming in third in the Democratic primary, Josi crossed the political aisle and endorsed Lower, who has since been backed by many of the same timber, agriculture and other industry groups that supported Josi, along with state Republicans.

Some of Lower's largest contributions so far include more than \$90,000 from



Tiffany Mitchell



Vineeta Lower

Republican groups and state House lawmakers; \$12,000 from the Low Income Dental PAC formed by Advantage Dental, a large Medicaid recipient; more than \$10,000 from the Right to Life PAC opposing abortion; and more than \$16,000 from agricultural, lumber and fishing groups and companies.

The campaigns for House District 32 between 2012 and 2016 gathered less than \$272,000 in contributions when incumbent state Rep. Deborah Boone, D-Cannon Beach, was running for re-election, according to the National Institute on Money in Politics, a nonprofit tracking campaign finance.

This year's campaign to replace her has so far gathered more than \$485,000 in cash contributions.

A report by the institute showed that over the past 20 years, the collective cost of state legislative races in Oregon has jumped from around \$2 million to \$20 million each election. More than 90 percent of the better-funded candidates in past few election cycles have won the election, according to the institute.

OREGON CAPITAL INSIDER

Get the inside scoop on state government and politics!

Owen: 'I have some worries, but I'm optimistic'

Continued from Page 1A

When he told the American Legion about the diagnosis, the legion's auxiliary jumped into action to organize a fundraising dinner to help pay for health care costs.

"We're just here to help Matt," said Jack Kerwin, the legion's first vice commander. "I mean, everybody just loves the guy."

In one night, dozens of customers and co-workers over the years came out to raise about \$16,000 to pay for treatment.

"I suppose you can't put this in the paper, but I guess

my reaction would be, 'Holy s---!' I honestly didn't think I was that well-liked," Owen laughed. "It feels wonderful to know the community comes to support its residents when one is in need."

In a packed legion hall, every customer and colleague has their own connection to Owen.

"He's just so funny, kind and generous," said Nannette Cooper, a regular customer who first met Owen at the Seaside Golf Course. "He's just so positive, and with a situation like his, man, that's half the battle."

Jose Sosa, who used to work with Owen at the Lumberyard, remembers him as a role model as a teenager.

"On the outside he can look intimidating, but he is one of the sweetest people I know," Sosa said. "He's the type of guy who will always stick up for you."

Tonya Spath, another former co-worker, remembers a particularly busy and understaffed New Year's Eve shift, where Owen, as the manager, was pitching in to do everything from manning the door, serving orders and washing the dishes.

What makes the moment "Matt," Spath said, is the way he kept his cool.

"I remember we were all like, 'This sucks!'" Spath said. "He said, 'Yeah, it does. But we'll get through it.' That's what makes him special. He's always calm. He's always Matt."

It's a mentality he is sticking with as he faces the unknowns that come with cancer treatment, and one he hopes to keep sharing behind the counter at the American Legion.

"Sure, I have some worries," he said. "But I'm optimistic."

URGENTCARE NW - ASTORIA

a smart **ER** alternative

Life happens... That's why we're here!

Keith Klatt, MD

Our **friendly** and **dedicated Physicians and Physician Assistants** are available for all of your **routine healthcare needs**, not just for emergency situations!

If you're suffering from a **headache, toothache, earache, backache, any illness or injury**, are in need of a **refill of your prescription medications**, or even a **sports physical or DOT physical**, our dedicated staff is here to assist you!

We are open 7 days a week. We are located in the **Park Medical Building East in Suite 111**. We accept **most insurances**, offer a cash discount and also accept the **Oregon Health Plan, WA Medicaid and Medicare.**

Express Healthcare for Busy Lifestyles
www.urgentcarenwastoria.com

We observe the following holidays & are closed on July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day.

Sally Baker, PA-C

Mark Tabor, PA-C

Kenyon Solecki, PA-C

2120 Exchange Street
Suite 111
Astoria, Oregon

Hours:

Mon-Fri 7AM-7PM
Sat-Sun 9AM-7PM

503-325-0333