

GOP PRIMARY

Cuff drops out to make room for Wooldridge

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE Capital Bureau

SALEM — And then there were nine.

Bruce Cuff, a real estate broker from Mehama, Ore., dropped out of the crowded Republican primary for governor late Wednesday, leaving nine other candidates to jostle for the nomination.

Cuff endorsed fellow candidate Greg Wooldridge, a motivational speaker and former U.S. Navy pilot, in the contest.

The endorsement showcased the divisions among the candidates, the more conservative of whom are urging others to drop out of the race to mount a more credible challenge against, State Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, who is viewed as the likely victor and as a moderate.

Cuff, reached by phone Thursday morning, said he "didn't really have the numbers to move forward."

"I think Greg Wooldridge is the one that can actually

win this campaign and bring the party together," Cuff said.

In an announcement from Wooldridge's campaign, Cuff also called on another candidate, Sam Carpenter, to drop out of the race.

Carpenter, a Bend businessman, fired back Thursday, touting a poll his campaign commissioned showing him behind Buehler, but with more support than Wooldridge.

"They need to drop out and endorse me," Carpenter said of Wooldridge and Cuff.

In a Facebook post Wednesday morning, Carpenter made his case for whittling the field of candidates.

"Too many 'grass roots' candidates are splitting the conservative vote," he wrote.

He maintains he could beat Buehler if other candidates dropped out.

Wooldridge's campaign touted Cuff's endorsement in a press release late Wednesday, less than three weeks before the election.



EO Media Group

Bruce Cuff has dropped out of the GOP gubernatorial primary. He has endorsed fellow candidate Greg Wooldridge, a motivational speaker and former U.S. Navy pilot.

"Bruce's endorsement means the world to me," Wooldridge said in a statement. "We are really starting

to come together in this race and that's important."

The primary election is May 15.

U.S. House votes to block spill of dam water

By MATTHEW DALY and NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House approved a bill Wednesday that would effectively stop the spilling of water from four Pacific Northwest dams to help migrating salmon reach the Pacific Ocean.

The bill, approved 225-189, would prevent any changes in dam operations until 2022. It was sponsored by Republican Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Dan Newhouse, both of Washington state.

They say the four Snake River dams provide hydro-power, flood control and other benefits while already allowing record salmon runs.

"We are recognizing the role dams play in the Northwest and that dams and fish can co-exist," McMorris Rodgers, the fourth-ranking House Republican, said after the vote.

Critics, however, blame the giant dams, built in the 1960s and 1970s, for killing wild salmon, an iconic species in the Northwest. Environmentalists have pushed to remove the dams to aid salmon recovery.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

"I urge my colleagues in the Senate to come forward and support our dams," Newhouse said.

Once one of the greatest salmon fisheries in the world, the Columbia-Snake river system now has more than a dozen endangered salmon runs.

Democrats have argued that on-going studies of the dams, including whether they should be removed, must go forward.

The four dams — Ice Harbor, Lower Monu-

mental, Little Goose and Lower Granite — span the Snake River between the Washington cities of Pasco and Pullman. Together they produce about 4 percent of the region's electricity.

Proposals to remove the dams have percolated in the Northwest for decades, and have devolved into a largely partisan issue with Democrats generally on the side of fish and Republicans for keeping the dams.

The government has spent some \$15 billion over the decades to increase salmon runs, with mixed results.

In March 2017, U.S. District Judge Michael Simon of Portland ordered the dams to increase spillage beginning this spring. Federal agencies estimated that increasing spill from early April to mid-June would cost rate-payers \$40 million in lost power revenues this year.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals recently upheld Simon's order.

The dams operate under a plan to protect salmon created by a collaboration of federal agencies, states and Indian tribes during the Obama administration.

Simon found the plan does not do enough. He ruled a new environmental study is needed and it must consider the option of removing the dams. He also wrote that wild salmon were in a "precarious" state.

McMorris Rodgers countered that the number of salmon returning from the ocean to spawn is high.

"We have been in court now for 20 years," McMorris Rodgers said.

The House bill would delay changes to the 2014 plan for dam operations until 2022, she said.

House GOP candidate compares Democrats to Nazis

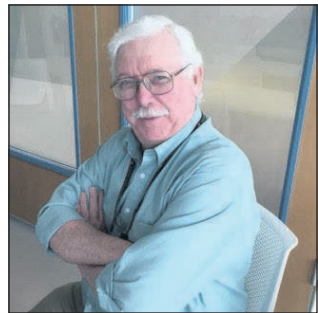
By PARIS ACHEN Capital Bureau

SALEM — Thomas Donohue, a Pacific City Republican seeking election as state representative for the Central Coast, is under heat for sharing a Facebook post comparing Democrats to Nazis.

Rep. David Gombert, D-Otis, the incumbent in that seat, is Jewish.

The post features a graphic showing images of the Nazi swastika and a blue "D" and a chart comparing Democrats to Nazis on a list of seven issues, including "socialism," "no guns," and "abortion."

The post originated from the Facebook page of



Thomas Donohue

conservative blog "Direct to the People."

The Democratic Party of Oregon in a news release Thursday, April 26, called on the Oregon GOP to stop "a disturbing pattern of hateful and intolerant speech" by Republican candidates for the Oregon House of Representatives.

"The image posted by Mr. Donohue comparing Democrats to Nazis is simply disgusting and inappropriate," said Jeanne Atkins, chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon.

Gombert said Donohue's post surprised him.

"I know Mr. Donohue and know him to be a person who cares about his community, and it didn't look like the kind of observations that I would normally expect from him," he said.

Gombert, who was elected to the House in November 2012, said the post is not representative of his constituents — even Republicans — in House District 10.

"I certainly find the post

troubling as a Democrat and as a Jew," he said.

Gombert's family immigrated to the United States before World War II — when the Nazis undertook a systematic holocaust of Jews in Europe.

"But I hope anybody reading that (post) would share my concern," he said.

Donohue said the post was a mistake and out of character for him. He said he plans to call Gombert to apologize.

"I had no idea he was Jewish," Donohue said. "National socialists (the Nazi Party) did not like Jewish people. I don't know that the Democratic Party is so much that way, but I think they don't like white people."

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

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Marcy Rosenberg • 541-966-0828 • mrosenberg@eastoregonian.com

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Business Office Manager: Janna Heimgartner
541-966-0822 • jheimgartner@eastoregonian.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com

AccuWeather Forecast TODAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY
Sun giving way to clouds; warm
Cooler with a shower in the area
Cloudy with a little rain
Cloudy, showers around; cool
Cloudy with a couple of showers
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
80° 48° 62° 45° 61° 44° 59° 42° 64° 45°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
83° 51° 67° 48° 67° 46° 65° 44° 71° 47°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW

Table with columns: Yesterday, Normals, Records, Precipitation

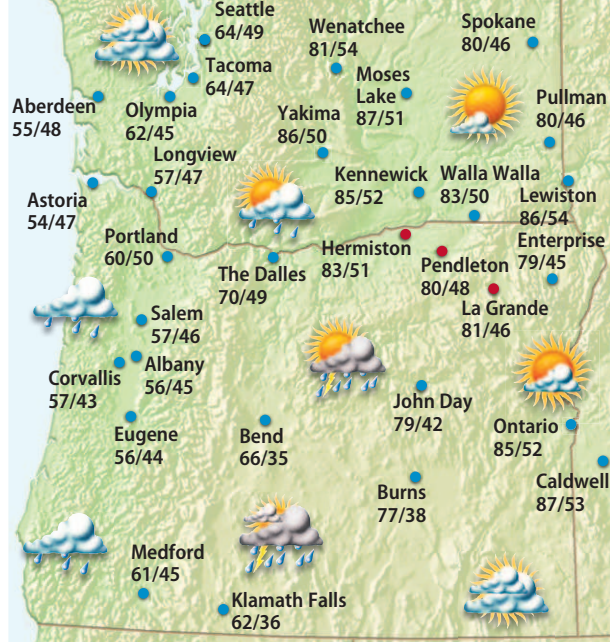
PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday
TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW
Yesterday 81° 40°
Normals 68° 41°
Records 84° (2013) 25° (2008)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

SUN AND MOON
Sunrise today 5:49 a.m.
Sunset tonight 7:57 p.m.
Moonrise today 5:32 p.m.
Moonset today 5:07 a.m.

Full Last New First
Apr 29 May 7 May 15 May 21



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; showers, except dry in the south. Showers tonight.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Sun, then clouds today; a shower and thunderstorm around in central parts and near the Cascades.
Western Washington: Clouds and sun today; a couple of showers; however, dry in central parts.
Eastern Washington: Sun near the Idaho border and in the mountains today; mostly cloudy in the north and the Cascades.
Cascades: Mostly cloudy today. Showers; arriving in the afternoon across the north.
Northern California: Clouds and sun today; a couple of showers, but dry in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with columns: Today, Sat. and rows for cities like Astoria, Baker City, Bend, Brookings, Burns, etc.

WORLD CITIES

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WINDS

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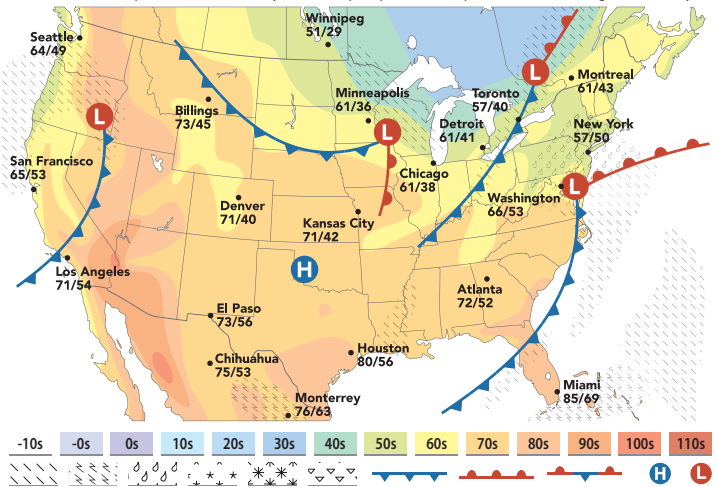
UV INDEX TODAY

2 4 6 6 4 1
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.
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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Rain will spread northeastward from the mid-Atlantic states to New England today. Showers and chilly air will spread over the Great Lakes and from Oregon to Washington and Northern California.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 103° in Needles, Calif. Low 14° in Lake George, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with columns: Today, Sat. and rows for cities like Albuquerque, Atlanta, Atlanta City, Baltimore, Billings, Birmingham, etc.