

Knute Buehler announces run for Congress

By KYLE SPURR
EO Media Group

BEND — Knute Buehler, an orthopedic surgeon who represented Bend in the state House until an unsuccessful run for governor in 2018, announced Tuesday he will seek the Republican nomination for Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District, which includes Umatilla and Morrow counties.

The Congressional seat opened when U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, decided not to seek re-election next year.

Buehler hinted at plans to run for the seat in October, and made it official Tuesday.

“Many Oregonians are tired of being disrespected or ignored by Portland liberals and elite D.C. politicians,” Buehler said Tuesday in a press release. “In Congress, I will defend the values, rights and jobs threatened by the powerful arm of big government. I will be a conservative voice for the people and place I call home.”

Buehler’s announcement comes about a year since he lost the governor’s race to Kate Brown. The 2018 governor’s race was the most expensive in Oregon history.

More than \$35 million was raised between Brown and Buehler. The largest chunk went to television ads, primarily negative attack ads by the candidates on each other that blanketed the state.

Buehler raised and spent more than \$19 million during his campaign for governor. It set a new



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record for a Republican seeking statewide office.

The governor’s race was a rematch. Brown defeated Buehler in the 2012 race for secretary of state. Brown then became governor in February 2015 when Gov. John Kitzhaber resigned amid allegations of influence peddling in his administration.

Buehler said in October he had conversations with people who backed his past campaigns to gauge whether a run for Walden’s seat is a good idea.

The Bend Republican considers himself fiscally conservative, but is more moderate than Walden on social issues, such as abortion and LGBTQ rights. He is pro-choice and a supporter of gay marriage.

The 2nd Congressional District is one of the largest in the country, covering more territory than any state east of the Mississippi River. The district includes all of Eastern and Central Oregon, and much of the southern part of the state.

Walden’s departure leaves the seat up for grabs for the first time in a generation. Walden won the heavily Republican district in 1998 and was re-elected 10 more times, most recently last year. Walden always won with more than 60% of the vote — until Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner of Terrebonne held him to 56% in 2018.

Buehler will face five other Republican candidates for the Congressional nomination. Challengers are State Senator Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario; former State Senator Jason Atkinson; Mark Roberts, former Independent Party nominee for the congressional seat in 2018; Jeff Smith, a computer programmer from Fairview; and Kenneth Medenbach, who was a part of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation in 2016.

Three Democratic candidates have filed to run for the nomination. The candidates are Medford resident John Holm, community organizer Isabella Tibbetts and Raz Mason, a high school teacher from The Dalles.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

A little rain early this morning

Cloudy with a couple of showers

Some sun, then turning cloudy

Mostly cloudy

Mostly cloudy

46° 42°

52° 40°

49° 34°

42° 29°

41° 30°

44° 39°

52° 41°

51° 35°

45° 28°

42° 29°

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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

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Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

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ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.

HIGH

LOW

Yesterday

35°

33°

Normals

39°

27°

Records

67° (1933)

-13° (1972)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.00"

Month to date

0.06"

Normal month to date

0.46"

Year to date

11.64"

Last year to date

8.96"

Normal year to date

11.93"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.

HIGH

LOW

Yesterday

38°

36°

Normals

40°

28°

Records

68° (2014)

-11° (1972)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.00"

Month to date

Trace

Normal month to date

0.52"

Year to date

4.95"

Last year to date

6.97"

Normal year to date

8.99"

WINDS (in mph)

Today

Thu.

Boardman

SW 3-6

SW 7-14

Pendleton

S 6-12

SW 8-16

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today

7:25 a.m.

Sunset tonight

4:11 p.m.

Moonrise today

4:06 p.m.

Moonset today

6:44 a.m.

Full

Last

New

First

Dec 11

Dec 18

Dec 25

Jan 2

Driver, passenger flee pickup just before it was hit by a train

By JAYSON JACOBY
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — Two Baker City residents escaped injury on Friday evening by jumping out of a pickup truck before it was struck by a Union Pacific freight train near Haines.

The pickup was stranded on the train tracks after it became entangled with a truck hauling potatoes.

No one was hurt.

The incident happened around 5:13 p.m. where Pole Line Lane crosses the railroad tracks, just west of Highway 30 about 6 miles north of Baker City.

Tynan Morrison, 17, was driving north on Highway 30, toward Haines, with one passenger, Isaac Furtney, 18, in the 2001 Ford F-250 pickup truck, according to the Baker County Sheriff’s Office.

Furtney said they were following a potato truck that was driving at about 25 to 30 mph.

The potato truck was driven by Donald Richardson, 40, of Nampa, Idaho, according to the sheriff’s office.

After Morrison began to pass the potato truck, the truck started turning left onto Pole Line Road. Furtney said they didn’t see a turn signal.

The potato trailer collided with the pickup, and the two became entangled, according to the sheriff’s office.

Richardson, the potato truck driver, didn’t realize this had happened and continued driving across the railroad tracks, which are just west of Highway 30.

At that point the pickup

dislodged from the trailer on the tracks, but the pickup couldn’t move.

Furtney said they initially saw the lights from the oncoming train, and later heard its horn. They jumped from the pickup what he estimated was 10 to 15 seconds before the train hit the pickup.

Baker County sheriff’s deputies investigated the incident. No citations have been issued.

The sheriff’s office was assisted by Oregon State Police, Baker City Fire Department, Haines Fire Protection District, Baker Rural Fire Protection District, and Oregon Department of Transportation.

No one on the train crew was injured, said Tim McMahon, a spokesman for Union Pacific.

BRIEFLY

Police identify body in storage shed

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Police Department identified the body recently found in a storage unit as 59-year-old Stephen Thomas Slodowski.

Officers responded to Eastern Oregon Storage, 1410 21st St., on Dec. 4 after an employee of the business reporting finding a body in one of the storage units.

The department reported officers worked to notify relatives of Slodowski, who rented the storage in his name and set up living quarters in it. The death investigation also revealed the last time anyone is known to have communicated with Slodowski was Oct. 1.

There is no indication the death was a result of foul play, according to the police department, which forwarded the investigation report to the Union County District Attorney’s Office per normal procedure.

Oregon faith leaders announce initiative petition to regulate some firearms

SALEM — Lift Every Voice Oregon, a group of Oregon faith leaders, filed a pack-

age of initiative petitions with the Secretary of State on Monday hoping to get new gun laws on the November ballot. The group tried to get a ballot initiative banning certain semiautomatic firearms on the ballot in 2018 but were stymied by legal challenges.

The new initiative effort applies to certain semiautomatic firearms. If passed, it would raise the minimum age to purchase those firearms to 21, tighten background check requirements, institute a five-day waiting period on new purchases and ban magazines over 10 rounds.

“We have to get legislation before this state for people to vote on to say ‘Yes, this is not the kind of weaponry we want in our civil society,’” said Reverend Dr. W.J. Mark Knutson, the chair of Lift Every Voice Oregon and pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland.

The group next has to collect 1,000 signatures in order to send the initiative petition to the state Attorney General and Supreme Court for the ballot title and definition. Assuming the petition title is approved, proponents would then need to collect more than 112,000 signatures to put the initiative before voters next fall.

— EO Media Group and wire services

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EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

EastOregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255
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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday,
Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers
Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR.
Postmaster: send address changes to
East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801.
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Single copy price:
\$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday

Circulation Dept.
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