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CAP AND TRADE

Dems sink climate bill

Cap and trade's fate was sealed by dissent within Senate Democrats, not fleeing Republicans

By **AUBREY WIEBER**
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — A retired nurse, not fleeing Oregon state senators, doomed Gov. Kate Brown's keystone environmental policy that had been in the works for more than a decade, according to interviews and public records.

When Senate President Peter Courtney announced in June that his chamber didn't have the votes to pass cap-and-trade legislation, the credit for its failure fell to 11 Republican senators and a boisterous Capitol rally by the timber industry.

But state Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, a Gresham Democrat, had already quietly told Courtney she wasn't the expected yes vote supporters had counted on. Her defection meant Courtney couldn't field enough Democratic votes to pass the ambitious legislation.

Her little-known role reveals the power of the lobby and the nitty-gritty of state politics that turns on one-on-one dealings more than public statements and committee hearings.

This account was the result of interviews with Monnes Anderson, other legislators and lobbyists and public records, such as emails and text messages.

Monnes Anderson is a 73-year-old retired nurse who won a House seat in 2000, then moved to the Senate in 2004. She's long been a reliable vote for Democrats, though lobbyists say she also has a reputation for being easily swayed.

"Boeing came to me," Monnes Anderson said. "People think I am easily swayed. I think I am objective and opened-minded about the pros and cons about important legislation."

That reputation made her a political target as the cap-and-trade plan appeared headed for legislative approval.

Democrats had been pursuing the cap-and-trade program for years, acting out of concern that Oregon play a role in reducing greenhouse emissions and finance environmental innovation. Legislation encapsulating the idea had failed in one legislative session after another, but the 2019 Legislature offered hope the plan would finally become law. Brown won re-election in part based on promising to pursue the program and Democrats won enough seats in the House and Senate to push through new laws over the Republican minority.

That didn't mean House Bill 2020 was easy going. An interim committee spent months working up the proposal. During the session, legislators conducted 23 hearings and considered 116 amendments. On June 17, the House passed the measure 36-24 after a floor debate that exceeded six hours.

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EO Media Group buys Bend Bulletin

Winning bid of \$3.65 million beats out-of-state competitors

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The auction lasted 15 minutes Monday and ended with the EO Media Group buying the *Bend Bulletin*.

The \$3.65 million winning bid also covered the price for the *Bul-*

letin's sister newspaper, the *Redmond Spokesman*.

EO Media Group beat two out-of-state competitors, Adams Publishing Group out of Greeneville, Tennessee, and Rhode Island Suburban Newspapers Inc., which did not send a representative to the auction but made almost \$68,000 on the sale.

Heidi Wright, EO Media Group's chief operating officer, said the the company appreciates the opportunity to continue Ore-

gon ownership of the *Bulletin* and *Redmond Spokesman*.

"It's reassuring for the future of community newspapers when a small independent company like EO Media Group can prevail, even when going up against the big companies that are buying up newspapers nonstop around the country," she said.

Western Communications, the *Bulletin's* former parent company, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in January and is selling

all of its assets. EO Media Group bought two of those assets in June at auction — *The Observer* in La Grande and the *Baker City Herald*. The *Bulletin* and *Spokesman* acquisitions bring the company's total number of newspapers and journals to 14. Wright explained why the purchases make sense for the family-owned business.

"First, the vibrant economy of Central Oregon, coupled with

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PRISON PUPPIES



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

EOCI inmate Marquel Dugas plays with one of the puppies in the prison's new whelping program.

Inmates run whelping program

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — From a small room deep inside the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution came sounds of levity.

Inside, 12 inmates sat on the floor, each with a 25-day-old puppy on his lap. They played with the tiny Labrador retrievers, offering toys and grinning at their antics. This dimly lit room became Puppy Central a few weeks ago with the launch of the prison's new whelping program.

The inmates began training older puppies a few years ago to assist veterans and others who have disabilities. Under the guidance of the Salem-based Joys of Living Assistance Dogs, the trainers teach dogs to turn off lights, shut doors, retrieve dropped items, load and unload washing machines and dry-

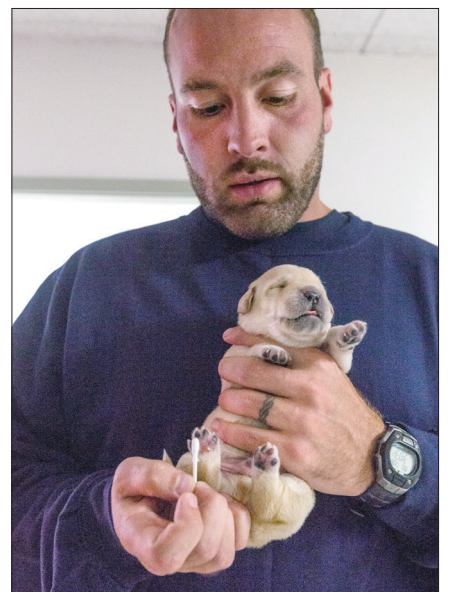
ers and perform other tasks.

In the whelping program, the puppies (a dozen of them) came even earlier, arriving within hours of birth. Their eyes closed, they snuggled together under a heat lamp with their mother, Nala. After a few days, the inmate trainers started something called early neurological stimulation — tickling the puppies' toes with Q-tips, holding them in various positions and using wet heated and refrigerated towels to expose them to heat and cold.

Since Nala has two more offspring than teats, two of the pups get bottles. The inmates track feeding and elimination for each puppy on a white board.

Each puppy wears a different colored collar and the color becomes their name for the next eight weeks.

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Inmate Chris Blackwell rubs a Q-tip across a puppy's pads during a desensitizing session in the prison's new whelping program.

Korean War veterans honored at Pendleton Air Museum

By **ALEX CASTLE**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — When the Korean War ended on July 27, 1953, nine people from Umatilla County had given their lives in service of the U.S. military.

With Saturday marking the 66th anniversary of the armistice, the Pendleton Air Museum held an open house

dedicated to honoring local veterans of the war and preserving their memories.

"We want people to know and remember the sacrifice of our veterans," said the museum's president Chris Sykes.

The open house is one of four the museum holds annually to commemorate the area's veterans and their service during the various wars of Amer-

ican history. On Saturday, the museum invited four local Korean War veterans to talk with and answer the public's questions.


Of those on hand was Ken Garrett, who served from 1951-1955 as an aviation structural mechanic in the Navy.

While spending his Saturday morning at the museum, group leader of Eastern Oregon's Quilts of Valor Anita Zimmerly stopped in to present

Garrett with a special gift. After reading a prepared message, she presented Garrett with a quilt of his own to commemorate his service.

"Thank you," Garrett said, smiling as Zimmerly wrapped the quilt around him. The quilt was made between quilters in La Grande and Pendleton's Marge York.

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