

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

ANDREW CUTLER
Publisher/Editor

KATHRYN B. BROWN
Owner

ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Editor/Senior Reporter

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

Founded October 16, 1875

A4

OUR VIEW

Coming clean on gambling

The Oregon Lottery and other state-sanctioned gambling has brought more than \$12 billion in revenues to the state since it began in the 1980s.

Big money. It's right behind the state income tax as one of the state's largest sources of revenue. And there is a thirst for more.

Other states, such as Pennsylvania, allow much more freedom for people to gamble on more things — right from their phone.

Why not Oregon?

A new state committee is going to look at Oregon's gambling regulations and its mix of offerings.

There are the usual issues. The committee also should address transparency. Oregonians deserve to know where the money is coming from and how it is spent. There is, at least, a temporary step back from the Oregon Lottery. More about that in a few paragraphs.

The issues that are sure to get the attention of the committee include: What is the right mix of gambling? How much state-sanctioned gambling is too much? Is Oregon doing enough to battle gambling addiction even as it encourages people to gamble? Should gambling machines be allowed at horse tracks? Are Oregon tribes losing out as the state expands gambling beyond their control?

This past legislative session, Senate President Peter Courtney tried to get a bill passed to allow state-sanctioned sports betting on college sports. People already bet on college sports, after all. Why not capture some of the revenue for the state? The proposal was to take the revenue from gambling on college sports and put it into the state's program that provides grants to college students. Legislators balked. It got one hearing and then nothing. Gambling opponents didn't like it. Oregon tribes argued it would eat into their casino revenues.

We hope the committee also firmly backs transparency. For instance, the Oregon Lottery recently became less transparent about its money from sports betting. You used to be able to find on the Oregon Lottery's website monthly reports showing how much was bet on various sports from cricket to chess to surfing to football and the state's margin on each. Here's a link to information for August 2021: tinyurl.com/ORsportshistorical.

Now if you want to see that, the website directs people to a public records request. Why the added hassle? We asked the Oregon Lottery. A spokesperson wasn't immediately sure. Understandable. "I do know that our agency philosophy with public records is to be as transparent as possible," Patrick Johnson emailed us. "So I will look into this further."

He also swiftly sent us a link to the files. That's here: tinyurl.com/ORsportsbetting.

So we got them. But there's less detail in the new reports and that added hassle in getting them. Jess Nelson, public records specialist for the Oregon Lottery, later told us there's less detail, in part, because the lottery is transitioning to a new vendor for sports betting, DraftKings. She said it is not the intent to require a formal public records request for the data. The Oregon Lottery just has not gotten around to putting the link on the webpage, yet, she said.

Right now, the Oregon Lottery is providing less data and more hassle. It's not the biggest deal, but it should be a reminder to the new state committee that any changes to state gambling regulations should not come with less transparency.



Living as a lefty leaves me soaked



TAMMY
MALGESINI
INSIDE MY SHOES

I've recently been forced to use my non-dominant hand for everyday tasks. I have minimal skills with being ambidextrous, however, after having surgery on my right hand/elbow, I have learned a number of life hacks (as well as things not to do).

I've utilized voice-to-text as much as I can. Since I don't like to talk into my phone in normal conversational tones, I use what friends call my "golf commentator" voice. I talk quietly, so as not to blast my private communications to everyone within earshot.

One problem — I don't always enunciate my words. While it's easy to make corrections before hitting send, I don't always do that. Luckily, my friends have a sense of humor. We've chuckled over some of the communications, which aren't appropriate for the newspaper.

Often referring to myself in the third person in texts to my husband, I use an abbreviated form of my nickname, Bwana. "The Bwan" is often transcribed as "The blonde" (which is accurate, thanks to my hairdresser) or "The One" — making it sound like I have an overinflated sense of self-importance: "The One is ready to be picked up."

John also has been my chauffeur. While I can't readily put the rig into gear, the bigger issue is getting in my Jeep. Utilizing a step stool, I climb onto the running board, grab the "oh my god bar" and pull myself

in. However, the stool remains on the ground. I'm thinking of tying a rope around it so I can reel it in.

Although I'm far from ambidextrous, I might qualify for being amphibian. Unlike former Oakland Athletics baseball player Pat Venditte, who was once referred to as an "amphibious pitcher," some of my efforts have left me drenched.

While trying to open a bottle of water, I had it situated between my feet. As I attempted to turn the cap, my feet clenched the bottle ever tighter — resulting in a geyser reminiscent of Old Faithful.

Upon hearing this story, my co-workers check to see if I need anything before leaving for the day. Although, Hermiston Herald editor Erick Peterson thought I was offering him a Pepsi when I merely wanted him to open it.

While the help is greatly appreciated, they are gaining a more intimate knowledge of my habits. Multimedia consultant Angel Aguilar asked how many Pepsis I consume daily. "Enough," I said. "Don't judge me." Since I also drink a lot of water, my massive liquid consumption results in frequent visits to the facilities. And that makes choosing my attire very important.

A friend recently suggested that I looked "gangster." I can't help it — baggy shorts are easier to manipulate than tight-fitting pants. And with limited abilities to style my hair, my hat collection is coming in handy. And I often prefer wearing them backward.

Fortunately, Sen. Ron Wyden wasn't dressed to the nines when he visited the newsroom recently. He, too, was wearing a baseball hat, although not back-

wards. We shared a laugh about how the late Hermiston Mayor Frank Harkenrider used to wear his caps precariously perched on the top of his head.

I'd like to provide a public service announcement for those who might have surgery where they utilize a nerve block. While I received a printout from the surgical center about the risks associated with taking prescription opioids, they didn't stress the importance of getting some pain medication on board in advance of the nerve block wearing off.

I'd never had one before, so I didn't know what to expect. I literally went from zero pain to off the charts approximately 24 hours after surgery. And evidently, some nerve blocks last longer than others. Annie Fowler, the EO sports reporter, called my nerve block "wimpy," as the one she had during shoulder surgery lasted three days.

In addition to preparing my meals, John also cuts my food into bite-sized pieces. Don't worry, there isn't a risk of starving.

Back during my college days, my roomies and I ate T-bone steaks with our hands because we forgot steak knives. I happily reported in our Tuesday newsroom meeting that I ate 25% of my dinner with the fork in my right hand. While the road to recovery is slow — my surgeon said nerves regenerate at a rate of one inch per month — I'm looking forward to when I'm able to grip a pen and hold a camera.

Tammy Malgesini, the East Oregonian community writer, enjoys spending time with her husband and two German shepherds, as well as entertaining herself with random musings.

YOUR VIEWS

Susan Bower is a forward thinker with enthusiasm

I am honored to endorse Susan Bower for Umatilla County commissioner. In a crowded field, Susan stands above because of her educational background, work experiences and passion for Umatilla County.

Through her business, she has become well-acquainted with many of the issues facing Umatilla County. Her educational background in business and finances and her past employment in banking, education and as a small business owner give Susan a diverse skill set that will greatly enhance her ability to lead Umatilla County.

Throughout her campaign, Susan has reached out to many residents in all parts of the county to hear their concerns and visions for Umatilla County. She's a forward thinker with enthusiasm to lead the county in a positive direction.

I believe she will be a true advocate for all communities in Umatilla County. Join me in voting Susan Bower for county commissioner.

Susan Talbot
Pendleton

Susan Bower will do what's best for all residents

Please join us in voting for Susan Bower for Umatilla County commis-

sioner Position 1. Susan is a dedicated, hardworking professional who will always do what is best for all the residents of Umatilla County.

Susan is a great communicator with the background and skill-set to ensure that Umatilla County is front and center when it comes to economic growth and a business friendly environment.

Susan has a passion to see that Umatilla County expands and grows to its potential. As a county commissioner, we believe she will use that passion and knowledge to benefit our county.

Please vote Susan Bower for county commissioner.

Colleen and Dennis Hunt
Pendleton

EDITORIALS

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

LETTERS

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold

letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published.

SEND LETTERS TO:

editor@eastoregonian.com,
or via mail to Andrew Cutler,
211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801