

## COVID-19:

Continued from Page A1

will each receive millions of dollars because of their large population.

“Because we were not in (extreme risk) for that one three-day window, they don’t get any of the money,” Shafer said of county businesses. “I think they deserve some money for having their doors shut down for longer than anybody else. I’m not trying to take money away from those counties that are getting the money. I’m very happy for those restaurants, and I’m sure I’ve eaten at many of them. However, that doesn’t mean our restaurants don’t deserve a piece of that funding either.”

Other counties that were under the state’s strictest measures for far less time than Umatilla County will receive funding from Brown’s recent move. Grant County, for instance, will receive more than \$243,000 for the few days it spent in extreme risk. The county was locked down under the state’s strictest measure for just over half the time that Umatilla County was, documents show.

“It makes no sense,” Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock said. “It’s inequitable. I can’t understand the reason. We’ve asked the question and all we get is, ‘That’s just the way it is.’”

### Additional \$20M to assist counties with first doses

When the *East Oregonian* asked Brown in the May 11 press conference

this week to explain further, and to respond to officials’ claims that the state was ignoring areas where restrictions have plagued businesses longest due to high case rates, Brown did not answer directly, but said “the move to extreme risk was because of a maximum capacity because of hospital beds and because of health care workers.”

“I wanted to make sure we got money out the door as quickly as possible to help our small businesses in those counties,” the governor added.

Brown then spoke of the efforts the state is making to “make sure they have the resources they need to rebuild and recover and to create a more just and equitable Oregon,” but did not provide specifics.

The state will soon allocate another \$20 million to assist individual counties vaccinating 65% of residents with their first dose — a new benchmark Brown set earlier this week that would allow counties to move to lower risk, permitting restaurants, bars, gyms and indoor entertainment establishments to operate at half capacity.

“I think they originally thought that (extreme risk) was going to last a lot longer than that. And all of a sudden, it didn’t,” Murdock said. “So when they opened up after three days, I think it could have been appropriate for them to have revisited how they distributed the money. I think they could have shared some of that money with the counties that were hardest hit, like ours.”

## Cash:

Continued from Page A1

Appointed to the board in 2018, Pitney said this was his first time running a campaign and he was glad to have financial support to do it.

“I quickly realized that campaigning isn’t cheap,” he said.

Pitney has reported spending only \$820 so far, directing his money toward the purchase of campaign signs and banners. Additionally, Pitney said he’s spent money on radio ads.

The \$2,610 in contributions to Hansell’s campaign is more diffuse, her campaign lists several donors who have given her \$100 or less.

Hansell said she started her campaign account because of the outpouring of support she received from friends and community members after filing to run for Position 4. With supporters asking how they could contribute, she opened the account.

Hansell has also attracted contributions from the politically connected Bounds family, whose roots are in Hermiston.

Tucker Bounds, a communications director for John McCain’s 2008 presidential campaign, and Hillary Bounds, the deputy general counsel of a company associated with billionaire Bill Gates, both contributed \$500 each. Hansell said Bounds’ mother, Karen Bounds, is a retired Hermiston educator and the whole family is friends with her family.

Other named donors include Michael Mehren of Hermiston and Rebecca Nickels of Portland.

Hansell has also spent sparingly, reporting only \$820 in expenditures as of May 14. She said she’s spent money on mailers and campaign material for voters.

Although her opponent, Caitlin Melhorn, is no longer campaigning, Position 6 incumbent Karen Sherman still has an active campaign account. Sherman’s sole contribution is \$1,500 from her husband, Ric Sherman, and she hasn’t reported spending any money.

Sherman said she started the account under the impression that she had an active opponent, and even

spent some money that hasn’t been posted to her account yet. But although Melhorn’s name is still on the ballot, she’s indicated that her time commitments conflicted with her campaign, causing her to stop seeking the seat.

“It’s kind of confusing,” Sherman said.

Although fundraising for school board campaigns is relatively novel in the region, school boards across the state continue to see money pour into their races as unions, special interest groups and deep-pocketed donors get involved.

According to *The Oregonian*, a candidate for Portland School Board has raised nearly \$46,000, while *The Bulletin* has reported that two donors alone, an individual and a political action committee, have contributed \$70,000 to races for the Bend-La Pine School Board.

In 2019, the *Salem Reporter* documented that candidates for the Salem-Keizer School Board collectively spent more than \$150,000 on their campaigns, a figure that didn’t include independent spending from political groups.

Local campaign spending isn’t likely to match those heights in Eastern Oregon, but it does represent a new level of effort to obtain political office.

Briana Spencer, who is running for Position 7 on the Pendleton School Board against attorney Patrick Gregg, is the only other school board candidate in Umatilla County with a campaign account.

Spencer has reported no contributions or expenditures, but she said that’s because she hasn’t hit the state’s \$750 threshold to begin publicly disclosing her campaign finances.

She said she started her campaign account because it was a requirement for her to obtain some of her organizational endorsements, which include the Oregon chapters of Stand For Children, an education advocacy organization, and NARAL Pro-Choice.

Spencer anticipates that her campaign will eventually exceed \$750 and she’ll begin disclosing her expenditures and donors. She said she’s spent money on campaign signs in addition to advertising in print and social media.

## HOF: Shaw has volunteered over 70 years

Continued from Page A1

The Round-Up, like many events around the country, went on pause.

“When we announced last year, we didn’t realize the whole year would be put off,” said Shelby Spriet, the hall of fame’s inductees director. “It made sense to carry them over.”

At this week’s annual meeting, as a refresher, Spriet spoke about each of the inductees.

### Butch Knowles — contestant category

Knowles, of Heppner, burst into prominence when he won the national high school all-around title in 1973. He competed in his first Round-Up in 1974 and won saddle bronc titles there in 1986 and 1991. After retirement from full-time rodeoing, Knowles focused on broadcasting, something in which he had already started to excel.

“Not only did Butch compete during Round-Up, but he was a member of the KUMA broadcast crew. This means he would talk on the radio, then head to the bucking chutes and compete, then when finished, head back up to the announcer’s booth,” Spriet said.

He became one of the voices of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo and other rodeo events around the nation. He became adept at translating rodeo to newer fans, while also satisfying veteran viewers.

“Butch has seen all sides of this sport, achieved many awards and still gives back to the sport today,” Spriet said.

### Badger — animal category

A quarter horse named Badger transported queens, princesses, presidents and Hall of Fame inductees during parades, honorary laps and the Pendleton Round-Up’s iconic grand entry before each day’s show. Badger, owned by Cydney Curtis and previously by the late Heather Corey, is taking it easier these days but



Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame/Contributed Photo **Mary Hines, a volunteer for both the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon and chaperone for the Happy Canyon Royalty in the 1970s, is one of the inductees into the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame.**



Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame/Contributed Photo **Butch Knowles, left, a commentator and former Round-Up champion, is one of the inductees into the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame. Knowles is pictured with Jeff Medders.**

his deeds are history.

“Badger has proven to be a reliable athlete that is committed to his job, all while having a great personality,” Spriet said.

### Mary Hines — Native American category

The longtime volunteer started attending Round-Up

shortly after her birth in 1911 and continued until her death in 1989, Spriet said. Hines volunteered in both the Round-Up and Happy Canyon. She pulled a travois in the Westward Ho! Parade, helped judge the Junior American Indian Beauty Pageant, chaperoned Happy Canyon royalty, and hosted a barbe-



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

**Jack Shaw, a longtime volunteer, is one of four inductees into the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame. Shaw has over 70 years of volunteer service with the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon, including eight years on the Round-Up Board as the competitive events director.**

cue in the Indian Village each year.

Hines’ children and grandchildren carry on the latter tradition.

### Jack Shaw — volunteer category

“Anyone who knows Jack knows that he bleeds all things Pendleton and Round-Up,” Spriet said. “Jack has over 70 years of volunteer experience with Round-Up and Happy Canyon.”

During Shaw’s eight years on the Round-Up board as competitive events director, he helped bring back barrel racing to the rodeo after a long absence and designed the distinctive green mile barrel pattern. He continues to serve on the Round-Up barrier crew and on numerous committees for the Columbia River Circuit and Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, including currently the PRC grievance committee.

He also acted in the Happy Canyon Night Show for many years.

## Bill: ‘This is an extremely rare occurrence’

Continued from Page A1

progress. The deadline was Friday, May 14.

So on Wednesday, May 12, Hansell feared the worst, but by the end of the day his worry had whipsawed to jubilation. Rep. Ron Noble, R-McMinnville, called to say that the nine members of the judicial committee had invoked House Rule 8.20 that says if a majority of committee members request a hearing in writing, the chair must schedule a hearing within five days.

“Every single Republican and Democrat on the committee signed a letter requesting a hearing,” Hansell said. “It’s scheduled for (Tuesday, May 18).”

Chief House Clerk Tim Sekerak mused that he had never seen the rule invoked in his almost 10 years at the Oregon Capitol. He said Deputy Chief Clerk Obie Rutledge has worked there since the early 2000s and also doesn’t remember the rule being used.

“This is an extremely rare occurrence,” Sekerak said. “When this many members of a committee want to do something, the chair usually works something out.”

Noble, a former McMinnville police chief, said he knew about the rule because he studied the rulebook the same way he studied the criminal code as a law enforcement officer.

“It’s in my nature to get a feel for what’s out there,” he said.

Noble said committee members tried other strategies first. When efforts to urge Bynum to schedule a hearing failed, they finally resorted to House Rule 8.20. Noble said all nine members simply thought the bill deserved to be considered.

“People who we entrust with our youth must be held to a higher standard,” he



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

**Seventeen-year-old Weston-McEwen senior Bailey Munck testifies remotely from Pendleton on March 25, 2021, for Senate Bill 649, known as Bailey’s Bill. The bill increases penalties for criminal sexual contact with an underage victim when the defendant is the victim’s teacher.**

said. “They have to be held accountable.”

Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, who is shepherding the bill on the House side, felt relief when the bill became unstuck. Bynum had stopped by Levy’s desk to let her know the bill was moving again.

Levy said she had communicated with Bynum about her reasons for holding up the bill, but said, “I’m going to let her speak for herself.”

A request to Bynum by the East Oregonian was not returned by press time. However, Bynum told Oregonian reporter Chris Lehman that she is frustrated about legislation designed to dial back the effects of Measure 11 that is stalled. She expressed no reservations about Bailey’s Bill, but seemed to be using it as a bargaining chip.

“I don’t have any problems with the bill itself,” she told the Oregonian. “I just have a problem with picking and

choosing who gets justice.”

Levy is all in. She hopes to meet Munck, now 17, and tell her how proud of her she is.

“It’s criminally wrong that teachers aren’t held to the same high standard as coaches,” she said. “Children are our greatest assets and we need to protect them.”

Levy will testify on May 18, along with Hansell, Munck and others.

While testifying remotely to the Senate Judiciary Committee of the Oregon Legislature in March, the teenager was direct.

“What is the significant difference between a teacher and a coach? Do coaches somehow carry more authority than a teacher might?” she asked the senators. “Coaches and teachers should be prosecuted equally as they both have responsibility for students’ safety and they both have positions of authority and power over their students and players.”

If Munck’s abuser, 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 and a \$125,000 fine. But DeYoe wasn’t technically a coach. Instead, DeYoe, 31, got a lighter sentence. In the plea deal, he forfeited his teaching license, terminated his housing lease in Athena and agreed to have no contact with minors who are not family members. He spent a night in the Umatilla County Jail and will serve five years probation. He wasn’t required to register as a sex offender.

Adding the words “and teachers” to the existing law would close the loophole, said Munck and others who testified that day. This is a simple fix, they said.

“This is a solid bipartisan bill,” Levy said. “It should pass out of the House with full support and go to the governor’s desk to be signed.”