

PIERCE: Has contributed \$1.365M to his own campaign

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has traditionally hosted the first gubernatorial debate of the general election season. The debate turned into a one-person forum for Pierce, after Gov. Kate Brown declined to join in the event.

Pierce, a Salem oncologist, has contributed \$1.365 million to his own campaign. He has raised about \$700,000 in contributions from others and spent about \$1.6 million.

Pierce poured most of his money into a successful bid to gain name recognition and defeat his better-known opponent, Allen Alley,

during the primary election in May.

Pierce is relying on large donors to orchestrate his general election campaign, said Stacey Kafka, communications director of Pierce's campaign.

"Kate Brown will have union backing; that's for sure, and she'll have certainly large donors, and I need to be able to do that," Pierce said. "That is part of being a viable candidate."

Pierce made a speech and fielded questions from a panel of journalists during Friday's event. A podium next to him symbolically

stood empty, where Brown had been invited to appear and debate her opponent.

Brown is seeking election to her top state post after inheriting the job when Gov. John Kitzhaber resigned amid an influence-peddling scandal.

In a June 9 email, Brown's campaign declined to participate in the debate, making her the first incumbent in 30 years to skip the event, according to the ONPA. Brown's campaign gave the reason that the governor was "focused on her official duties" and would hold off on any debates until September.

Brown originally was scheduled to attend the Oregon Mayors Association conference in Lincoln City Friday but had to cancel after she found out two weeks ago that her mother in Minnesota was scheduled to have breast cancer surgery earlier this week, said Kristen Grainger, Brown's communications director.

Pierce has blasted Brown for sidestepping the ONPA debate, but on Tuesday, he tweeted to Brown: "I'm hoping for a good outcome for your mom. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family."

Coast Guard seizes 3.3 tons of cocaine

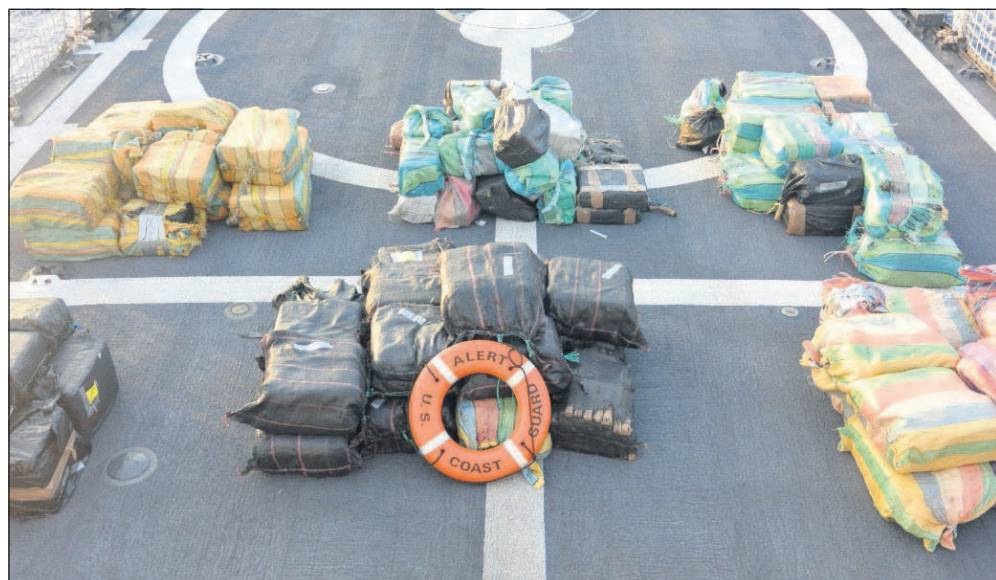
EO Media Group

While on patrol in the eastern Pacific Ocean, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Alert intercepted more than 3 tons of narcotics, according to the agency. The cutter returned to homeport in Astoria Sunday.

During a 53-day patrol, the Alert caught four "go-fast" boats carrying 3.3 tons of cocaine, valued at \$100 million, and detained 11 suspected smugglers. Results of that magnitude have not been recorded since 2009, according to the agency.

"I couldn't be more proud of the crew's accomplishments and the professionalism during the best patrol of my career," Cmdr. Patrick Culver of the Alert said in a release. "They earned a well-deserved respite from the rigors of sea. Reuniting with their loved ones at homecoming makes the mission truly worthwhile."

The Alert also rescued



The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Alert seized 3.3 tons of cocaine during a 53-day drug patrol spanning 12,500 miles in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

four crew members from the fishing vessel Alexa, which was found sinking in a rain squall at night. The rescued crew were medically examined and eventually transferred to a Costa Rican

Coast Guard vessel.

The Alert's drug patrols off of the West Coast of Central and South America were part of Operation Martillo, an international operation sharing informa-

tion and bringing together air, land, and maritime assets from the U.S. Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security and partner nations to counter illicit trafficking.

Merkley applauds Kaine VP pick ahead of DNC

PORTLAND (AP) — As Oregon's Democratic and Republican delegations were crisscrossing the country to and from their parties' national conventions Friday, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine was named as Hillary Clinton's vice presidential-running mate.

It's unclear whether the selection of Kaine will appeal to progressives from places like Oregon, which is expected to favor Bernie Sanders on the Democratic convention floor

in Philadelphia next week after the Vermont senator defeated Clinton in Oregon's May 17 primary.

Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley — who supports Clinton but is the only member the U.S. Senate to endorse their colleague Sanders — told The Associated Press that Kaine is an "excellent choice" but party progressives have concerns about some of his leanings, namely his recent vote in favor of fast-tracking the Trans-Pa-

cific Partnership trade deal.

"Tim Kaine is enormously capable ... very powerful intellect and very easy to work with," said Merkley. "But there are issues that we would love to have him be in a different place on."

Sanders began bowing out of the race weeks ago and has since been helping rally more forces against GOP nominee Donald Trump. Both parties are now wrestling to bring Sanders' progressive

supporters into their folds.

Merkley says Sanders' vision is being "woven" into Clinton's platform, so progressives will eventually come around.

"The dramatic changes in the platform and in the style of Hillary's presentation that she's putting forward are much stronger, bolder strategies to take on the big issues that were at the heart of the Sanders campaign," Merkley said.

BRIEFLY

Oregon motorcycle fatalities on pace with deadly 2015

PORTLAND (AP) — Last year was the deadliest in decades for Oregon motorcyclists and the death toll for 2016 is matching that pace.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports 31 motorcyclists died on Oregon roads through July 7, putting the state on pace to match the 60 deaths from last year.

Older riders comprise a growing share of motorcyclists in fatal crashes. In 2004, 18 percent of riders killed were 55 or older, but that increased to 39 percent in 2014.

A spokesman a motorcycle training program based at Oregon State University says that's partly a demographic shift. Patrick Hahn says fewer young people are riding and baby boomers aren't giving it up.

Whatcom jail crowding keeps some suspects out of custody

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) — Overcrowding at the Whatcom County Jail could keep some offenders out of custody and on the streets as they await court proceedings.

The Bellingham Herald reports that Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo notified Bellingham that once the downtown jail population nears a 212-inmate cap, city officers will not be able to book people on certain charges. If the cap is reached only people accused of felony charges could be booked.

The downtown jail has 283 beds but Elfo set a cap at 212 because he says that's the number his staff can

safely handle.

Voters turned down a plan to build a larger jail in November 2015.

Crews rescue logger who fell 500 feet down ravine

NEWPORT (AP) — Authorities say they successfully rescued an injured logger who reportedly fell 500 feet down a ravine about 15 miles east of Newport.

The U.S. Coast Guard said in a news release one of their helicopter crews was called to assist in the rescue near Chitwood Friday morning. They were

able to hoist the logger out and transport the person to waiting emergency personnel in Corvallis.

Officials say the logger had broken ribs and a collapsed lung.

Members of the Lincoln County rope rescue say transporting the logger out on foot would have taken hours as opposed to the helicopter.

Oklahoma boy, 13, drowns off Oregon Coast

PORTLAND (AP) — Authorities say a 13-year-old Oklahoma boy drowned off the coast of Seaside, Oregon,

during a family reunion.

Seaside spokesman Jon Rahl says lifeguards noticed Conner Moore of Tulsa and his 14-year-old cousin Carter Moore of Kingston, Oklahoma, struggling in the chilly ocean Thursday afternoon.

Rescuers quickly pulled Carter Moore from the water, but it took longer to reach his cousin. The U.S. Coast Guard spotted him by air and a Coast Guard swimmer teamed with lifeguards to bring him to shore.

Rahl says Conner Moore died at Providence Seaside Hospital. His cousin was flown to a Portland hospital from which he was released late Friday morning.

Divers find missing plane; body recovered

GRANTS PASS (AP) — A plane missing since the Fourth of July has been found off the Oregon Coast, and one body has been recovered.

The Cessna 172 with three people aboard went down shortly after takeoff from Brookings. John Belnap, a 46-year-old nurse anesthetist from Grants Pass, piloted the plane and the passengers were his 17-year-old son Max Belnap and his son's 17-year-old friend, Ryan Merker. The teens attended Grants Pass High School and competed in track and field.

More searching was to be done Friday.

Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel said the name of the recovered person will be released after it has been positively identified by a medical examiner.

He tells the Daily Courier the plane found Thursday was upside down

on the ocean floor, partly covered in sand. The plane was separated from its engine and three seats were in the area.

The body was found under a wing, and divers could not see all the way into the fuselage, he said.

The crash scene is about four miles northwest of Brookings, not far from Rainbow Rock.

Boats from Curry, Josephine, Douglas and Wasco counties were in the water along with a boat equipped with a sonar device that spotted an area of interest, with oil and gas in the area, about 100 feet from a previous area of interest.

Daniel said a barge would be needed to salvage the wreck, which has now been marked by a buoy.

"It's bittersweet," Daniel said. "A lot of people put in a lot of time and effort. The whole purpose of this operation is closure, and that comes from recovering all three."

Medicaid considers offering contraceptives after delivery

BEND (AP) — Officials with Oregon's Medicaid program are considering a policy that would reimburse providers for placing contraceptives immediately after women give birth or have abortions.

The Oregon Health Plan already covers intrauterine devices, contraceptives that providers place into the uterus, and contraceptive implants, but most providers don't place the devices until visits weeks or months after deliveries, leaving a chance that women could become pregnant before that time, The Bulletin reported.

"It is hard to imagine why this would not be enacted," certified nurse midwife Olivia Kroening-Roche wrote in an email to Oregon Medical officials supporting the proposal.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services sent out a notice to states in April urging them to cover IUDs and implants immediately following births. Dr. Catherine Livingston, associate medical director of Oregon's Health Evidence Review Commission, said the policy was already under consideration when the notice came out.

Officials have received dozens of emails of support for the proposed change, which the Health Evidence Review Commission could approve as early as October.

Dr. Rita Sharshiner, an obstetrician with Oregon Health and Science University, wrote that she works with underserved populations and sees the effects of short interval

pregnancies that can result when women do not have access to contraceptives.

"Unintended pregnancies can occur as early as 3 to 4 weeks postpartum, long before most women present for their postpartum clinic visit," she wrote.

She wrote that back-to-back pregnancies are associated with a higher risk of preterm birth and other complications.

The commission is still working on the proposal, but some providers are stressing the need for it to include women who rely on Citizen Alien Waived Emergent Medical, a program that provides health care for low-income, undocumented individuals in emergency situations, including pregnancy.

"Many of the CAWEM patients that I serve are recent immigrants who are fleeing violence and seeking a better life for their families," Holly Pranaat, a certified nurse midwife with Providence Columbia Women's Clinic, wrote in an email to the commission. "Family planning is a vital aspect of this as women strive to provide for their children and work out of poverty."

Oregon would not be the first state to cover contraceptives post-delivery. In 2012, South Carolina's Medicaid program adopted a policy to cover IUDs and implants immediately following delivery. Now 19 state Medicaid programs have adopted policies that reimburse for IUDs and implants immediately postpartum.

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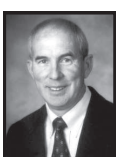
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