

# Bailey's Bill passes Oregon Senate unanimously

**Bobby Levy to shepherd bill through committee hearings in House**

By **KATHY ANEY**  
East Oregonian

SALEM — The Oregon Senate voted unanimously on Monday, April 12, to pass Bailey's Bill.

The bill, named for Weston-McEwen High School student Bailey Munck, increases penalties for criminal sexual contact with an underage victim if the offender was the victim's teacher. If approved by the House and signed by Gov. Kate Brown, the legislation fixes a discrepancy. Currently, a coach convicted of sexual

abuse in the third degree receives harsher penalties than a teacher who commits the exact same crime.

Munck, now 17, testified on March 25 to the Oregon Senate's judiciary committee, telling of sexual abuse in 2019 during a volleyball road trip by Andrew DeYoe, an English teacher and also a scorekeeper for the volleyball team. DeYoe, 31, after pleading guilty to harassment that included sexual touching, spent a night in the Umatilla County Jail and will serve five years probation. He wasn't required to register as a sex offender.

If DeYoe had been a coach, he might have been convicted of a Class C felony, a crime that carries sentences up to five years in prison



Hansell



Levy



Primus

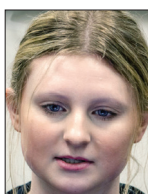


Taylor

and a \$125,000 fine.

John Bartron, retired Weston Middle School teacher and athletic director, convinced Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, to consider sponsoring legislation that would close the gap between coaches and teachers. Hansell researched the idea and officially sponsored the bill along with Sen. Kathleen Taylor, D-Milwaukie. Hansell asked

Munck for permission to name the bill after her.



Munck

On April 12, Bartron watched the vote on his laptop from Pendleton. As roll call proceeded, he watched the lights next to each senator's name turn green one by one and soon realized the vote was unanimous.

"I was elated and had goose bumps from head to toe," Bartron said.

A text from Bailey arrived almost immediately. Three hearts.

The teen had watched the vote from Athena while on a break at the Sugar Shack where she works. At first nervous, she started feeling more confident when Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, began speaking in favor of the bill. Prozanski, the chair of the Senate's judiciary committee, had initially shown doubts during the committee hearing while questioning Umatilla District Attorney Dan Primus about the current law.

"When (Prozanski) got up there, I started feeling more confident," Munck said. "The vote was cool to watch. The lights lit up green one by one. I kept waiting for one to be red and there wasn't."

She returned to work "smiling from ear to ear."

Hansell praised his colleagues for their unanimous 28-0 vote on Senate Bill 649. Two senators, Sen. Dallas Heard and Sen. Chuck Thomsen, were absent.

"This was huge," Hansell said. "This is a common-sense bill that will protect our kids. Bailey has courageously told her story, now it's time for us to act so that she can get justice. Those in positions of influence over our kids need to be held accountable when they violate their trust. I urge my colleagues in the House to pass this bill."

Hansell said Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, will shepherd the bill through committee hearings on the House side.

## Pendleton pitched on using stimulus for Western expansion

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton's cut of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act hasn't dropped into its account yet, but the city's various tourism interests were already ready with a presentation.

Dubbed "Pendleton Comes Alive," the plan called for the city to use \$250,000 from Pendleton's federal stimulus payment to boost the local tourism industry. Led by Pendleton Economic Development Director Steve Chrisman, including representatives from the Pendleton Convention Center, the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce and the Pendleton Round-Up Association, the group thinks it can help the city's tourism recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by creating new initiatives like horse and buggy rides and sending people dressed in Western garb downtown to interact with tourists.

Addressing the Pendleton City Council at a Tuesday, April 13, meeting, Chrisman said one of Pendleton's shortcomings with tourism is that it didn't offer many of the Western experiences people are familiar with during Round-Up week.

"For one week a year we underpromise and overdeliver the greatest show on grass," Chrisman's slideshow states. "For (11 and 3/4) months per year, we grossly overpromise and grossly underdeliver."

Chrisman and the group's solution for this "horrible injustice" was to expand Pendleton's offerings during high-tourism months in spring and summer. Besides the buggies and the Western actors, some of the ideas that would be introduced include adding regular bar hours at the Pendleton Underground Tours speakeasy and the Let'er Buck Room, placing six covered wagons around town, and holding guided tours of the Round-Up Grounds.

Once these concepts were put into place, the group anticipated bringing in 54,000 new visitors to Pendleton by Year 5.

Chrisman said the \$250,000 would be a one-time investment, with the new concepts funded by eventually charging for some of the services and the revenue that would be generated from new overnight stays via the city's lodging taxes.

"This is going to seem like a tiny sum if it accomplishes even a fraction of what I think it's capable of

accomplishing," Chrisman said.

The council seemed receptive to the group's pitch, but didn't fully commit to the project's price tag.

City Manager Robb Corbett praised the group's efforts while also going over some of the less flashy options that were on the table.

Corbett said the general fund — the pot of money that funds services like police, fire and parks — has shrunk in recent years, and the city could use the stimulus to help shore it up.

Additionally, the city had millions of dollars worth of deferred maintenance on city facilities, including critical repairs at the Vert Auditorium and at the Pendleton Aquatic Center.

Councilor Dale Primmer liked the idea of stabilizing the general fund, pointing out that the region's increasingly erratic weather had put Pendleton through multiple emergencies.

"We have to sit on some capital to deal with these emerging situations," he said.

Ultimately, the council liked the idea of investing its \$1.7 million in tourism, infrastructure and the general fund, but it didn't commit firm dollar amounts to these priorities.

## Hermiston to take additional time to mull senior housing proposal

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston city councilors asked for more time to think over a proposal for a new senior living development after the plan was met with opposition from existing assisted living facilities during the council's Monday, April 12, meeting.

Representatives of Guardian Angel Homes and Sun Terrace Hermiston told the council they are struggling to fill rooms and staffing positions at their facilities, and questioned why the city would give away land to incentivize building more facilities.

"I don't think there's a need," said Matt Frantz, whose family owns Guardian Angel Homes.

The idea was first presented to the city council in August 2020, when the council gave staff the green light to put out a request for proposals for a senior living project on a piece of property on Northwest 11th Street.

The city purchased the 20-acre parcel, known as the Green Property, in 2005 for \$420,000. The plan was to use the property, which is adjacent to the city's recycled water treatment plant, to detour recycled water through the property before returning it to the Umatilla River, in order to lower the water's temperature first. But tests of the idea didn't work as well as expected and the idea was abandoned.

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan told the council that given a number of challenges with the property, and the fact the city had demolished a home and

outbuilding after purchasing it, it was unlikely the city could recoup its entire investment if it put the land up for auction. If someone did buy it at auction, he said, they would likely build a single home on it, which would not add much to the tax base.

Morgan's proposal, then, was to give away approximately 8 acres of the property, on the far side from the treatment plant, to a developer who promised to build some sort of housing for seniors on the property. He calculated that if such a development went in, the city would gain more than \$3 million in property taxes and utility revenue over the next 20 years.

He said additional senior living would make sure there was space for aging Baby Boomers as they needed it, and allow local professionals with aging relatives needing care to stay in the area. He said the development would also create jobs, both directly and through increased need for services, such as dental care.

Any agreement would have a "clawback" clause in which the city could take back the property if the development wasn't built in the specified time frame or wasn't used for senior living for at least 25 years.

The city put out a request for proposals for such a development, and a committee of two city councilors, staff and a planning commission member selected a proposal from Paradigm Compass LLC, a partnership between two Oregon investment firms that both have a history of building and managing

senior living projects in Oregon.

One of the recent projects the partnership completed together is Juniper Springs, completed in Redmond in 2018. The 7-acre site includes 60 assisted living units, 24 memory care units and 12 independent living cottages. Paradigm Compass's proposal for the Hermiston site includes the same mix of units on the same size of property, and would be staffed by 50 full-time positions.

"This was very, very similar to our site," Morgan said.

Christopher Looney, one of the partners in Paradigm Compass, said the company hires a third-party firm with expertise in the senior living market to conduct a market study before building any project. The analysis helps the company decide whether the project will be profitable, and is used to acquire the required certificate of need from Oregon Department of Human Services.

"We did have a market study conducted for Hermiston. It was conducted in October of last year, and it did show adequate demand in the market," he said.

After councilors had time to listen to all of the presentations and comments and to ask questions, Councilor Nancy Peterson said she wanted time to absorb the information and further consider the data shared from both sides about the need for senior living in Hermiston.

Other councilors agreed, and voted 6-1 to table the decision to declare 7.18 acres of the Green Property surplus until their April 26 meeting.

### LOCAL BRIEFING

#### BMCC sets timeline for presidential search

PENDLETON — If everything goes according to plan, Blue Mountain Community College will have a new president by July.

At a Wednesday, April 7, meeting, the BMCC Board of Education approved a timeline to replace former President Dennis Bailey-Fougner. Citing his health, Bailey-Fougner resigned in February after a little less than two years on the job. The board subsequently appointed former Tillamook Bay Community College President Connie Green as the interim president.

BMCC is hiring Gold Hill Associates for \$29,000 to help conduct the search. Gold Hill, which has conducted presidential searches for BMCC in the past, has conducted more than 150 searches for community colleges in 26

states, including work for 11 colleges in Oregon.

From April 15 to May 21, Gold Hill will begin their recruitment process as the position is advertised online and in various publications. After a BMCC search committee reviews applications, the committee will hold a first round of interviews in late May and early June.

On June 3, the committee will select finalists, who will travel to Pendleton for on-campus interviews from June 7-9. The board is then expected to spend June and July selecting a final candidate, negotiating a contract and announcing their decision to the public.

Jane Hill, the chair of the board, said BMCC designed the process to involve as many different stakeholders as possible.

"I feel like this is a robust public process," she said.

Hill said the search committee is sending out a

survey to stakeholders asking them what kind of qualities they want to see in the next president. And once finalists are chosen, she said BMCC will host a series of public forums so that locals have a chance to give their input.

Three seats on the BMCC board are up for election in May, and with board members Heidi Van Kirk and Tony Turner retiring, there will be at least two new members on the board once they take office in July.

Although the board will choose a new president around the same time it's onboarding new members, Hill said she's confident BMCC's process will lead to a fair outcome and a smooth transition.

— EO Media Group

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