

# EAST OREGONIAN

OCTOBER 23-24, 2021

146th Year, No. 4

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MAN SUES IRRIGATION DISTRICT FOR EVADING LAW ON HIRING VETERANS A12

## TRIBAL MEMBERS ROCK SCHOOL

► Kayla Fossek tells Washington Elementary School in Pendleton about traditional clothing, beadwork and regalia the indigenous people of the area wear during Rock Your School, a worldwide education event Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021. Assisting Fossek are her 12-year-old paint horse Billy and her father, Robert Fossek. Kayla Fossek is a 2019 Happy Canyon princess and a 2020 Pendleton Round-Up princess and a descendent through the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.



Photos by Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Students from Washington Elementary School in Pendleton learn about traditional tribal foods and basket making on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, during Rock Your School, a worldwide education movement. Sharing information from left is Brosnan Spencer, Bobby Fossek and Meadow Fossek-Spencer.

## Two candidates already spending thousands to win an open seat on Umatilla County board

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — It's more than four months until the candidate filing deadline, seven months until the primary and more than a year until the general election, but the race for a seat on the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners is well underway.

Susan Bower of Pendleton submitted her filing forms for Position 1 on the first day of the filing period and one of her opponents, Cindy Timmons of Milton-Freewater, entered her name a month later. Despite the long runway until Election Day, both candi-

dates already have spent thousands of dollars in their effort to succeed George Murdock on the board.

Bower, the owner of the Pendleton-based Eastern Oregon Business Source, a consulting business, announced her candidacy in June and formed a political action committee to begin fundraising in August. In an inter-



Bower



Timmons

view, Bower said getting her campaign running early was a part of her strategy.

"In order to (campaign) what I consider strategically and properly, it would take not only time, but it would take a variety of methods to get out to people and to get in front of people," she said. "Two major resources: time, lots and lots of it, and money. With that plan in mind, I knew that. I better get on it, because both of those resources are limited resources for all of us."

Since opening her campaign account, Bower has raised nearly \$2,900 and spent more than \$10,900. Bower said she doesn't

have a definitive spending goal for the campaign, but she and her family committed to covering 50% of the campaign costs, the rest covered by fundraising. Early donors include Jill and Mike Thorne of Pendleton and Tom Winn of Helix.

Nearly 85% of the money Bower has spent so far has been with Lori Roach of Heppner and her business Studio 6 Designworks LLC. Roach also is a contracted employee for Eastern Oregon Business Source, where she works as a community development consultant.

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## Local tribal leaders see opportunity in Sams nomination

East Oregonian

In Indian Country, Chuck Sams' nomination to the National Park Service director position represents more than a symbolic victory: it's a chance to substantively change the way the park service works with American Indian tribes.

In a story by Brian Oaster for High Country News, tribal leaders from across the country shared how they hoped a park service under Sams would operate. Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, the chairwoman of the White Mountain, said her tribe would like to agree to a co-management policy with the service and promote more traditional conservation methods.

"I would like to see consultation with tribes on decisions impacting areas of Native significance," she told Oaster. "We have a voice."

Eastern Shoshone Tribe's Business Council Chairman John St. Clair told High Country News that the Wyoming tribe is lobbying the park service to allow them to "display and demonstrate those historic and spiritual connections while the park is open each year" at Yellowstone National Park. St. Clair added that the agency should expand its education efforts about the relationship between Native peoples and national parks through interactive media and displays.

At a Senate confirmation hearing on Tuesday, Oct. 19, Sams, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, said he was open to tribal input should he be confirmed.

"I think it's important to be able to work with Native folks on traditional ecological knowledge," he said, "and helping manage those spaces so that we're conserving them based on 10,000-plus years of management of those spaces to ensure that they'll be here for future generations to enjoy."

In an interview on Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Think Out Loud," Oaster explained how President Ulysses S. Grant drove out the Shoshone from their homes so the federal government could establish Yellowstone in the 19th century.

"(It) was done through violence and coercion," he told OPB. "That was the beginning of the national park system. It set the pattern. These spaces, we know them today as this kind of empty, pristine wilderness. But that's artificial. They're artificially emptied."

Empty too, he contended, is the parks service's explanation of its symbology, starting with the arrowhead. The parks service on its website explains, "The arrowhead shape represents historical and archaeological treasures." But Oaster contended the parks service has never protected Indigenous people or their cultures.

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## CDC recommends booster shots, mix-and-match vaccinations

Johnson & Johnson vaccine benefited dramatically from the booster shot

By ALEX WITTWER  
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — The Centers for Disease Control met virtually on Thursday, Oct. 21, and debated what guidelines will be in place regarding who gets priority in receiving the booster shots, and whether or not Americans even need the vaccine.

With unanimous consent, the organization voted to recommend booster shots to Americans in the fight against

COVID-19, even as data on booster doses — and especially mix-and-match boosters — was limited.

That recommendation now goes up the CDC chain of command for final approval before it becomes the agency's official recommendation to the public.

The CDC, under the FDA Emergency Use Authorization, recommended the use of booster shots for those who received the Moderna vaccine more than six months ago and belong to risk categories such as those 65 years of age and older, or those 18 through 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19 or with frequent

institutional or occupational exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

Similarly the CDC recommended those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine could receive a booster after at least two months after initial dose to individuals 18 years of age and older. The recommendation was broad, and applicable to anyone who had initially received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

As well, the FDA approved giving out vaccines from different manufacturers — a method known as mix and matching.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

Sami Spriet, an Eastern Oregon University student, receives her first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine on May 4, 2021. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention voted Thursday, Oct. 21, to recommend booster shots.

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