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Oregonians see homelessness as top issue

By ANNA DEL SAVIO
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — When Oregon’s legislative leaders unveiled a plan to address homelessness last month, they stressed that it is not just a Portland, or even an “urban,” problem. “Those who are unhoused and unsheltered are as diverse as our community itself,” said Rep. Jason Kropf, a Democrat whose Central Oregon district is flanked by the Deschutes National Forest and includes much of Bend. The regional concern on display

in the capitol last month reflected the views of Oregon residents, most of whom — regardless of zip code — want local leaders to make responding to homelessness their No. 1 priority.

More than three quarters of Multnomah County residents and other urban Oregonians said it was very important or urgent for leaders in their communities to make doing something about homelessness their top priority, a recent survey from the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center found. “Getting the economy back is an

important first step. Getting people with addictions and mental health issues treated is the next step,” one Multnomah County resident stated.

Homelessness a high priority in rural and suburban areas

But even in rural and suburban areas, at least 60% of residents surveyed in November identified homelessness as a topic of high priority.

Most Oregonians identified mental illness, substance abuse or a lack of affordable housing as the

top reasons why people become homeless.

Erin Bunday, who lives in Klamath Falls, said she believed high rental costs were driving homelessness in her Southern Oregon community.

“I have several friends here who are ‘career women’ and parents, who have often had to stay with friends, family or in run-down hotels, which spends all their income, making saving for a home impossible,” Bunday said.

Bunday used to volunteer with the Habitat for Humanity program

in Bend, where she lived before the bank she worked at shut down. Briefly homeless, she and her son moved to Klamath Falls in 2013.

“In Bend, programs like NeighborImpact and Habitat were able to include families in the home buying or building process, allowing them to really want and work towards that goal,” Bunday said. “I don’t see that here.”

Klamath County’s Habitat program shut down in 2014, and while there still are some services

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PENDLETON

City looks to legalize Ubers after dark

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The day belongs to the taxis, and the night belongs to Ubers.

That’s the basics of a plan that will be presented to the Pendleton City Council at a Tuesday, March 15, meeting: Elite Taxi, the city’s only cab service, will operate only during the day on most days while drivers for ride-hailing services such as Uber only can operate during the evening hours.

In a memo from city attorney Nancy Kerns and finance director Linda Carter to the city council, the pair explained city staff met with representatives from Elite and the ride-hailing drivers, which they refer to as “network vehicle drivers,” to hash out the plan.

“The plan was revised several times after discussion with Elite and network drivers,” Carter and Kerns wrote. “We, of course, were not able to create a plan which met all the desires of both parties.”

The debate began in earnest in January, when a group of residents who wanted to drive for Uber requested the city amend its taxi ordinance to allow ride-hailing services in Pendleton. While customers in Pendleton could download the app and order a ride, Uber drivers could face fines for transporting people without a taxi license.

Elite Taxi initially opposed the move, arguing it would not be able to survive as a business if it had to compete with rides-hails. If Elite went under, the owners said, not only would Pendleton lose its only traditional cab business, it also would lose the provider for city services, including Dial-a-Ride,

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Bidding on beef

Harrell Hereford Ranch has its 43rd-annual sale

By SAMANTHA O’CONNOR
Baker City Herald

BAKER COUNTY — With sunshine bringing a bit of late winter warmth to Baker Valley the morning of March 7, it was a perfect day for the 43rd-annual Harrell Hereford Ranch sale.

The lowing of cattle and the whinnying of horses was joined by the eager chatter of ranchers from all over the country as they mingled together, examining the bulls, heifers and horses that would go on the auction block.

The sale includes bulls, heifers and, for the 24th straight year, Harrell-Mackenzie quarter horses.

The aromas of fresh hay and wood chips mingled with the smoky scent of barbecued tri-tip greeted the Harrells’ visitors. Laughter and comments of “such a nice day” drifted among the gates and barns as a couple hundred people enjoyed a lunch prior to the sale.

Mingling among the distinctively colored red-and-white Herefords, Dan Forsea, a rancher from Richland, was looking for a bull or two.

“They’ve got good quality cattle. Keep getting better all the time,” Forsea said of the Harrells’ offerings.

He has attended the Harrells’ annual spring auction since they started, saying he and his dad, Walt, used to come together. Dan said his father, who died on Jan. 16, 2020, always enjoyed going to the auction.

“This is a good family, too,” Dan said of the Harrells. “We’ve known them for years and they’re just a really good family. It’s always great to come out here.”

Edna and Bob Harrell started the Harrell Hereford Ranch along Salmon Creek, northwest of Baker City, in 1970. The family’s 80-acre home ranch has expanded to include several ranches and a herd of 400 registered Hereford cows, 400 black baldy commercial cows, a 1,000-head feedlot and 25 quarter horse broodmares.

The Harrells’ cattle run on 8,000 acres of native range.



Samantha O’Connor/Baker City Herald

Ranchers gather March 7, 2022, in the sale barn at Harrell Hereford Ranch near Baker City for the annual spring sale.

SALE BY THE NUMBERS

The Harrell Hereford Ranch sale featured 197 lots sold, and buyers from 19 states.

Yearling bulls made up the bulk of the sales, with 107 lots sold and an average of \$5,764 per bull.

A total of 25 two-year-old bulls were sold, at an average price of \$5,298.

The top bull sold for \$23,000. Eight others

sold for \$14,000 or more.

Buyers claimed 28 registered heifers, at an average price of \$4,279, and 15 commercial replacement heifers were sold at an average of \$7,262.

On the Harrell-Mackenzie quarter horse sale, 12 geldings were sold at an average of \$13,313, and 10 mares were sold at an average of \$10,300.

Edna Harrell continues to help at the ranch along with her son, Bob Harrell Jr., his wife, Becky, and their daughter, Lexie.

Bob Harrell Jr. was inducted into the Hereford Hall of Fame in Kansas City, Missouri, in October 2021.

He said he was “very pleased” with this year’s sale. “The bulls were steady, the heifers were really good, up from last year, and the horses were outstanding.”

A nationwide attraction

John Rusher from Westcliffe, Colorado, was one of the many ranchers who traveled a long distance to partake in the auction of

what he called “good, high quality Hereford bulls” and quarter horses.

Landen Doyle traveled from Dallas, Texas, where his family owns the Doyle Hereford Ranch. This was his first year visiting the Harrell Hereford Ranch.

“Always wanted to come up here and look at this ranch. Finally got the opportunity, came up here with my dad on his birthday,” Doyle said.

Dan Cook, who traveled from Idaho, attended last year’s auction as well, which included both in-person and online bidders.

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In Indian Country, people are wearing Kokum scarves in solidarity with Ukraine

By ANNA KING
Northwest Public Broadcasting

Brandi Morin lives outside of Edmonton, Alberta, and she said near her Cree Nation, there’s a large Ukrainian population.

“My heart was going through turmoil for what’s going on,” Morin said.

She said it wasn’t that long ago when indigenous people had invaders at their doorstep. And they too, had to flee their land with their children.

“I just wanted to express that I’m with them in my spirit and in my heart,” Morin said. “That I care. That

I love them. And that we’re thankful for them. We’re thankful for their friendships that we have with them and the relationships and the respect they’ve shown us over the years.”

Morin said the Ukrainian scarves have a name in Canada’s Cree Country — kokum. It means grandma. But they come from many Slavic countries and go by many different names across the U.S.

Grandmas

Across the border in the U.S., Bobbie Conner points out her great



Anna King/Northwest Public Broadcasting

Bobbie Conner, director of the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute near Pendleton, shows how she wears her scarf at the institute’s gift shop.

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