

**WILDHORSE POW WOW
CANCELED DUE TO SHARP
SPIKE IN COVID-19 CASES**

REGION, A3

**SAM JENNINGS
INVESTS IN HIS FUTURE
WITH NEW JAVELIN**

SPORTS, B1

EAST OREGONIAN

MAY 15-16, 2021

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LOCAL ELECTIONS 2021

Raising cash to run a campaign

School board candidates bring in thousands of dollars for school board races

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — It may pale in comparison to the money raised for statewide or federal campaigns, but candidates in local school board elections are raising cash to get their name out ahead of the Tuesday, May 18, election.



Anderson Hansell

Given that most school boards races were uncompetitive in past years, even first-time candidates would often forgo fundraising on their way to certain victory. While many candidates are still choosing to run low or no-cost campaigns, a few candidates are collecting thousands of dollars to secure a seat on a board.



Gregg

In Hermiston, Position 4 incumbent Brent Pitney is slightly outpacing his challenger, attorney Sally Anderson Hansell, as of Friday, May 14.



Pitney

According to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, more than 90% of Pitney's campaign contributions have come from two sources: Knerr Construction, his employer, and Goller Health Insurance Agency, a Hermiston business owned by Hermiston School Board Chair Josh Goller.



Sherman



Spencer

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Rarely used House rule saves Bailey's Bill

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

SALEM — Members of the House Judiciary Committee dusted off a seldom-used rule this week to force a hearing for Bailey's Bill.

Officially named Senate Bill 649, Bailey's Bill increases penalties for criminal sexual contact with an underage victim if the

offender is the victim's teacher. Currently, a coach convicted of sexual abuse in the third degree receives harsher penalties than a teacher who commits the exact same crime. The legislation is named for Weston-McEwen High School student Bailey Munk, who 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 scorekeeper for the volleyball team.

Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, and Sen. Kathleen Taylor, D-Milwaukie, introduced and shepherded the bill through the Senate. Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to send the bill to the full Senate,

where it was passed without opposition. The bill then headed to the House, where it seemed a legislative slam dunk.

This week, however, committee chair Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Clackamas, indicated she likely wouldn't be scheduling a hearing for the bill, essentially stopping its

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COVID-19

'It just makes no sense'

Umatilla County officials question Gov. Kate Brown's funding decisions

By BRYCE DOLE
East Oregonian

SALEM — Fifteen Oregon counties that fell to the extreme coronavirus risk category for less than a week earlier this month will receive funding from Gov. Kate Brown's \$20 million pledge to support local businesses.

Umatilla County was not one of these counties. Since it was only at high risk at the time, the county will not be receiving a dollar, despite remaining under the state's most stringent lockdown measures longer than almost any county in Oregon due to high infection rates throughout the pandemic.

Now, officials are criticizing the state's move, arguing that county businesses deserve the financial support.

"I am beyond frustrated and upset," said Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer, who sent a letter signed by the three county commissioners to Brown's office on Thursday, May 13, denouncing the governor's move.

"Where is the equity here?" the letter said. "Since day one of this pandemic, Umatilla County has been hit harder than any other county in the state. Our small businesses, many of which are minority owned, may never recover from this. Imagine the benefits they would enjoy if they had an opportunity to share in the \$20 million."

The 15 counties dropped to extreme risk on April 30. Under mounting pressure from business groups and lawmakers statewide, Brown moved to fund local businesses impacted by the restrictions. Then, on May 4, the restrictions were



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Tables sit empty outside of The Prodigal Son in Pendleton on Aug. 7, 2020, as the restaurant and others throughout Umatilla County were forced to close dine-in seating as the county returned to baseline precautions in an effort to quell the spread of COVID-19.

lifted as COVID-19 hospitalization rates slowed statewide.

In a Tuesday, May 11, press conference, Brown confirmed that the state will continue forward and fulfill its promises to fund those counties.

Umatilla County was at high risk at that time, where it remains, so it did not receive funding.

An inequitable proposal

The county's businesses have been largely shut down under restrictions like the initial lockdown, Phase 1, the pause, the "two-week freeze" and the extreme risk category for a total of 181 days since the pandemic began, according to documents from the Umatilla County Health Department. That's because the county

consistently reported one of the highest testing positivity rates statewide since the pandemic began, according to state data.

Only one county, Multnomah County, has been under the same level of restrictions for longer. Two other counties, Josephine and Marion, have been under the restrictions for the same amount of time, documents show.

But each of those counties fell briefly to extreme risk in Brown's last assessment. Josephine County, with nearly 9,000 more people than Umatilla County, will receive more than \$712,000 for the brief stint in extreme risk, according to county documents showing funding to the 15 counties. Marion and Multnomah

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Four named to Hall of Fame

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — This year's list of inductees to the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame has an air of déjà vu.

Last year, the hall of fame announced four honorees — three humans and a horse. They included former Round-Up champion Butch

Knowles, longtime volunteer Jack Shaw, the late Mary Hines, and a horse named Badger.

Normally, the inductees are treated like royalty during Round-Up week. They ride in the Westward Ho! Parade and are honored at an annual banquet. But last year was anything but normal.

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Badger, a quarter horse gelding owned by Cydney Curtis and the late Heather Corey, is one of four inductees into the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame. Badger has an extensive background in carrying Round-Up queens, princesses, presidents, directors and Hall of Fame inductees.

Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame/Contributed Photo

NEED 40% MORE UMATILLA COUNTY RESIDENTS TO GET VACCINATED

UMATILLA COUNTY As of 5/13/2021

CHI St. Anthony Hospital
www.sahpendleton.org

25% → 65% When reached Remain at "Lower Risk"