

Purchase: Oregon newspapers remain Oregon-owned

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a fresh start for the *Bulletin* and *Redmond Spokesman*, bodes well for the future of these newspapers," she said. "Second, we believe readers in Central Oregon will support our mission of producing content that is relevant, credible and reflective of the communities we serve."

Kathryn B. Brown, vice president of EO Media Group, credited Bend locals for support.

"We appreciate the assistance of so many in the Bend community who encouraged us to consider the acquisition of the *Bulletin* and the *Redmond Spokesman*, and who were willing to support us in our efforts," she said. "It quickly became clear to our board that these newspapers are an excellent investment for our company, and are a good fit with our operations throughout Oregon."

Bend Mayor Sally Rus-

sell in a letter expressed her personal support for the EO Media Group to prevail.

"Balanced, factual, local reporting is invaluable for the healthy community I am committed to helping grow and thrive," she said. "I believe that among the bidders that have identified, EOMG is the only one that offers the local perspective I feel is so critical. Our city would not be well-served by having our local, daily newspaper controlled by absentee managers of huge conglomerates whose only commitment to our city is financial."

Some Bend supporters provided financial backing, including The Bend Foundation. Trustee Mike Hollern, said the nonprofit views this as a worthy investment in a company with a long history in Oregon delivering valuable news.

"That's a really important part of the whole American dream to have an unbiased

local press," he said.

He also said he could not speak for other investors, but the Bend Foundation does not have an editorial stake in this action.

Steve Forrester, EO Media Group president and CEO, said the purchase marks more than the beginning of a new publishing venture.

"For our family ownership, acquisition of the *Bend Bulletin* also carries emotional and historical meaning," he said. "The friendship between the Chandler family and the Forrester-Bedford-Brown families goes back more than 50 years. Our essential challenge is to bring new life to Bend's storied daily newspaper."

Adams owns more than a hundred small dailies, weeklies and shoppers, including the *Herald & News* in Klamath Falls and the *Lake County Examiner* in Lakeview.

Emily Cureton with Oregon Public Broadcasting

reported Rhode Island Suburban Newspapers Inc., or RISN, owns newspapers in Rhode Island, Arizona and California, and dozens of the businesses use the same address on regulatory paperwork — an office suite in a strip mall in rural Illinois.

Corporate filings show the humble office space is connected to Horizon Publications, a subsidiary of bankrupt conglomerate Hollinger Inc., once one of the largest media companies in the world. Hollinger became infamous in the mid-2000s for the scale and scope of theft committed by its executives, according to OPB. An investigation on behalf of shareholders and submitted to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission found Hollinger executives siphoned more than \$400 million from their companies, largely by collecting fees on bogus non-compete contracts.

That led to fraud convictions in 2007 for Hollinger leaders Conrad Black and F. David Radler. A key Hollinger executive implicated in some of the transactions, Roland McBride, is the vice president of RISN.

According to court documents, RISN negotiated a \$67,500 "break-up fee" with Western Communications to induce RISN to submit a bid within a certain time frame, and RISN as the first bidder "acted as a catalyst or 'stalking horse' to attract higher and better offers" for the Bend newspaper and thus deserves payment for maximizing the sale. The sale proceeds will cover the cost of the fee.

The bidding started with the EO Media Group's \$2.5 million. Wright helmed the company's bidding against Mark Adams, president and CEO of Adams Publishing. RISN sent no one to the auction.

Brown said most of the bids went up in \$50,000 increments, and at \$3.65 million Adams was out and told the EO team congratulations. U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Trish Brown approved the sale during a hearing following the auction. She also gave until Aug. 12 for unsecured creditors to oppose RISN's break-up fee. If no one comes forward, the company collects the money.

The purchase includes the printing press and equipment in Bend but not the building or property. Kathryn Brown said EO Media Group would lease the site for the time being and look for new space. She also said EO Media Group will look at how to fold the Central Oregon papers into the organization and soon will reach out to the employees at the *Bulletin* and *Spokesman*.

Kathryn Brown said they aim to close the deal by the end of August.

Vets: Ken Garrett welcomed call of duty

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"No, thank you," Zimmerly responded as she embraced Garrett in a hug and the museum's volunteers and visitors clapped.

Born in La Grande and now a Pendleton resident, Garrett's service was galvanized by events almost a decade before the Korean War even began.

During the week of Dec. 7, 1941, which also happened to be the week of his 10th birthday, Garrett's world flipped upside down. With both his parents hospitalized, his father for appendicitis and his mother due to a miscarriage, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and propelled the U.S. into World War II.

"We had no idea where Pearl Harbor was," he said. "My father just said it was somewhere in the middle of the Pacific."

But with the opening of the Pendleton Field in 1941, where nearly 2,500 men were stationed and brought to train, Garrett got a front row seat to the mobilizing efforts of World War II and recalls watching when flocks of military personnel went marching through the streets of La Grande. The scenes left an impression on him.

So in 1950 at the age of 19, Garrett signed up for duty. While his mother was wary of him joining the Marines like he wanted, she agreed to him joining the Navy.

Garrett went to train in San Diego before being sent across the Pacific to be stationed in Atsugi, Japan, where he would remain throughout the war and after. There he was responsible for transporting supplies and personnel into the active theater.

After being discharged in 1955, Garrett returned to the Pendleton area and spent most of the next decade working at a sawmill in Pilot Rock. In 1964, he joined the Pendleton Fire Department and worked there until retiring as a captain in 1987.

Since then, Garrett said



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Korean War veteran Ken Garrett holds a book of his Navy experiences adorned with a photo of him at age 21 on the cover. Garrett was on hand during Saturday's Korean War Veteran Open House at the Pendleton Air Museum.

he spends most of his time visiting nursing homes and orphanages along with being a member of Pendleton's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 922. At the VFW, he said he helps each year with the annual Cowboy Breakfast during Round-Up week.

While his days in the Navy are long gone, Garrett has still donned his uniform and cap a few times since. The retired fire captain said he joined the efforts with the city to construct a new building for the fire department by showing up at a city council meeting in his full uniform and voicing his support.

Following the city's approval of the project, Garrett was given a golden shovel at the new building's groundbreaking event.

Raymond Slabik, a corporal during the Korean War who now lives in Pilot Rock, also stopped by the museum on Saturday while wearing his military cap.

"I wear my cap because I put in my time to this country," Slabik said.

Slabik was one of four men drafted out of his hometown in North Dakota during the war. From there, he traveled to Missouri to train before being sent to Korea where he assisted in communications before being discharged in 1953.

He then returned to the U.S. and worked in Montana briefly before moving to Oregon, where he spent time working on telephone lines in Philomath and then settling in Pilot Rock for construction work.

Despite being drafted into service, Slabik said he was never afraid and welcomed the call to duty.

"It didn't bother me any," he said, smiling.

While events like Saturday have gone well and visitors are increasing at the museum according to Sykes, he has a vision to expand its presence.

"What we want is to get into a bigger place," he said. "We've been bidding on and have been offered old airplanes to show, we just don't have anywhere to put them."

The museum opened in its small downtown location in 2017 and Sykes said the museum already owns enough items to display in a space two to three times as large as the current one. But for now, Sykes and the rest of the museum's volunteer staff are dedicated to preserving the area's military history and memorializing its veterans.

The Pendleton Air Museum will next hold an open house event for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Thursday, Dec. 7.

Climate: Anderson put industry first

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Its passage in the Senate was considered inevitable by even some of its most vigilant foes.

Courtney needed just 16 senators to say yes. He had 18 Democrats to work with.

Two Democrats already publicly declared they would vote no — Sen. Betsy Johnson of Scappoose and Arnie Roblan of Coos Bay.

That left Courtney the 16 Democrats he needed to move ahead, but Monnes Anderson in May started voicing concerns, triggering an intense lobbying effort by industry, environmentalists, and the governor's staff. Monnes Anderson was emerging as the critical vote.

Her concern was focused: She didn't want the legislation to hurt a major employer in her urban district, Boeing. Monnes Anderson acknowledged in an interview that she didn't have a great understanding of the dense policy, but was given pause when Boeing approached her with concerns.

Boeing's Gresham factory employs 1,600 workers. The facility gets its electricity from a wholesale supplier rather than a public utility. Public utilities got free allowances in HB 2020, in part because of a state mandate forcing them to move from coal power and also because the state has oversight of them. The state has no way to see how private suppliers rely on clean or dirty energy production, or ensure free allowances would go toward stabilizing energy rates rather than profiting shareholders.

Boeing produced an analysis that determined HB 2020 would increase the Gresham factory's energy costs by \$1 million per year. But text messages acquired by *Salem*

Reporter show when the governor's staff asked for that analysis in an attempt to address the matter, company officials declined, saying it was proprietary information.

Emails between Brown's chief of staff, Nik Blosser, and Boeing representatives show the company shifted its requests as the governor's office tried to placate Boeing — and Monnes Anderson.

Rich White, Boeing's government relations manager, identified in a June 10 email that the company's concern with House Bill 2020 was that its industrial classification wasn't included in the bill. Adding the code assured Boeing it would be included in the program, therefore receiving benefits to lessen the blow of cap and trade. Blosser agreed to add it.

The next day, Boeing's lobbyist emailed Blosser, saying that including the code wasn't enough to get the company on board. The company now insisted that other amendments proposed by industry allies be adopted.

The amendments Boeing asked for would have gutted the program and went far beyond Boeing's initial focus on energy costs.

The change left Blosser befuddled.

"Are you saying now that you don't want the Boeing NAICS code added to the bill through amendment 110? Your lobbyist, JL Wilson, seems to be saying that," Blosser wrote to White. White and Blosser declined to comment.

About that time, Monnes Anderson met with Paige Spence, an Oregon League of Conservation Voters lobbyist.

The senator reiterated what she had said for months, though she never wanted to discuss the policy in detail, and didn't

understand it, Spence said.

"She always said she was going to be a yes," Spence said.

In the version that went to the House for a vote, Boeing got its classification amendment and nothing more.

By then, the governor's office understood that Monnes Anderson had emerged as a pivotal vote in the Senate.

The day the measure passed the House, the Gresham senator met in her office with Blosser to negotiate over what it would take to get her to vote yes. They met again the next morning and then that afternoon.

Opponents to the legislation also recognized that Monnes Anderson had become key to killing cap and trade. On the same afternoon she met with Blosser, Monnes Anderson also met with industry lobbyists Shaun Jillions, Paul Cosgrove and Kevin Campbell. The two Democratic senators already committed to voting no — Johnson and Roblan — sat in as well.

Jillions, a business lobbyist who heads Oregon Manufacturing and Commerce, led industry opposition to the bill and he focused on Monnes Anderson when he heard she was on the fence.

She said she found the industry pressure off-putting.

"I just wanted to be separate from that group," she said of Jillions and his industry associates. Monnes Anderson only recalled one such meeting, but Jillions said they were weekly in June.

Jillions said Monnes Anderson was one of five moderate Democrats in the Senate, along with eight in the House, he had been working for months. The notion that he suddenly turned her against cap and trade is wrong, he said.

Puppies: EOCI prison whelping program benefits both inmates and canines

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Joy St. Peter, of JLAD, travels from Salem each Monday to guide the trainers and check the puppies' progress. She said the early stimulation helps the dogs better tolerate stress and human handling. She knows of only one other whelping program in a prison and it's in Australia.

After 16 days, the trainers begin focusing more on socialization, bringing in inmate volunteers from all around the prison for interaction with the dogs. As each man arrives, he slips off his shoes, rubs on antibacterial hand sanitizer and heads for a mat on the floor for a 15-20 minutes of puppy bonding.

By the time they go into normal training, the pups already know 12 commands,

including sit, stay and heel. Inmates, St. Peter said, gain almost as much as the dogs.

"The benefit to these guys is astronomical," she said.

Inmate Bill Durham smiled at the merry mayhem around the room. He had just finished a feeding session with Brown, who noisily drained the bottle. Durham's job at the prison is listed as "dog trainer," and he arrives to the training room at 6 a.m. and gets off work at 2 in the afternoon. Other inmates drop in throughout the day to help with bottle feeding, cleaning, observing and documenting the pup's behavior. Recently they started feeding the pups a mixture of goat milk and kibble. The animals, which have 24/7 care, are responding to the attention.

"The dogs are bonding to

humans at a lot earlier age than other puppies," Durham said. "They're getting used to us, our different scents, our different ethnicities, hairstyles, facial hair. Being handled so much takes away their fear responses to things like loud noises."

During the socialization session, Nala wandered around the room checking in with each of her pups as they interacted with inmates.

At eight weeks, each pup is assigned a primary and secondary trainer. The dogs sleep in crates in the trainers' cells and go almost everywhere with their handlers. The trainers wear pouches full of kibble and run their dogs through daily drills and obstacle courses. After 18 months, the dogs are matched with their future owners and

training is customized.

Durham said he believes that inmates are the perfect dog trainers.

"Out on the street, people have lives going on. They've got kids, work, lunch dates," he said. "We've got all this time to dedicate to the dogs."

"Outside life gets in the way," St. Peter said. "These guys are very serious about this. The quality of training has just skyrocketed."

The payoff for the inmates, he said, is the chance to give.

"We've all done something in our past that we're not proud of. We were probably very selfish people at one point in our lives," Durham said. "Being responsible for these dogs is teaching us to put something else first. It gives us something to be proud of in prison. For me

to train a dog that gives freedom to the recipient, that's priceless."

One of the trainers, Christopher Blackwell, takes a puppy to the prison's hospice unit twice each day to visit an inmate who is dying. On this day, he had White in his arms as he made his way back across prison grounds from the hospital to the dog room.

"He says it makes his transition easier," Blackwell said. "Every time I bring a dog up there, it brightens his day."

Often as Blackwell carries puppies across the grounds, correctional officers and others will stop him for a little puppy time. Today is no different.

"Hey, Blackwell," called an officer. "Over here."

Blackwell headed over. Janet Yarbrough, office

specialist in the superintendent's office, grinned as she watched the encounter. She said the puppies are a welcome addition to prison life for both inmates and employees.

"On a really rough day, I'll take time to see the puppies," she said. "It's stress reduction."

Anecdotal evidence from other prison programs suggests dogs in prison may lower recidivism, depression and misconduct of inmates. The puppies have the power to transform even in a stressful prison environment, St. Peter said during one of her visits.

"It's such a win, win, win."

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