

EAST OREGONIAN

JUNE 29-30, 2019



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Republican senators to provide a quorum

Enough of the caucus vows to return Saturday morning for two marathon days to vote on as many bills as possible

By AUBREY WIEBER, MARK MILLER AND CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Enough Oregon Republican senators will return to the Capitol for the chamber to do business Saturday.

The announcement was made at a Friday morning news conference in the Senate Republican office.

The Senate will convene at 9 a.m. Saturday, and will have until 11:59 p.m. Sunday to work through as many bills as possible. There are around 120 stacked up waiting for action.

Not all 12 Republican senators will return, but only two are needed to provide a quorum so the body can operate. Senate minority leader Herman Baertschiger Jr. said the majority of them will show up.

There was no immediate response from Senate Democrats or Gov. Kate Brown.

Republicans walked out June 20 to stop a vote on a sweeping environmental proposal that has been in their crosshairs since the first day of session.

“For the next few days, I had nothing but threats — threats from the majority leader, threats from the governor and the speaker,” Baertschiger said Friday. “I had no threats from the Senate president. Yes, the Senate president was upset that we left, reminded me that we had an agreement from the last time we walked, and I reminded him in part of that agreement, that cap and trade would have a reset, and that Senator (Cliff) Bentz, who has worked so hard on this legislation, would actually have a place at the table.”

The terms of the reset were not worked out in detail — something Baertschiger said he now regrets.

“It’s one of those things, when you’re in the room, that we all probably had a little bit different definition of ‘reset,’” he said.

Democrats were not the only ones making threats. Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, made national news last week when he threatened state troopers with lethal violence.

On Wednesday, Boquist warned Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, about sending the police after him if he walks out.

“If you send the state police to get me, hell’s coming to visit you personally,” Boquist said on the floor. When a reporter asked him about it later, Boquist, always

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EO SPOTLIGHT

SAFETY

the first rule of fireworks fun



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Fireworks line tables at the Black Cat fireworks stand in the Fiesta Foods parking lot in Hermiston.

By PHIL WRIGHT, ALEX CASTLE AND JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — Fireworks sellers and firefighters urged safety first when celebrating this Fourth of July with your own fireworks display.

Shawn Penninger, Pendleton assistant fire chief and fire marshal, said residents should only purchase fireworks from local, reputable dealers offering products in accordance with state law. The local vendors go through a state vetting process, he said, and he

and other authorities know what they offer. He also said folks should be mindful of their surroundings.

“It’s unfortunately one of the things some people overlook,” he said.

Fireworks last year set off a small field fire in Pendleton. Penninger compared fireworks to firearms: Once you set them off, you have no control over where they go. That dry pile of leaves over in your neighbor’s yard can go up in flames if your firework lands there or throws hot sparks on it. Worse can happen if the firework lands on a roof or in a home’s gutters.

He also advised against combin-

ing fireworks and setting them off at once because that also creates risks. And fireworks also can cause injuries. While those usually are not life-threatening, Penninger said, they can be life-altering, such as burns to the face or eyes. He also stressed adults should supervise children with fireworks and advised against mixing alcohol and with use of fireworks.

For those in Hermiston, the Black Cat fireworks stand is in the Fiesta Foods parking lot where Lesley Phillips is selling items to raise extra

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New learning center opens the door to industry child care in Boardman

In Boardman, workplace retention and preschool go hand in hand

By JESSICA POLLARD
East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — A new learning center opened its doors earlier this month, helping pave the way for

industry-related child care in Eastern Oregon.

The Boardman Industry Learning Center was formed through a partnership between Boardman businesses, Umatilla Morrow County Head Start, and the Morrow County School District.

The BILC currently accepts three children from employees of each of its industry partners: Three Mile Canyon

Farms, Boardman Foods, Port of Morrow, Lamb Weston, and Tillamook.

“This is new, we haven’t had partnerships with these businesses in a way that blends workforce development with early education. This is a first-time kind of event,” said executive director at UMCHS Maureen McGrath.

Dan Daltoso, associate director at UMCHS, said the project began when

employers in Morrow County heard from workers that child care in the area was scarce.

According to a study out of Oregon State University earlier this year, just 16% of children between the ages of 3 and 5 have access to regulated care in Morrow County.

Currently, the BILC has openings

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