

Fallout from Louisiana teacher's arrest rages on

ABBEVILLE, La. (AP) — The Louisiana teacher whose widely viewed arrest at a school board meeting sparked online outrage has returned to work even as fallout from the incident rages on.

Gov. John Bel Edwards said he saw nothing on videos of Deshia Hargrave's arrest that warranted her rough treatment. Meanwhile, the superintendent of Vermilion Parish Schools said he, his staff and his family have received death threats.

Hargrave returned to the classroom Wednesday. The local prosecutor said he won't pursue charges against Hargrave, who was appalled by her treatment and grateful for support from students, parents and others. A rally of support for the teacher was planned Thursday afternoon.

"By taking away my voice they've taken away —



In this Monday image made from a video provided by KATC-TV middle-school English teacher Deyshia Hargrave is handcuffed by a city marshal after complying with a marshal's orders to leave a Vermilion Parish School Board meeting in Abbeville, La.

or tried to take away — my First Amendment rights to speak," Hargrave said in a video posted on the Louisiana Association of Educators' Facebook page. "Go to your local school board meetings," Hargrave said. "Speak out. Be vocal." Edwards, who is married

to a teacher and gets support from teacher unions, said he "didn't see anything that warranted that type of action."

Superintendent Jerome Puyau said the hate emails and phone calls began pouring in after videos spread.

"I've stopped reading them because they're just so bad and disgusting," Puyau said, at times struggling to compose himself in an interview with The Associated Press. He said the school system offices went into temporary lockdown, and his daughters had to delete threats on their social media.

The turmoil follows the board's 5-3 vote Monday night approving a new 3-year contract raising Puyau's salary by roughly \$30,000, to about \$140,000 annually, with incentive targets that could add 3 percent per year.

He said the raise matches what other school officials make in similar jobs.

Hargrave, a middle school English teacher, said she felt like she was representing all teachers in the parish by questioning the raise, at a time when teachers haven't received an increase in 10 years, despite growing class sizes and other demands.

COUNCIL: Brenne has served on the city council for 40 years

Continued from 1A

aiming to stay another four years.

Appointed in 2016 to fill the remainder of former at-large councilor Al Plute's term, Cambier said he's just starting to get up to speed on the city's responsibilities.

Cambier said he wants to continue to support the council's goals and priorities, adding that he and his colleagues have "good chemistry."

A retired doctor and a former Pendleton School Board member, Cambier said this would likely be his last term in office if he won election to his at-large seat, which covers the entirety of Pendleton.

On the opposite side of the spectrum is John Brenne, a 40-year council veteran looking to win his 11th term.

Brenne's longevity isn't merely unusual for Pendleton, but puts him in the upper echelon of prolonged American political careers.

Elected in 1978, if Brenne served in the U.S. House of Representatives instead of the city council, he would be tied for the second longest active tenure after Rep. Don Young of Alaska.

The executive director of the Pendleton Foster Grandparents program, Brenne represents a ward that includes the downtown area, South Hill and Riverside. Brenne hasn't faced a

contested election since 2002. He did not return requests for comment.

McDonald is running for a second term representing a ward that covers North Hill, Westgate and the airport.

The Helix school teacher won her first term in 2014, beating former City Councilor Bryan Branstetter for the open seat. McDonald won the only competitive election in 2014, the other three incumbents running unopposed.

McDonald did not return a request for comment.

In 2016, several retirements and a pre-election resignation set up the most crowded collection of Pendleton City Council races in the 21st century.

While many city council incumbents lack opponents during their re-election campaign, beating a seated

councilor isn't completely uncommon. In 2010, Plute, the former at-large councilor, beat incumbent Steve Taylor to claim his seat.

Any prospective candidates for all four seats up for election can file declaration paperwork with the city recorder through March 6. Election Day for Pendleton municipal elections is May 15. If no candidate gets 50 percent, the top two candidates will meet again in a runoff election on Nov. 6.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.



Cambier



Brenne



McDonald

INTERNET: Building fiber into rural areas 10-20 times more expensive than in areas with dense populations

Continued from 1A

the process to make it easier, we can have a substantive impact."

He said a lot of rural counties have significant Bureau of Land Management or forestry lands, and it's already expensive to build fiber into lightly populated counties.

"Getting it addressed at the federal level can be much more difficult," he said.

Franell said EOT does about 100 fiber installations per month, but the majority of their customers are commercial entities, not homes. They cover areas from west of Boardman to Pendleton, on both sides of the Columbia River.

Franell said he was also interested in a part of the order that proposed increased access to towers on federal lands, especially in sparse and mountainous areas southeast of Hermiston. He said some areas of Eastern Oregon are so rural, they meet the definition of "frontier." Those areas, he said, are often served with "fixed wireless," service from point to point.

"Towers can be a really efficient way of getting broadband in parts of the county that couldn't justify building infrastructure," he said.

Franell said building fiber into rural areas can be between 10 and 20 times more expensive than in areas with dense populations.

He said some companies have solved the problem by employing a hybrid approach to broadband infrastructure.

"You build fiber in areas with dense populations," he said. "From there, you extend broadband with less dense delivery means, like cable or copper wire. In really lightly populated areas, you use wireless."

He said eventually, as areas start to grow, companies can leverage the revenue from the hybrid approach to slowly expand the fiber footprint further out.

"I don't know if it will ever be financially justifiable to build fiber to every home in America," he said. "But we don't have to get fiber to meet



Lineman C.J. Christensen with Eastern Oregon Telecom measures the height of an internet cable line on Wednesday in Umatilla.

the needs of rural customers."

Coalition forms

Connect Americans Now believes it can pave the way for high-speed internet in every market nationwide by 2022. Several Oregon counties and farm groups, including Umatilla County, the Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association, have joined the coalition in recent days.

Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock said the county was working with the Association of Oregon Counties to advocate for broadband in the rural parts of the state, even though northern Umatilla County is more populated than most in Eastern Oregon.

"The southern parts of our county, as you branch out it becomes more remote," he said. "This [...] will probably have more impact on them."

But he said Umatilla County's role as an economic hub makes it necessary to provide high-speed internet access to all areas of the county.

Murdock said he didn't know of any immediate projects in the county that would take place as a result of the executive order, but said the county would be at the forefront of changes.

"The county will do everything in its power to be an active participant," he said.

Faster connections is important for Northwest farmers and ranchers looking to adopt web-powered precision irrigation tools, such as real-time soil moisture monitors, to increase yields

while reducing costs.

"As any farmer will tell you, it takes more than grit and determination to be successful in today's market," Cikanek said. "We need to let farmers access modern technologies."

Richard Cullen, executive director of Connect Americans Now, also praised the Trump administration's dedication to rural broadband on Monday following his speech at the American Farm Bureau Federation convention.

"No one has more grit and determination than American farmers, and we are excited to hear that President Trump is focused on unleashing that productivity by bringing broadband service into more rural communities," Cullen said.

The coalition recently announced it will work with the Federal Communications Commission to establish policies that will allow rural broadband to flourish — namely by using what are known as "TV white spaces."

TV white space refers to unused channels in television broadcasting, which act as interference buffers between active channels. The spectrum ranges from 470 to 790 megahertz, similar to what is used for 4G wireless networks.

If the FCC agrees to leave at least three white space channels vacant in every market, it may lead to more capital investment in rural high-speed internet service, Cikanek said.

"Right now, we are focused on regulatory

certainty from the FCC," he said.

Cullen said all Americans deserve access to high-speed internet, regardless of where they live.

"Without a broadband connection, millions of students struggle to keep up with their assignments, Americans in rural areas are unable to fully utilize telemedicine, farmers are denied the promise of precision agriculture and businesses are unable to tap into the world of online commerce," Cullen said in a statement. "Congress and the FCC must stand with rural America by allowing internet service providers to deliver broadband via white spaces spectrum."

The Associated Press contributed to this report. Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at 541-564-4534 or jramakrishnan@eastoregonian.com

PRIORITIES: The state is facing an unfunded pension liability of about \$25B

Continued from 1A

sionals to obtain supervisory licenses from the state.

It would also create low-cost loans, administered by Business Oregon, to encourage subcontractors to work on affordable housing projects in rural Oregon.

Finally, it would hand out grants for new equipment and tools for construction workers through Workforce Investment Boards to bring down business' costs of hiring more people.

PERS paydown: The state is facing an unfunded pension liability of about \$25 billion, and this proposal would create a fund to encourage public employers to save money to put toward

their employees' retirement costs.

The state would contribute 25 cents for every dollar saved by public agencies, but it's not yet clear how much the proposal could shave from the unfunded liability, which is the amount of money that the state owes to retirees but can't currently pay.

Opioid epidemic: The governor wants to "take the first steps toward" requiring drug manufacturers to register for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, create a four-county pilot program to test the efficacy of peer mentors for people having a drug overdose, and require the state's insurance commissioner to study how

to improve access to addiction treatment.

State procurement practices: This proposal would take several steps to bring down state government costs by changing how the state buys goods and services.

The bill would have the state test a "reverse auction" concept that would have sellers of goods or services valued at more than \$150,000 compete to win the state's business, and test an idea that would have the state study whether requiring 30 percent of evaluation criteria to be price.

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



Get Your Finances In Shape!

You Don't Have To Do All The Heavy Lifting!

Our Win-Win CD now has even more prize money to help your savings grow.*
Open with as little as \$25!

Monthly Drawings for \$200
Annual Drawing for \$2,500!



*We can not help your muscles grow, that's all you.

MONTHLY DRAWINGS: One (1) entry for every \$25 balance increase as of the last business day of each calendar month. Drawing limited to one (1) monthly winner of \$200 (funds can be deposited into CD or taken as customer wishes). (Account Opening deposit counts as 1 entry). Each \$25 increment added to the CD is another entry, limit of 8 entries (\$200) through the last business day of each calendar month. Drawing to take place within the first 5 business days after the end of each calendar month. **ANNUAL DRAWING:** One (1) Annual Winner of \$2,500 (funds can be deposited into CD or taken as customer wishes). To earn 1 entry, \$25 must be added to the CD in 1 month, each additional month that a deposit of at least \$25 was made, another entry is earned — limit of 12 entries for the year. (Account Opening deposit counts as 1 month). Annual Drawing to take place each December, following the last business day of the month.

\$25 Minimum deposit and balance required to obtain prize entry. Open to consumers only, exclusions apply. Limit one (1) Win-Win CD per primary Tax ID Number. Must be at least 18 years of age to open. Open to residents in the following Oregon, Washington, and Idaho counties. Oregon: Walla, Union, Baker, Umatilla, Morrow, Wasco and Hood River; Washington: Walla Walla and Asotin; Idaho: Nez Perce. Account must be open at time of drawing to be eligible. Winners are responsible for the payment of all taxes on prizes. Where required by law, form 1099 will be filed with the IRS to reflect prize winnings over \$600 issued to winner for the calendar year.

Member FDIC
www.communitybanknet.com
800-472-4292