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Economy is strong, but will it last?

State economists see warning signs for 2020

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Times are good in Oregon.

The unemployment rate has dipped below 4 percent, economic growth has been strong, wages have risen faster than the national average and young workers are moving in to fill the new jobs being created. Once again, residents are expected to receive a bonus "kicker" on their income tax returns because state revenues are coming in higher than forecast.

But how long it will last?

For now, the outlook is good. The state's most recent economic forecast, released in September, predicts continued economic growth in the short term. However, it also warns that "potential danger lurks around the corner" with a confluence of events in 2020, and "economists are becoming more comfortable talking about plausible recession scenarios given the expected path of federal policy."

Josh Lehner, senior economist at the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, said while the economy is still growing, the pace of that growth is slowing down.

"We expect that pattern to continue — that growth tomorrow will be slower than growth today," he said.

Lehner said not many economists are worried about the next 18 months. But federal policies, such as increased interest rates and changes to tax rates, usually take a year or two before their impact is seen, and they could turn into a "drag on growth" by 2020.

The economic forecast, however, states that a recession is not a foregone conclusion, merely a reasonable

See **ECONOMY/12A**

"I knew I didn't want to be another statistic of domestic violence. I wanted to be a survivor."

— **Cassie Greene**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Cassie Greene of Hermiston would often spend nights on this couch in her parent's home when her former high school boyfriend and domestic abuser was stalking her. Greene now works as a probation services specialist with Umatilla County Community Corrections, often working with clients that have a history of domestic violence.

Back in control

Domestic violence survivor finds healing in helping others

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

EDITOR'S NOTE: Although the perpetrator of violence in this story was arrested, charged and incarcerated, his full name is being withheld at the request of the survivor. The purpose in sharing her story as part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is to encourage victims of domestic violence to speak out.

Cassie Greene is a survivor. The physical marks are long gone. The swelling and bruising from being strangled, and scratches and welts from being assaulted are replaced by tattoos that represent being a survivor of domestic violence.

The emotional scars are healing.

Like many teenagers, Cassie liked hanging out with friends, playing sports and participating in family activities. However, her life started to spiral out of control several months after her relationship with CL began in the spring of 2008.

Now 26, Cassie was a sophomore at Hermiston High School and CL was a senior when they met as members of the cross country team. Describing him as a "bad boy sort," Cassie liked that CL was older and lived life a bit on the edge — smoking marijuana and drinking. Often "the life of the party," he appeared happy, and was fun to be around. Also, CL seemed to care about his friends and would do anything for them, Cassie said.

"He was extremely charming," she said. "Our relationship progressed pretty quickly. It didn't take very long for us to become a thing."

Cassie's mom, Carol, said CL seemed like

a typical, not to say shy, teenager.

"He was very quiet, very soft-spoken and cute," she said. "He seemed like a gentle, kind soul."

As quickly as the relationship bloomed, however, it began to wilt. Within a few months, CL was exerting control in Cassie's life — who she hung out with, her communications with others and, sometimes, even what she wore.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence, said Kathryn Chaney, executive director of Domestic Violence Services, includes a pattern of behaviors where a person tries to gain power and control in any way they can. It can include manipulation, intimidation and humiliation.

"It isn't just hurting someone. It's gaining control over the other with their actions,"

See **CONTROL/12A**

Health officials talk opioid dangers with Walden



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Dr. Dan Marier talks about the mentality of someone that is addicted to opioids to Rep. Greg Walden during a roundtable discussion Friday in Pendleton.

Oregon to receive \$17M in federal funds to fight abuse

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Oregon Rep. Greg Walden's bill to help fight the opioid crisis could become law as soon as next week.

The Republican from Hood River swung through Eastern Oregon to talk up the bill and hear from folks on the front lines of the drug addiction crisis. Friday morning at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton, he said the bill would provide about \$17 million split between the Oregon Health Plan and local clinics to help treatment, recovery and prevention efforts and fight fentanyl and other illegal drugs. The Columbia River Community Health Services in Boardman is one of the clinics and received \$295,000.

H.R. 6, the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act, would provide about \$17 million split between the Oregon Health Plan and local clinics to help treatment, recovery and prevention efforts and fight fentanyl and other illegal drugs. The Columbia River Community Health Services in Boardman is one of the clinics and received \$295,000.

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