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State not ready to declare local scenes emergencies

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management is not ready to declare emergencies for two Eastern Oregon counties due to flooding.

State Sen. Bill Hansell of Athena and state Rep. Greg Barreto of Cove, both Republicans, wrote a letter Monday urging Gov. Kate Brown to declare a state of emergency for Umatilla and Wallowa counties.

Hansell said he heard about the flooding from Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer, then reached out Barreto's office. They conferred with more officials in Umatilla, Wallawa and Union counties, and his and Barreto's office drafted the letter.

"I hand delivered it about 11:30 Monday morning," Hansell said.

"These counties are in need of state and federal assistance as they work to

combat rising waters and the aftermath of flooding," the lawmakers stated in the letter to Brown, a Democrat. "A State of Emergency declaration from your office is needed in order for these counties to prepare and recover from the widespread flooding they are experiencing."

Hansell said they also emailed the letter to Nik Blosser, Brown's chief of staff, as well as a link to the city of Pendleton's video

showing the flooding along McKay Creek.

Later Monday, Hansell's chief of staff, Evan Bryan, got a call from Andrew Phelps, the director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, who denied the request.

Phelps explained his office's decision during a call Tuesday.

"There's just not the justification for it," he said.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
A shed is enveloped by McKay Creek on Saturday near Community Park in Pendleton.

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Lawmakers detail gas tax credit to offset cap and trade

By AUBREY WIEBER
Oregon Capital Bureau

For months, the conversation around Oregon's proposed carbon program has revolved around how it will impact industrial polluters.

On Monday, a public hearing focused on mitigating anticipated gas price increases to soften the new environmental policy's affect on low-income Oregonians.

The public hearing on House Bill 3425 kept the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction busy as legislative lawyers worked through the scores of amendments.

Under the cap and trade proposal, the state would limit certain carbon emissions. Selected industries emitting at least 25,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases per year would have to pay for every ton of pollutants. To do that, they would buy allowances from the state through an auction.

Commodities, such as energy, natural gas and gasoline, are expected to become more expensive.

The cap and trade program has a built-in mechanism of free allowances to natural gas and electric utilities to keep Oregonians from feeling the full extent of those price increases.

After weeks of public hearings in Salem and around the state, the committee repeatedly heard concerns from low-income Oregonians afraid of how the program would push gas prices.

The Department of Environmental Quality estimated that if cap and trade went into effect in 2021, there would be an immediate 15 to 16 cent per gallon

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Tripping the light fantastic



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Addison Schulberg dances the foxtrot with his partner Sara Sharples, from the Utah Ballroom Dance Company, on the way to winning Dancing With Your Pendleton Stars on Saturday night at the Vert Auditorium.

Dancing With Your Pendleton Stars boosts community charities

Rita Rosenberg puts aside worries about her flooded home to dance

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

One of the dancers in Saturday night's Dancing With Your Pendleton Stars broke away from her flooded home to perform.

The night before, with flooding on the way, Rita Rosenberg and her significant other, Kelly Kincaid, family and friends transferred everything in the basement to the upstairs. Rosenberg fell into bed after midnight and got back at it early.

Water flowed down their street (Southwest 41st) Saturday morning and seeped into the basement. Six people with shop vacs couldn't stem the flow, so they added two pumps.

A sandbag line formed to place bags delivered by friends and strangers into a barrier around the home. Friends helped move furniture and other items inside the house.

Rosenberg broke away to attend an afternoon rehearsal, having forgotten her costume.

"I arrived in muck boots," she said. "I hadn't showered."

Afterward she returned to the sandbag line until "they kicked me out about 4:30."

She showered at a friend's house, got hair and makeup done and arrived at the Vert Auditorium with 40 minutes to spare.

"The distraction of the flooding

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Rita Rosenberg and her partner Andrew Gryniwicz, from the Utah Ballroom Dance Company, won most points from judges and \$1,000 for her chosen organization during Dancing With Your Pendleton Stars on Saturday at the Vert Auditorium. Addison Schulberg pulled out the win, which along with the judges' scores included money donated from audience members.

