

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020

144th Year, No. 132

WINNER OF THE 2019 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

CORONAVIRUS | BROWN ANNOUNCES RAPID DISTRIBUTION OF PPE TO LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES, A6

HollyJo Beers: A constitutional candidate

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of stories on the candidates for Position 3 on the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners.

By ALEX CASTLE
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — Nothing is more sacred to HollyJo Beers than the U.S. Constitution.

As one of five candidates running in the May 19 primary for the only open seat on the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners, Beers, 66, is promising the nation's

foundational document will guide her as she aims to use her mixture of local and statewide political activism to better represent the voices of Umatilla County.

"I'm not a part of the good ol' boys club, and I'm not a 'yes' man," she said. "I am a constitutionalist. I believe in the Constitution and in protecting the people's rights, and for liberty and justice for all people of Umatilla County."

Though she'll readily acknowledge her minimal experience in



holding elected office, Beers, who resides in Milton-Freewater, has lived in Umatilla County all her life and worked a variety of jobs.

Now retired, in the last five years, Beers has been politically engaged with Umatilla County's chapter of the Oregon Three Percenters, a group she now leads locally that is devoted to resisting infringements on the Constitution by the U.S. government.

In Umatilla County, the Oregon Three Percenters have particularly

petitioned and lobbied for greater protections of the Second Amendment, which Beers claims as essential to protecting the rest.

"Once the Second Amendment goes, you have no way to defend yourself from the rest of them falling," she says.

Nationally, the Three Percenters have been associated with protests against immigrants and refugees, and were notably sympathetic toward Ammon Bundy and the 2016 occupation of the Malheur

See Beers, Page A9

COVID-19 REPORTED CASES*

INTERNATIONAL: 2,479,691

DEATHS: 170,370

UNITED STATES: 746,625

U.S. DEATHS: 39,083

OREGON

POSITIVE TESTS: 1,956

NEGATIVE TESTS: 38,089

TOTAL TESTED: 40,045

DEATHS: 75

UMATILLA COUNTY

POSITIVE TESTS: 27

NEGATIVE TESTS: 497

MORROW COUNTY

POSITIVE TESTS: 5

NEGATIVE TESTS: 60

*as of 5 p.m. Monday, April 20

Sources: Oregon Military Department's Office of Emergency Management, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Worldometer.com

COVID-19 MYTHS

5G mobile networks do not spread COVID-19

Viruses cannot travel on radio waves/mobile networks. COVID-19 is spreading in many countries that do not have 5G mobile networks.

COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks. People can also be infected by touching a contaminated surface, and then their eyes, mouth or nose.

Source: World Health Organization

Exposing yourself to the sun or to high temperatures does not prevent COVID-19

You can catch COVID-19, no matter how sunny or hot the weather is. Countries with hot weather have reported cases of COVID-19. To protect yourself, make sure you clean your hands frequently and thoroughly, and avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

Source: World Health Organization

Oregon faces steep drop in income taxes

State likely to require billions in federal aid

By PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Even as a legislative panel prepares this week to draw from the state's emergency fund, Oregon faces a steep drop in income taxes that the state government relies on to aid schools and to pay for services, and the state may need federal help.

Estimates of tax losses are still being developed. But Oregon and all other states are likely to require billions in federal aid that may dwarf the amounts given during the Great Recession a decade ago — and far more than Congress has approved so far to counter the economic downturn prompted by the coronavirus pandemic.

While Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden and the Democratic majority in the U.S. House have made aid to states a priority, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says it's more likely such aid will take a backseat to replenishing federal help for small businesses, which already have exhausted the \$350 billion Congress made available for them.

Wyden was more optimistic. "We are trying to work out an agreement to address all of these issues," he said.

But one expert said Congress will have to do more for states.

"States face massive budget shortfalls that will be more severe than they saw during the Great Recession," said Michael Leachman, senior director for state fiscal research for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a progressive-leaning think tank.

"Those cuts will make an already-weak economy even weaker and will hurt families

See Taxes, Page A9



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Kevin Anderson plays on his guitar in the basement of his Pendleton home on Monday afternoon. Anderson was in Las Vegas two-and-a-half years ago when a gunman opened fire on music fans at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival, killing 58 and wounding hundreds.

Finding peace

Pendleton man coming to grips with trauma of Las Vegas shooting

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Kevin Anderson knows trauma.

The Pendleton man worked as a first responder for 30 years and was in Las Vegas two-and-a-half years ago when a gunman opened fire on music fans at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival. In an instant, Anderson and his wife, Elaine, went from happily listening to country singer Jason Aldean to diving for cover.

The barrage of gunfire killed 58 people and wounded

hundreds. SWAT officers swarmed the nearby Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino and found the shooter, Stephen Craig Paddock, 64, dead in his 32nd-floor hotel room with a cache of rifles and ammunition.

"We heard what sounded like fireworks," said Elaine, a senior mortgage loan officer at the Guild Mortgage Company in Pendleton. "Everyone started dropping."

Elaine and Kevin tended to off-duty California police officer Michael Gracia, who was shot in the head, and his fiancé, Summer Clyburn, who had a bullet in her back. Kevin

got Gracia to a car and Elaine helped Clyburn into an ambulance. Kevin returned multiple times to help others.

Since the concert, Kevin has struggled. He tried therapy, but had trouble opening up. He felt anxious.

"It keeps you hypervigilant," he said. "I was constantly surveilling. I felt terrified going to the mall or the movie theater."

Six months ago, he retired as an emergency medical technician and regional communications director for American

See Peace, Page A9

Can Oregon's Hells Canyon get any hotter?

Editor's note: Fifteen years ago, the East Oregonian and its sister publications at EO Media Group published a landmark series of stories on climate change. This month we begin a new series, Climate Changed, that will revisit many of the sources we talked with then and look at what has happened in the intervening time.

By STEVE TOOL
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Hells Canyon, North America's deepest gorge, may have Oregon's most diverse climate. In just a few miles the elevation can change by 7,000 feet, morphing from dry, rocky desert along the Snake River to snow-laden alpine

peaks in the Wallowa Mountains.

Pat Matthews, current ODFW district wildlife biologist overseeing the region, is skeptical that climactic changes are having a significant effect on the specialized ecosystem. He has decades of experience in the region, and he's not seeing big changes in the canyon.

"You hear a lot about climate change in the news, but as far as what we're seeing on the ground right here in Hells Canyon ... we're just not seeing any kind of changes yet," he said.

Matthews said he "provided quite a few comments for our draft man-



agement plan that probably are contrary to a lot of the other biologists' opinions," noting that he agreed behind the science of climate change modeling, but noted "you have to be able to verify that model on the ground and see if what the model tells you is really happening."

"We haven't been able to see any difference," he said. "I mean the last three winters have been terribly hard. ... To think that things are warming up or changing that way — it's just not happening here."

But Jim and Holly Akenson, wildlife biologists who worked for ODFW in Hells Canyon for years, see the beginning of significant

change. That is especially significant in the canyon's higher elevations, where small climactic variations can have major effects.

Holly Akenson, who currently serves on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission, said it's hard to notice climate change effects on animals day-by-day and year-by-year. She said that in the higher elevations on both sides of the canyon, increasing temperatures have led to a reduction in the alpine biome. That affects animals specialized for that ecosystem.

"Species like pikas are affected because they could get isolated on a smaller area," she said. "They need deep snow cover in the win-

See Canyon, Page A9



7 294671 10002 2