

President: New leader gets started at Blue Mountain

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Bailey-Fougner that he wasn't the cause of her tears.

"Come to find out her husband had left her and cleaned out the bank account," he said. "She didn't have anything."

A neighbor had urged her to check out the community college. At the time, PCC had a program designed to get displaced housewives back into the workforce and Bailey-Fougner connected her with the people running the six-week program. The woman continued on in college, eventually earning her doctorate at Portland State. Periodically, she returned to Bailey-Fougner to give him enthusiastic updates.

He said the story illustrates the type of people who attend community colleges.

"I love watching people who value education and

don't feel like it's owed to them," he said. "Every little step is a big win. I watch them go from not believing in themselves to having a huge amount of confidence."

In these early days at BMCC, Bailey-Fougner isn't spending much time in his big, light-drenched office. He has visited most of the BMCC centers around Northeast Oregon and had sit-downs with community members, employers, city and county leaders, college employees and students.

Wednesday brought more of the same. He started the day at the monthly 7 a.m. legislative video session with Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena. From there, Bailey-Fougner moved to a morning-long gathering of his vice presidents and then attended two other meetings before heading to Salem for two days of

the Oregon Presidents Council, a meeting of all 17 Oregon community college presidents. In Salem, he will also meet past president Camille Preus, who is now executive director of the Oregon Community College Association.

"I'm in the firehose stage," he said. "There's so much coming at me. I've had a lot of really good conversations."

In describing his leadership style, he said he prefers a consensus form of decision making if possible.

"Ultimately the buck stops with me, but I want a campus environment where we are transparent and open with everyone from students to faculty to administrators when we're talking about issues," Bailey-Fougner said. "I never want to leave people out of decisions."

The new president is living in a trailer park while he

looks for a house, bunking in his dad's fifth-wheel. He hopes to find a place before his snowbird father picks up the fifth-wheel and heads south for the winter.

Bailey-Fougner's partner, Mark Mauceri, soon will join him in Pendleton. Mauceri has actually spent more time in the city than Bailey-Fougner as he served as project manager for the build of the Wildhorse Resort golf course in 1996 and 1997.

Bailey-Fougner has all the credentials necessary to excel as the president of BMCC: a master's in education from Wichita State University and a doctorate in community college leadership from Oregon State University.

But he has one thing not everyone has. Inside him still lives that farm kid who took a chance on community college.

Oregon to appeal federal judge order in murder case

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Department of Justice will appeal a federal judge's ruling that ordered the release or a new trial for Frank Gable, convicted of murder for the 1989 stabbing death of Oregon's prison chief Michael Francke.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the state filed its notice of appeal Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Portland.

The state also filed a motion to put the order on hold while the appeal is pending.

The state is interested "in continuing custody and rehabilitation" of Gable, fears

that he'll flee if he's released as he has a life sentence hanging over him, and doesn't want to waste time or money preparing for a new trial, if an appellate court overturns the order, according to the state's motion.

"Nothing suggests that, in the many years since his convictions, petitioner has developed ties to any community in Oregon that would act as an incentive for him to remain to await a possible retrial," the state Justice Department lawyers wrote.

They also believe Gable remains a danger to the community.

Kicker: Economists predict that Oregon revenue will shatter expectations

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If the state collects 2% more in personal income taxes than what state economists predicted two years ago, it triggers the kicker rebate, which means that extra money goes back to Oregonians instead of being spent by the state government. The state smashed through that threshold by more than \$1 billion.

Oregon taxpayers will get back about \$1.4 billion, nearly double what economists predicted just a few months ago.

That would be the largest kicker in state history, according to McMullen, dwarfing the \$463 million kicker that taxpayers got back in 2018.

Right now, McMullen said, it looks like the median kicker rebate will be about \$338. For the state's top earners, it will be close to \$14,000.

Republicans leapt to the

defense of the kicker, warning Democrats against dipping into it.

"This constitutionally mandated check on excessive taxation must be honored and not raided for pet projects or to grow the bureaucracy in Salem," said House Minority Leader Carl Wilson, R-Grants Pass, in a statement.

This is the last revenue forecast before the June 30 deadline for lawmakers to pass a state budget. It's important because it tells lawmakers how much money they can spend in the next two years.

Legislative budget-writers have to produce a balanced budget that doesn't spend more money than the state takes in.

"This will be the forecast that sets the stage for the budget for '19 (to) '21," said Chris Allanach, legislative revenue officer.

On Wednesday, key Senate Democrats sig-

naled they will take a measured approach to what Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, described as "a historic windfall."

"It should go to one of the education stability fund, rainy day fund, PERS fund — whatever one of those long-term funds," Hass said. "I think we're going to sock it away."

Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, and Sen. Chuck Riley, D-Hillsboro, said the economic good times won't last.

"Today's forecast is great news regarding the budget situation, but history shows us that the spike will not last," Burdick said in a statement, adding, "We must continue preparing our state to weather an inevitable economic downturn, and we need to be doing that while times are good."

Riley remarked, "We all know there's going to be, eventually — hopefully not soon — a downturn. And

we're going to need those reserves. So I think everything we can get, we should put in reserves — everything that we hadn't planned on."

On the other side of the Capitol and in the governor's office, leading Democrats expressed openness to spending part of the windfall on other priorities, such as affordable housing.

Gov. Kate Brown said the revenue boost "presents a unique opportunity to protect Oregon's future." She suggested using a "substantial" amount of the money to pay down Oregon's public pension debt while also investing in housing, financial aid for college students, Oregon's troubled foster care system and the Oregon State Police.

"We need to approach these unexpected resources prudently," House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, said in a brief statement. "Any use of one-time funds

should be focused on areas of significant need, such as housing and pension debts."

House Republicans credited President Donald Trump and a package of tax reforms a Republican-controlled Congress passed in 2017 for the stronger-than-expected revenue forecast.

Senate Republicans criticized Democrats for voting to levy a gross-receipts tax on businesses, which would collect well over \$1 billion per year, days before state economists rolled out the rosier-than-expected report.

"This serves as another example of the majority party continuing to tax hardworking Oregonians to fill the pockets of big government," Senate Minority Leader Herman Baertschiger, Jr., R-Grants Pass, said in a statement.

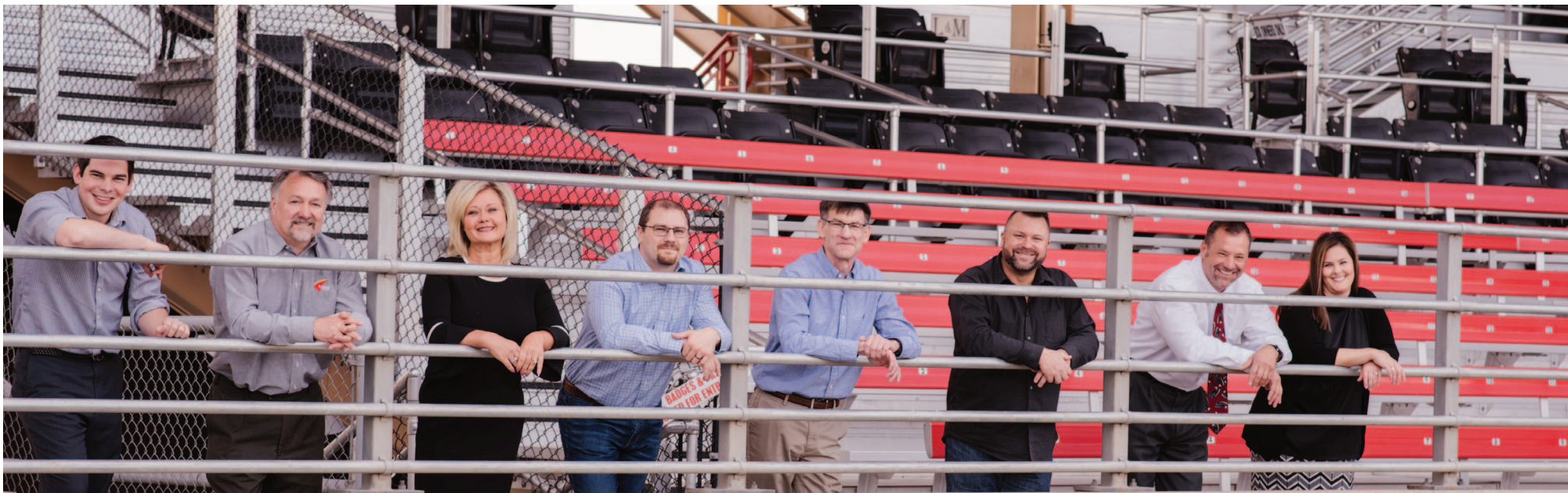
The money from the new tax on businesses would be earmarked for education. Collections would be offset somewhat by cuts to Ore-

gon's personal income tax rates and a proposed expansion of the earned income tax credit.

Baertschiger and his caucus opposed House Bill 3427, which creates the tax and allocates money for education. It passed the Senate Monday, and Brown is expected to sign it into law in the coming days.

Separately, K-12 education will also get a boost because corporate income tax collections have been higher than what economists expected. Under state law, that \$616 million surplus gets "kicked" directly into the state school fund, which distributes state money to Oregon's local K-12 schools.

Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, moved to have the Senate revoke its approval of HB 3427 on Wednesday, arguing that the revenue forecast shows the state already has enough money and the new tax is unnecessary. The motion failed.



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