

# Bill:

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the closure of the Capitol. If one Democrat is gone, bills won't advance. That day, all the Democrat senators were in attendance. Another hurdle jumped.

On the floor, the bill passed unanimously and headed to the House.

There, the bill hit another wall. Rep. Janelle Bynum, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, seemed ready to doom the proposed legislation by not scheduling it for a hearing. If nothing happened by the deadline, the bill was officially dead.

The other members of the committee dusted off a seldom-used rule to force a hearing. They invoked House Rule 8.20, which states if a majority of committee members request a hearing in writing, the chair must schedule it within five days. When the members signed a letter requesting a hearing, Bynum obliged.

The next obstacle came in the form of two amendments proposed by Rep. Marty Wilde, D-Eugene, that would have replaced most of the verbiage with different language that reflects Wilde's interest in starting a discussion on sentencing reform. During the hearing, Wilde spoke about that, but acknowledged he planned to vote for Bailey's Bill sans amendments. All 10 members voted aye.

When the bill reached the House floor, it passed unanimously. On June 23, Gov. Brown signed it into law.

Munck heard the news on June 26.

"I felt really happy and sort of relieved," she said. "There were so many obstacles. I'm really happy that a teacher can now be prosecuted differently than DeYoe."

Hansell attributed the bill's passage to "tenacity, teamwork and truth."

"The bill was about dealing with the abuse of children and closing a loophole in the law," he said. "It was a fight to the bitter end to get that embodied in Oregon law."

He pointed to a team of supporters that included Munck, Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus, former Umatilla County Chief Deputy District Attorney Jaelyn Jenkins, retired Athena-Weston teacher John Bartron, Rep. Bobby Levy, who shepherded the bill through the House, and co-sponsor Sen. Kathleen Taylor, D-Milwaukie.

He reserved his biggest praise for Munck.

"She was the star of the team," Hansell said. "Bailey's willingness to step up was huge. Not everybody could have done it."

The senator said he spoke to the governor about the possibility of doing a ceremonial signing with Munck in attendance.

"I told her, 'I want you to meet her and her to meet you,'" Hansell said. "She said, 'Absolutely.'"

He said he believes the signing likely will take place in the fall during the Pendleton Round-Up. If that happens, Munck said she would make the trip back to Pendleton from Moscow, Idaho, where she will be attending the University of Idaho to study criminal justice.



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**Concertgoers dance as Jesse Daniel performs on Saturday, June 26, 2021, at the Happy Canyon Arena for the Jackalope Jamboree. Hundreds turned out for the festival in spite of 100-plus degree temperatures.**

# Show:

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Temperatures topped 103 degrees over several hours on June 26, according to the National Weather Service in Pendleton, calling the heat wave "historic and dangerous." Hot gusts of wind throughout the day provided little relief.

Walters said he expects the turnout would have been a little bit larger had the conditions been a tad cooler. He even heard from some people who chose not to come out of health concerns, which he said he understands. Regardless, he was grateful for the people who endured the blazing conditions with positivity.

"As terrible as the heat is, I don't think anybody looks miserable at this festival," he said. "So that's been great to see. People have been so starved for this kind of thing that they appreciate it more than ever."

Friends and families held water drinking contests, comparing how many bottles they had finished. They wore hats and sunglasses and stayed in the shade near the misters draped overhead to keep cool. Some said they were reluctant to dance too hard out of fear of heat exhaustion.

The crowds slowly trickled in through the day as temperatures remained in the triple digits. They



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

**Shooter Jennings plays keyboard on Saturday, June 26, 2021, at the Happy Canyon Arena in Pendleton during the second day of the Jackalope Jamboree.**

peaked in the evening as temperatures cooled slightly, providing some relief.

Smoke from grilling barbecue, Filipino food and tamales wafted through the area beneath the grandstands where people shared meals and drank beers at picnic tables.

Rawli Rodriguez, the owner of Granny's Tamales, said he was glad to see people come out and purchase food and support his business after a difficult pandemic year.

"That was horrible," he said of the pandemic. "COVID was a big hit. But

it's good to see people out here supporting us as we're out here working hard in the heat."

Roger Flores, an employee at Granny's, echoed Rodriguez's sentiment.

"It's the support from locals that keep small busi-

nesses going," he said.

Walters joined that chorus.

"We have a huge amount of gratitude to our partners and sponsors and volunteers," he said. "We're very, very grateful and have been overwhelmed by volunteer support."

# Facilities:

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is that there was a significant need for infant and toddler care, and also preschool," she said.

Brown is the former publisher of the East Oregonian and an owner of the EO Media Group, the parent company of the East Oregonian.

Brown said the center has spent 2021 looking to address its short-term and long-term facility needs. She said the board looked at office spaces across Pendleton, but none of them had enough space or amenities to meet their requirements.

The center soon zeroed in on BMCC, which had available space. The board eventually identified it as a place where it could house an interim facility while it pursued building a new building that would eventually serve 150 children.

Brown said the potential marriage had advantages for both sides: The children's center could begin offering concrete services while Blue Mountain could use the center to offer child care services to students and staff. Brown said the center expected to launch at the college on Sept. 21, with the number of children it enrolls dependent on the



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

**The Pendleton Children's Center is in talks with the Pendleton School Board to acquire this bare lot adjacent to the Pendleton Early Learning Center and construct a new children's center.**

college facility it uses.

Green said the college and the center still are trying to identify a specific building to use, but the college was open to helping the nonprofit get started.

"We're the baby step," she said.

But the children's center doesn't want to stop at BMCC. Brown said child care policy experts have told

the board that a child care facility needs to serve at least 100 students to make the concept work financially.

Brown recently met with the Pendleton School Board to begin talks on the children center's acquiring bare land next door to the Pendleton Early Learning Center.

Prior to the 2013 bond, the land had a building that housed the district offices

and Hawthorne Alternative School at various points of time. The bond brought about a facility reshuffle that led to the leveling of the building and an empty lot.

Brown told the school board the children's center was looking to build a new facility on that land, paying a nominal rent to the district. During the presentation, board Chair Debbie McBee

suggested the children's center secure a grant to buy the property outright, which would allow the district to garner fair value for the land while the center doesn't have to worry about rent.

Brown said talks haven't advanced past the presentation but she expects discussions to continue as the school board swears in three new members in July.