

Safety: First rule of fireworks fun

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money for the family farm. She said safety is “key” to having fun with any type of fireworks product.

She suggested people buy a hollow concrete block — available for about a dollar from Home Depot — to set fountain-type fireworks inside before lighting them off.

“That way they won’t tip over in the wind,” she said.

Other safety tips include mowing and weed-whacking your yard right before the holiday, having a hose at the ready, immediately placing all sparklers into a bucket of water and keeping fireworks clear of flammable items.

“It’s lots of common sense, is basically what it is,” she said.

Phillips said one of the most common types of fireworks injuries was young children grabbing the hot end of a sparkler once it goes out. When parents bring their children in to pick out fireworks she tries to talk to them about safety.

Pendleton residents looking to support a local cause while collecting a variety of fun and colorful fireworks for the Fourth of July have two options in town.

The Pendleton Lighthouse Church is operating two tents across the street from each other along Southwest Court Avenue,



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Fireworks are arranged for sale at the Pendleton Lighthouse Church fireworks stands. The church sells fireworks as a fundraiser to support their school and expansion programs.

one in the parking lot of Rite-Aid and the other in the Walmart lot, in hopes of raising funds for separate projects. Both tents are open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. through July 4.

Cami Satterwhite, a member of the church, is coordinating this year’s sales and helping run the TNT Firework tent in the Walmart lot. She said she has been doing fireworks sales for 10 years but the objective remains the same each time.

“The goal is to not have to pack any of it up,” she said, laughing.

Each tent is connected to different firework companies that supply the products. The group is responsible for setting up and running the tents. When business closes on the night of July 4, the church ships

the remain inventory back to each respective company for them to calculate profits and send back the church’s share.

Due to this process, any stolen fireworks from the tent ultimately cost the church group.

“If people steal, we eat that,” said Shannon Schuette, a church member volunteering in the Western Fireworks tent at Rite-Aid.

To avoid this problem and be in accordance with Oregon law, each tent must have somebody present at all times. That includes overnight, meaning volunteers from the church and school must take shifts sleeping in the tents.

Schuette said the most popular items are the assortment packs, two-for-one deals and those with a green sticker indicating a mark-



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Shannon Schuette monitors the Western Fireworks stand in the Rite-Aid parking lot in Pendleton. The stand is run by the Pendleton Lighthouse Church.

down in price. Whether the fireworks are sparklers, fountains, wheels or poppers, the presentation matters most.

“It’s all about the packaging,” Schuette said, pointing to a container with a unicorn and another named the “cat selfie.”

Schuette has been assisting in selling fireworks on-and-off for the past 20 years and said her personal favorite this year is the assortment backpack, which carries a variety of smaller

fireworks in a transparent bag.

“They’re just so cute,” she said.

Sales from the Rite-Aid lot have been slow since the tent’s opening on Wednesday, Schuette said, while Satterwhite said the sales from Walmart, which opened on Tuesday, have been good so far. Both added sales often pick up and become steady by July 2.

Phillips also raised cautions against crossing state lines to secure mortars and

other types of fireworks that are illegal in Oregon. Those pyrotechnics can leave people open to legal liability and large fines if they light them off in Oregon.

Penninger suggested rather than going out of state to buy “more extravagant” fireworks, locals can take in a Fourth of July fireworks displays.

For more information on fireworks safety, visit: <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Fireworks.aspx>

Walkout: Republican senators to provide a quorum

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fiery, was not at a loss for words.

“Send bachelors and come heavily armed,” he said he’d advised the state police.

Baertschiger refused to condemn Boquist’s words.

“I don’t know what threats you’re talking about,” he said when a reporter asked about the comments. “I know what Senator Boquist said. You got to remember, at that time, there was — a lot of tempers were flaring. Obviously, his statement was not helpful.

“I’m going to say it was definitely not helpful. There has been a lot of things said by a lot of senators on both sides of the aisle when the tempers were flaring. So it definitely was not helpful.”

Courtney gave an interview to reporters for the first time in over a week, but refused to answer substantive questions about the negotiations of the last week.

“The situation is so fragile and delicate that I can’t take a chance that anything appears in print, or on TV or radio ... could in some ways disrupt a situation that is just hanging on,” Courtney said. “I am just hanging on by my fingernails.”

Courtney said there is a limited amount of time to get about 120 bills through.

“It’s been a very difficult time,” Courtney said. “And it’s been very, very difficult. And there’s no trust, lack of trust, there is feelings of betrayal, etc., etc., all of these things are at work with human beings, and that is a tough situation to be in.”

Walking out a second time, severing a deal secured to end a May walkout, was the nuclear option for Senate Republicans. Baertschiger said he at first was against the idea, but he was the only one. He said he had to be talked into walking out by his fellow Republicans.

“My fear is that it could be abused very easily, that every time you don’t get your way, you just walk out,” Baertschiger said of the tactic to deny the Senate a quorum to meet and hold votes. “I think that would be abuse of that. I think our caucus carefully looked at these situations and said our districts had said adamantly they could not survive cap and trade.



Oregon Capital Bureau Photo/Clarie Withycombe
Senate President Peter Courtney addressing reporters Friday on the expected return Saturday of Republican senators.

They were very adamant, and I think you’ve seen that yesterday. So I think that is why the caucus made that decision.”

Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, said it’s a bit more complicated than that. In the weeks leading up to the walkout, no one was in favor, he said.

“It’s absolutely fake to say everyone wanted to walk out,” he said.

But, once HB 2020 came closer to a vote, it became clear Republicans had to do something. Once the bill was “second read” and a third reading and vote was scheduled, it forced their hand, Bentz said.

“At that point, we really had no choice,” he said.

The caucus was united, Bentz said, but Baertschiger was “not enthusiastic” about giving the nod to a second walkout. He eventually came around, and Republicans got the desired result, though Democrats say it’s not because they left the building. During the walkout, Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, announced that he didn’t even have the 16 votes of from the 18 Democratic senators needed to pass the bill.

Baertschiger declared victory anyway.

“Our mission of walking out of this building was to kill cap and trade,” he said. “That’s what our constituents said yesterday. And that’s what we did.”

However, Courtney declared the bill dead Tuesday, and Republicans won’t be back on the Senate floor

until Saturday. They said they didn’t trust that the bill was dead, and they were concerned over some other policy bills.

Baertschiger said he trusts Courtney will play the final two days straight, so Brown doesn’t have to call a special session during the summer to pass budgets.

“We have a constitutional duty to pass all the budget bills, and I hope that the Senate president brings them forth first so we can get that done,” Baertschiger said. “After the budget bills, we have some policy bills left. Some of those are good. I would say most of them are good bills, to be honest with you. There are a handful of bills that we are having a conversation about, but I think a lot of those need an up-and-down vote. I’m confident that we can pass the budget, all the budgets, and we can work through all those policy bills and be out of here by midnight on Sunday. My caucus has told me they are dedicated (to) working through that agenda and having those conversations.”

The policy — House Bill 2020 — will still need action. Because it’s on the “third read” calendar, it has to come up when the Senate reconvenes, either for a direct vote or on decision to return it to a committee to die.

The tension now will be over what remaining legislation get consideration first. Republicans would like to take up budget bills

as they are not controversial and bring money back to their districts.

But Democrats know if they stack the calendar with budget bills, Republicans could walk out before policy bills are taken up. There are several controversial items in the queue. Chief among them is Senate Bill 116.

That proposal would push a potential referendum on a business tax package to fund education to a special election in January, rather than the regular election in November 2020.

Republicans think the tax package on the ballot would energize their base, boosting their candidates up for re-election in November.

Baertschiger said he hopes the Senate can agree to take up budget bills first, and then work through policy bills.

To rearrange the order of bills, the Senate needs Republican support to suspend the rules.

A spokesman for House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, said Friday that he wasn’t sure if the House would suspend the rules to quickly vote on bills that the Senate sends over or bounces back with amendments.

Baertschiger said Friday that Senate Republicans will allow rule suspension on some bills, but not all.

Once the clock strikes 9 Saturday morning, Senators will have 39 hours to pass as much policy as they can.



Staff photo by Jessica Pollard

The Boardman Industry Learning Center is located on 240 N.E. Boardman Ave. in Boardman.

Child care: Workplace retention and preschool go hand in hand

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in its pilot class of up to 20 preschool students in the 3- to 5-year age range. The care provided is year-round and 10 hours a day, at a rate of \$400 a month.

The current maximum monthly state rate for preschool care is \$680.

The BILC is able to keep the costs low with support from the involved businesses, and from the school district.

“It’s the only reason we can provide this high quality at a rate that is affordable to parents,” McGrath said.

In recent years, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has held conferences and roadshows across the nation, declaring child care and early education to be industry issues. In 2017, a report released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation cited a study revealing that 70% of the nonworking poor with children under age 5 cited “taking care of home/family” as their reason for not working.

And while some companies have child care or assistance available to their employees, like Nike, Intel and Microsoft, others don’t.

This spring, Bloomberg reported hundreds of working moms at Amazon began advocating for their workplace to provide backup day care by collecting anecdotal evidence to show that lack of care has caused some women to miss out on high-level jobs. Some women, advocates stated, are even moving on to companies

MORE INFORMATION

Parents who are interested in the BILC can go to www.umchs.com/BILC/ to learn more.

with more parent-friendly policies.

Ryan Neal, manager at the Port of Morrow, said he has noticed an increase of dual-income families in the Boardman area.

“It’s all about employee retention and recruitment for industries and making sure we are able to provide the workforce needed with continuous growth,” Neal said. “We’re just here to help support that effort and try to make it as best as possible.”

Parents enrolling their children in BILC can expect an emphasis on social, emotional, and academic skill-building through activities like family-style eating, play, counting, and vocabulary building.

“A day in the life of a preschooler is a little bit what you see at home,” said Suellen Whitlock, family engagement dDirector at UMCHS. “Being kindergarten ready is not just being able to write your name.”

The BILC pilot will last three years, and organizers hope to eventually see it expand.

“There is quality learning from the moment they step through the doors,” Whitlock said. “It’s such a cool opportunity. I really think Boardman is doing something special.”