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Wyden, Merkley call college op-eds disqualifying for nominee Bounds

Hermiston graduate says he has matured since 'tone-deaf, insensitive' writings

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley say they no longer believe Hermiston graduate Ryan Bounds is a "suitable nominee" for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after reading a collection of opinion pieces he wrote during college, including one criticizing multicultural student groups that "divide up by race for their feel-good ethnic hoedowns" and foster "race-think."



Bounds

Bounds, a Hermiston High School graduate and an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon, was chosen by a bipartisan committee of attorneys appointed by Wyden, Merkley and Rep. Greg Walden as one of four finalists for a judicial vacancy on the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Any judge seated on the court will have to go through a confirmation hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

However, Wyden and Merkley issued a joint statement Monday saying that after the committee named Bounds, it learned that he had "failed to disclose inflammatory writings that reveal archaic and alarming views about sexual assault,

the rights of workers, people of color and the LGBTQ community."

"While we have followed through on our commitment to forward to the White House the names reported by the committee, we do not believe Mr. Bounds is a suitable nominee for a lifetime appointment to the bench," they stated.

Walden's office issued a statement that although Bounds had not been required to provide "college kid columns" to the review commission, he had provided the columns to the Senate Judiciary Committee and "has fully denounced them."

"Ryan Bounds is a talented and effective prosecutor who should be judged on his adult record of working to make Oregon safer by holding lawbreakers accountable and by his unblemished record of public service, including chairing the bar committee on diversity and inclusion," Walden said.

Bounds, according to *The Oregonian/Oregonlive*, apologized to the Multnomah Bar Association's equity, diversity and inclusion committee — of which

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HERMISTON

School district aligns 2019 spring break with Washington schools

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

Hermiston School District students will align even more closely with their Washington peers next year, as the school board on Monday voted 4-1 to set its 2018-2019 school calendar.

The decision means

spring break will be from April 1 to 5, the same as Washington state schools and Hermiston's new athletic league rivals, instead of the last week in March along with Oregon schools.

Board members Jason Middleton and Dave Smith were absent for the vote, and Mark Gomolski was the lone dissenter.

Interim superintendent Tricia Mooney said she was making the recommendation to the board at the suggestion of the Educational Council, a group of staff representing each school, two administrators and two school board members that makes recommendations about scheduling that is not mandated by the state calendar.

At two previous school board meetings, some elementary school teachers had spoken against the proposed change. At Monday's meeting, Josh Linn, a Rocky Heights Elementary School teacher who has been a vocal opponent of the schedule change, again voiced his concern about the change. Linn has said at several previous

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sidewalk shadows of the setting sun

A pedestrian walks through a shaft of light from the setting sun Monday on Court Avenue in Pendleton. Forecasts call for more sun Tuesday before a cold front moves into the region in the evening bringing a potential rain or snow, according to the National Weather Service.

PENDLETON

Hunters learn about elk conversation, conservation

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

Verlyn Savage may speak elk, but there's more than one language.

At the Pendleton Convention Center Saturday, Savage stood in front of a crowd of hundreds, lifted a bugle to his mouth, and blew a series of short, high-pitched sounds that faded into a rasp.

"Notice any difference?" he asked the crowd of mostly children.

"Yes," some yelled back, already picking up the skill after their first elk bugling lesson.

"When a bull starts bugling, try to match its intensity," he said.

"When they're talking certain languages you have to know what they're talking, because sometimes they'll let out a bugle that's different than what they've



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Karsten Bracher, of Helix, and Layton Thompson, of Adams, practice their elk bugling skills Saturday at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Outdoor Skills Day at the Pendleton Convention Center.

been bugling, that means he's grabbing his cows and leaving," he told the audience. "You've got to start distinguishing how this bull reacts to your bugle."

Savage was one of the speakers at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's first youth outdoor skills

day. More than a thousand people showed up for the event, which aimed to teach kids about how hunting and outdoor recreation relate to conservation.

"You see a lot of people who don't really understand what [it] is," said event organizer Korie Campbell.

"The future of conservation depends on the next generation. The goal is to get these kids exposed."

Campbell, a Pendleton native, is currently attending college in Missoula, Montana, where she studies wildlife biology. She works for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation headquarters, where she plans educational events. In August she called her father, Tim Campbell, who is in the local RMEF chapter, about hosting an event specifically aimed at teaching youth.

"Our chapter had wanted to do a youth event," he said. "This is Korie's passion."

Though he runs a drywall company by day, Savage is a longtime hunter, and gives several presentations a year on elk calling.

Though much of his skill at elk-bugling is self-taught, Savage said each year, he

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