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Bailey's Bill reaches the finish line after difficult journey

Brown may do ceremonial signing with teen who inspired the law

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

SALEM — With several strokes of her pen, Gov. Kate Brown signed Bailey's Bill into law.

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. Munck, now 17, testified to the Oregon Senate and House judiciary committees, 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.

Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens, who sponsored Senate Bill 649, likely did some mental handsprings and backflips when Brown signed the legislation Wednesday, June 23. The bill, despite attracting no vigorous objections, nearly ended up in the place



Munck



Bynum



Hansell



Prozanski

where bills go to quietly die when they don't make it out of committee.

"We had to be tenacious in ways we never expected to move this bill," Hansell said.

Hansell took a few minutes to recap the fraught journey of his bill. First stop for the proposed legislation was the

Oregon Senate's judiciary committee, where Chairman Floyd Prozanski would decide whether to schedule the bill for a hearing. Hansell said Prozanski, a practicing prosecuting attorney, was initially skeptical about whether such legislation was needed.

When the bill still wasn't

scheduled within days of the deadline, Hansell got worried. Conversations were had and eventually the bipartisan bill got a hearing. On March 25, Munck testified before the committee via video chat.

"What is the significant difference between a teacher and a coach?" Munck asked senators during the hearing. "Do coaches somehow carry more authority than a teacher might?"

After pleading guilty, Munck's abuser spent only two days in jail and received five years probation. He did not have to register as a sex

offender. If he had been her coach rather than her teacher, he would have received up to five years in prison.

The committee voted to send the bill to the Senate floor with a do pass recommendation. But it wasn't a slam dunk. Three Republican senators on the committee, Sen. Dallas Heard of Myrtle Creek, Sen. Dennis Linthicum of Klamath Falls and Kim Thatcher of Keizer routinely vote against every bill that comes before the committee as a way to express their displeasure about

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Child center makes play for facilities

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the depth of the country's child care issues, and the Pendleton Children's Center is attempting to fill the local gap.

The center, a nonprofit, has spent more than a decade trying to establish a facility to help solve Pendleton the area's child care crunch. As the city begins to emerge out of the pandemic, the children's center now is looking toward Pendleton's two biggest educational institutions — the Pendleton School District and Blue Mountain Community College — to help get a start.

Prior surveys from the district and college have shown a local demand for affordable child care, but the center got extra ammunition when it distributed its own survey in January and February 2020.

Of its 322 respondents, more than 95% agreed there was a need for more child care. Four in five survey takers indicated infant and toddler care was needed and at least two-thirds of respondents wanted more quality, affordability and flexibility out of Pendleton child care.

Kathryn Brown, the secretary and treasurer of the children center's board of directors, said the need is only more acute after the onset of COVID-19.

"The results of the survey

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Concertgoers listen as Shooter Jennings takes the stage Saturday, June 26, 2021, at the Happy Canyon Arena in Pendleton for the second day of the Jackalope Jamboree.

Putting on a show

Jackalope Jamboree first major live concert in Pendleton since start of pandemic

By **BRYCE DOLE**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Hundreds of people danced and sang to every flavor of bluegrass, folk, country and rock 'n' roll during the weekend in Pendleton while enduring oppressive heat at the Jackalope Jamboree.

The two-day music festival at Happy Canyon Arena tipped off a summer of festivities as Pendleton's first major live concert since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

"It definitely hit hard when all the things on the calendar started evaporating," said Peter Walters, the event's co-founder. "I think the industry really early on realized we're the first to get shut down and will be the last to come back. I think this feels like, for everyone involved, from the security to the staging and lighting and the merchandise managers, everybody has this great feeling that this is the start of everything coming back — of live music coming back."

The festival more than 12 acts on two stages, one behind the grandstands and one in the arena. The acts included Shane Smith & The Saints, The Lone-



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Shooter Jennings performs Saturday, June 28, 2021, in the Happy Canyon Arena during Jackalope Jamboree. The music festival returned after a hiatus last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

some Billies, Jesse Daniel and headliner Shooter Jennings.

For many concertgoers, it was the first time they had seen live music in months. Several said it felt freeing to finally be at a concert again after months of isolation.

Sam Houghton, a former Pendleton resident who now lives in Grants Pass, said the last concert she went to was the first Jackalope Jamboree in 2019.

Though she said the day involved some complaining from the sweltering heat, she was excited to finally be back at concerts with her friends.

"It's awesome," said Trina Wicklander, a Pendleton resident and a friend of Houghton's. "It gives you something to look forward to enjoying with friends."

Crista Fisher, a former resident of Athens who lives in Redmond, said she was glad to see people

in public without their masks on.

"I just love to see these smiling faces, having a good time," said Fisher, who attended the concert with a friend she met in middle school decades ago.

No matter how enthusiastic people were to finally see live music again, one thing remained top of mind for most concertgoers — the heat.

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