

IN BRIEF

County certifies May election results

Clatsop County has certified the May election results.

The most closely watched races were for the Clatsop Community College Board and the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board.

In the Zone 2, Position 2 campaign for college board, incumbent Sara Meyer defeated challenger Patrick Preston 65% to 35%.

In the Zone 2, Position 3 campaign, challenger Trudy Van Dusen Citovic defeated incumbent Robert Duehmig 55% to 32%.

In the Zone 3, Position 6 campaign, challenger Suzanne Iverson defeated incumbent David Zunkel 51% to 49%.

In the Position 1 campaign for park district, incumbent Su Coddington defeated challenger Al Hernandez 57% to 43%.

In the Position 2 campaign, incumbent Celeste Bodner defeated challenger John Huismann 60% to 40%.

In the Position 3 campaign, incumbent Michael Hinton defeated challenger Patrick Duhachek 54% to 46%.

In the Position 4 campaign, incumbent Erika Marshall-Hamer defeated challenger Jackie Evans 61% to 39%.

In the Position 5 campaign, incumbent Katharine Parker defeated challenger Stephen Morrison 56% to 44%.

Voter turnout across the county was 22.8%.

County plans virtual discussion with health authority

The Clatsop County Public Health Department is hosting Dr. Shimi Sharief from the Oregon Health Authority for a Facebook Live discussion Tuesday on coronavirus vaccines and young people.

Sharief will share information and answer questions beginning at 5:30 p.m.

People who are interested are asked to RSVP for the presentation by going to the link on the county's Facebook post.

— *The Astorian*

MEMORIALS

Saturday, June 12

NEWELL, Cynthia (Cindi) Jean Quashnick — Memorial at 2 p.m., Sunset Beach in Warrenton. At the approach, take a right to the first pole. Family and friends are welcome to attend. Please bring a chair.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Steven Wolf, 43, was arrested Sunday on Alternative U.S. Highway 101 for assault in the fourth degree, violation of a restraining order and possession of methamphetamine.

• Jason Andrew Terrill, 31, of Gearhart, was arraigned Friday on charges of assaulting a public safety officer, escape in the second degree, resisting arrest and interfering with a peace officer.

DUI

• Tad Burnham, 40, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday at Fred Meyer in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Robbery suspect

• Calvin Proctor, 29, of Astoria, was arrested Friday on Coxcomb Road in Astoria on a warrant. Police were also searching for Proctor in connection with a robbery that occurred on Thursday at Mini Mart East. The case has been referred to the district attorney's office for review.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Union Health District of Clatsop County Board, 8 a.m., Seaside Civic and Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Clatsop Community College Board, 5:30 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., meeting and budget hearing, main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Clatsop Community College Board, 6:30 p.m., budget hearing, (electronic meeting).

Gearhart City Council, 6:30 p.m., special meeting, (electronic meeting).

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District Board, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Warrenton School District Board, 6 p.m., budget hearing, (electronic meeting).

Warrenton School District Board, 6:10 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Astoria School District Board, 7 p.m., (electronic meeting).

THURSDAY

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

DailyAstorian.com

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

Circulation phone number:
800-781-3214

Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP

All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©

Entire contents © Copyright, 2021 by The Astorian.



Printed on recycled paper

Subscription rates
Effective January 12, 2021

MAIL

EZpay (per month).....\$10.75
13 weeks in advance.....\$37.00
26 weeks in advance.....\$71.00
52 weeks in advance.....\$135.00

DIGITAL

EZpay (per month).....\$8.25

State Legislature OKs \$9.3 billion for schools

Votes came after partisan debate

By PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — A two-year, \$9.3 billion budget for state aid to public schools is on its way to Gov. Kate Brown after a partisan fight in the state House.

The House passed the budget on a 36-20 vote that broke along party lines. Republicans failed to send it back to the Legislature's joint budget committee to add \$300 million for the two years starting in July.

The extra money, and more, is likely to materialize anyway in a couple of months. The state's latest economic and revenue forecast projects \$664 million in excess corporate income tax collections — which under a 2012 ballot measure go into the state school fund. The third-quarter forecast, scheduled for late September, will yield the actual number.

The Senate approved the budget, 23 to 6, in late May.

The excess collections, known as the “kicker,” were not mentioned during the House debate.

The \$9.3 billion in state funds will be combined with a projected \$4.6 billion in local property taxes for 197 school districts. The ratio is the reverse of what it was before Oregon voters approved a series of statewide property tax limits in the 1990s and shifted the burden of school operating costs from property taxpayers to state income taxes, which account for more than 90% of the state general fund. (The school fund also gets Oregon Lottery proceeds and marijuana sales taxes. Some money from Oregon's new corporate activity tax, which lawmakers passed in 2019 and started in 2020, also is included.)

Only the budgets of the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services, both of which get federal grants, are larger.

Budget picture improves

Brown originally proposed \$9.1 billion in her 2021-23 budget, which she unveiled in December, a



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

An Astoria student wears a decorated cap to graduation.

slight increase from \$9 billion in the two-year cycle that ends in June. She proposed to tap \$200 million from the state's education reserve, which lawmakers had already withdrawn \$400 million from last year to balance the budget during the coronavirus pandemic.

But since then, the overall budget picture has improved because of increased projections of tax collections from two subsequent economic and revenue forecasts, some savings from budget cuts, and \$2.6 billion in federal aid from President Joe Biden's pandemic recovery plan. Half of that aid will be paid next year.

House Republicans, including Minority Leader Christine Drazan, of Canby, said the aid budget should reflect the \$9.6 billion advocated by the Oregon School Boards Association.

“As we ask our schools to bring kids back to have full in-person learning five days a week, they are going to be bombarded with unknowns,” Drazan said. “The need for them to have the resources necessary to create an environment where these kids can be successful cannot be overstated.”

Rep. Greg Smith, a

Republican from Hepner who sits on the budget committee, said boosting the amount would be a true bipartisan gesture in an often-fractured House.

The May vote of the full budget committee was 21 to 1. Sen. Chuck Thomsen, R-Hood River, was the lone dissenter, and also opposed it in late May when it came up in the full Senate. One Republican was excused from the committee vote.

The motion to send the budget back to committee failed with two Democrats — Mark Meek, of Oregon City, and Marty Wilde, of Eugene — joining 20 Republicans.

Earlier in the day, Republicans attempted but failed on a procedural motion to put to a vote a separate bill committing Oregon's school districts to reopen fully for the 2021-22 academic year that starts in a few months.

Democrats defend amount

Rep. Susan McLain, D-Forest Grove, said overall education spending in the new budget cycle is projected at 51% of the tax-supported general fund and lottery proceeds, and the state school fund accounts for 32.4%.

“We are creating record investments in public schools this year,” McLain, the co-leader of the education budget subcommittee, said.

Rep. Dan Rayfield, a Democrat from Corvallis and co-leader of the Legislature's joint budget panel, said about \$6 billion of a projected \$28 billion in general fund and lottery spending for the next two years is one-time money.

He said he and McLain worked for four months to come up with the right figure for school aid.

“It is our job as a Legislature to find out what is the Goldilocks porridge in our budget that meets the needs of our children, but also at the same time, is a sustainable budget that we can continue to operate on,” Rayfield said.

Rep. Andrea Valderrama, D-Portland, leads the David Douglas School Board and is the newest member of the Legislature, having taken her District 47 seat in April after her predecessor resigned under pressure.

“As a school board chair, I will be doing everything that I can to hold our district accountable to equitable spending and meaningful engagement of communities of color,” Valderrama said.

Rep. Paul Evans, D-Monmouth, voted for the bill. But he said lawmakers should be working toward paying for public schools at the level recommended by the Quality Education Model, which takes into account the staffing and services that students should get. The process was initiated more than two decades ago by then-Gov. John Kitzhaber, who also won voter approval of a 2000 constitutional amendment that requires lawmakers to specify why Oregon does not meet that goal. Lawmakers never have met it.

Evans said if the state budget were to pay fully for that model, lawmakers should be approving \$10 billion for the next two years.

“We will continue to fight over nickels and dimes to get the state school fund a little higher,” Evans said. “But it is the wrong fight.”

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Biden aims to restore species protections

By MATTHEW DALY and MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration says it is canceling or reviewing a host of actions by the Trump administration to roll back protections for endangered or threatened species, with a goal of strengthening a landmark law while addressing climate change.

The reviews by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service are aimed at five Endangered Species Act regulations finalized by the Trump administration, including critical habitat designations and rules defining the scope of federal actions on endangered species.

The Fish and Wildlife Service also said Friday it will reinstate the so-called “blanket rule,” which mandates additional protections for species that are newly classified as threatened. Under former President Donald Trump, those protections were removed.

Habitat designations for threatened or endangered



Don Ryan/AP Photo

A northern spotted owl flies in the Deschutes National Forest near Camp Sherman.

species can result in limitations on energy development, such as mining or oil drilling that could disturb a vulnerable species, while the scoping rule helps determine how far the government may go to protect imperiled species.

Under Trump, officials rolled back protections for the northern spotted owl, gray wolves and other species, actions that President Joe Biden has vowed to review. His administration already has moved to reverse Trump's decision to weaken

enforcement of the century-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which made it harder to prosecute bird deaths caused by the energy industry.

The decision on the bird law was among more than 100 business-friendly actions on the environment that Trump took and Biden wants reconsidered and possibly revised or scrapped. The reviews announced Friday follow through on that executive order.

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to working with diverse federal, tribal, state and industry partners to not only protect and recover America's imperiled wildlife but to ensure cornerstone laws like the Endangered Species Act are helping us meet 21st century challenges,” said Martha Williams, the principal deputy director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The agency looks forward to “continuing these conservation collaborations and to ensuring our efforts are fully transparent and inclusive,” Williams added.

The reviews announced Friday will take months or years to complete. Many rules targeted by Trump originated with former President Barack Obama and took him years to undo, continuing a decades-old, back-and-forth between Democratic and Republican administrations with starkly

differing approaches to environmental regulation.

Industry groups and Republicans in Congress have long viewed the Endangered Species Act as an impediment to economic development and under Trump they successfully lobbied to weaken the law's regulations. Environmental groups and Democratic-controlled states battled the moves in court, but those cases remained unresolved when Trump left office in January.

Noah Greenwald with the Center for Biological Diversity said the environmental group was grateful to see the Trump rules being canceled or changed, particularly a rule that would have denied blanket protections for threatened species.

“We hope they move quickly so more species aren't harmed,” Greenwald said.

Earthjustice attorney Kristen Boyles, who was involved in legal challenges to the Trump rules, said Friday's announcement covered major changes under the previous administration that needed to be addressed. But Boyles said questions remain about what will happen while the new proposals go through a lengthy rule-making process.

“These will take time, and in the interim we don't want the harm to continue,” she said.

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500