

HOUSE DISTRICT 58

Bylenga to face Levy in November

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian



Bylenga



Levy

PENDLETON — Nolan Bylenga came from behind on Tuesday night to win the Democratic primary for House District 58.

He finished the night with 53% of the vote against Barbara Wright, who received 45%. Wright won the vote in Union and Wallowa counties and was initially ahead, but a surge of votes from Umatilla County put Bylenga in the lead later in the evening.

Bylenga, a 22-year-old Portland State University senior and Pendleton High School alumnus, will face Bobby Levy, an Echo farmer and president of the Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition, in the general election in November.

Levy ran unopposed for the Republican nomination for the seat currently held

by Republican Greg Barreto of Cove, who is retiring from office at the end of his term. Statewide, Levy received 37 write-in votes against her out of 9,437 votes.

Bylenga said he knows that his youth probably counted against him in the race against Wright. During the primary, he said, he was focused on getting voters to take him seriously as a candidate who has experience lobbying in Salem as part of his work to earn his political science degree. Now, he hopes to talk about the issues as he faces off

with Levy.

"I want to be excited, but I also know there's a lot of work to do in the general," he said of his win.

The legislative seat hasn't been won by a Democrat since 1996, but Bylenga said even though that is his party affiliation, in some cases he has common ground with Eastern Oregon Republicans.

"Like cap and trade — personally, I'm not a big fan of that, even though I'm part of the Democratic Party," he said.

Levy said she was looking forward to continuing her campaign and listening to the concerns of voters, including some one-on-one interactions with people as stay-at-home restrictions begin to lift. She said she will continue to be passionate about finding ways to ease the tax burdens on Oregonians, and she is hon-

ored to be able to continue on to November.

"It's been an incredibly humbling experience to see how many people voted, and how many people voted for me," she said.

House District 57

Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, didn't have a primary challenger for his seat representing House District 57, but he will face off with a Democratic opponent in November.

Smith received 99% of the vote as he ran unopposed to keep the seat he has held for 10 terms after being elected in November 2000. This is the first time he has had a Democratic opponent since 2010.

He will run against Roland Ruhe, a Democrat from Irrigon who owns a construction business. Ruhe ran unopposed in the primary.

Celebrating 90



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Sharron Reis, 90, waves from the window of Avamere at Hermiston during a drive-thru birthday party in her honor on Tuesday afternoon.

SENATE DISTRICT 29

Hansell beats primary challenger

Athena senator receives 92% of the vote in east win

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — State Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, survived a primary challenge on Tuesday night, but still has to face off against a Democratic challenger in November.

Hansell, who is in his eighth year of office, received 92% of the vote in the Republican primary against Garison Lee Alger, a Pendleton carpenter. On the Democratic side, Mildred O'Callaghan of

Joseph ran unopposed, sweeping up 97% of the vote.

Hansell said he was "gratified" by Tuesday's wide margin of victory.

"Whenever you throw your hat in the ring, you're always very pleased when it's chosen," he said.

As he looks forward to November, Hansell said he remains focused on issues surrounding agriculture, water, timber and other natural resources important to such a heavily agricultural district. He



Hansell

said he is already hearing reports of bills planned for 2021 that would "greatly affect" farmers' work, and he is anxious to be able to address those in the next legislative session.

He also said he was pleased to hear of his former colleague Cliff Bentz's victory in the Republican primary for Congressional District 2, and, if both men win in November, looks forward to working with him in a new capacity.

Hansell's Democratic challenger, O'Callaghan, acknowledged Wednesday that it would be tough for a Democrat to win District 29, but she said she wanted

to see Democrats provide more opposition to Republicans in red counties, and to spark increased voter turnout for Democrats in November, when a presidential election is on the line.

"I was disappointed in the Democratic turnout," O'Callaghan said of Tuesday's primary. She added, "My concern is trying to get more Democrats to be energetic in the general."

She said in the coming months she will also be concerned with encouraging businesses in Wallowa County and the rest of the district to follow proper protocols to try to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

MORROW COUNTY

Bailey Cave, Papineau advance in treasurer race

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

MORROW COUNTY — The races for county positions in Morrow County were all close on Tuesday night, meaning top vote-getters will have to run off against each other again in November after failing to receive more than 50% of the vote.

Sabrina Bailey Cave came in first in the race for treasurer, with 30.6% of the vote, while only 16 votes separate Jaylene Papineau and Erik Patton in unofficial results released Tuesday night. Papineau edged out Patton with 684 votes to his 668, sending her into a runoff with Bailey Cave in November.

Bailey Cave, who is running for office for the first time, said the experience has been an educational one, and she enjoyed waiting for results on election night.

"It was pretty exciting," she said.

Morrow County's voter turnout stood at 47% for the election, but Bailey Cave said she was disappointed it wasn't higher, particularly since several races were so close. The treasurer's race, which stood



Bailey Cave



Diehl

alone on the back of the ballot for Democratic ballots, had more than 300 undervotes — significantly more than the other races — and she wondered if some voters forgot to turn over their ballot.

She said she had hoped that if she didn't make the cut to compete in November, Papineau would, so she is looking forward to a good race between the two of them.

In the race for judge for the Morrow County Justice Court, incumbent Glen Diehl ended up with 42.2% of the vote. He will face off in the November general election against Theresa Crawford, who received 39.7%. With a third-place finish at 17.8%, Kelly Doherty will not be on the ballot again in November.

Diehl was appointed as Justice of the Peace in November 2019 after the retirement of Judge Annetta Spicer.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Man charged with vehicle theft after turning himself in

IRRIGON — A man was arrested Monday after turning himself into the La Grande Police Department and confessing to stealing a vehicle from Western Alfalfa in Irrigon, according to Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Gregory Carl Rogers, 46, and he was arraigned on four charges, including one count of second-degree burglary and one count of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, which are both felonies.

Rogers is also charged with second-degree criminal mischief and trespassing.

Matlack said his department was first contacted on May 16 about a 2014 Chevrolet Silverado that was stolen from Western Alfalfa on Patterson Ferry Road.

The next day, Morrow County was contacted by La Grande police about a man

who had turned himself in and confessed to the crime. Rogers told police he left the vehicle somewhere on Interstate 84 between Ontario and Huntington, Matlack said, and Oregon State Police located the vehicle and are arranging to return it to the owners.

Matlack said Rogers allegedly cut a chain and damaged a shop door in the process of the theft.

Rogers is currently being held at the Umatilla County Jail in Pendleton on \$40,000 bail. He is scheduled to appear for a probable cause preliminary hearing on May 26.

Hermiston Budget Committee meeting on YouTube Live

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Budget Committee will review the city's 2020-21 proposed budget at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

The meeting will be

accessible on the city's YouTube channel and through the Amazon Chime phone platform.

The budget committee is responsible for reviewing the proposed city budget and making recommendations to the city council, which will vote in June on whether to adopt the budget for the upcoming fiscal year beginning on July 1.

The proposed budget includes funding for city departments and projects. Once approved, it becomes the policy document to implement the goals and objectives of the elected city council. State and local policy requires an annually balanced operating budget before funds can be spent.

The city council will review the proposed budget at its regular meeting on June 8, and public comment will be accepted at that time. To view the proposed budget, as well as previous budgets, visit www.hermiston.or.us/finance/budget.

—EO Media Group

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