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INSIDE 'THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA' A GO! AT BMCC

Draft on Roe v. Wade draws predictable reactions

By WYATT TEGGINS
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — The leaked draft of the Supreme Court's majority opinion to overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade case is bright-lining the differences on the two sides of the debate from the halls of Congress down to the local level.

The political journalism company Politico on Monday, May 2, published the 98-page first draft on its website. In the draft, Justice Samuel Alito stood in opposition to the 1973 ruling, commenting

it, "Imposed a highly restrictive regime on states." Later he stated, "The Constitution makes no reference to abortion."

Oregon Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Advocates, An Do, stood in direct opposition to this claim in a press conference Tuesday, May 3.

"This is about what we care about," she said. "It's about the right to privacy, the right to marry who you want." Do portrayed the dismissal of Roe v. Wade as opening the floodgates to attacking civil rights.

If passed, it will be in the hands

of each individual state to address what restrictions they place on abortion. While Oregon most likely will stay pro-abortion, Planned Parenthood is looking to expand into Ontario, anticipating a mass surge of patients across the Idaho border.

In a press conference, Lisa Gardener, CEO of Planned Parenthood in Southwestern Oregon, made it clear that expansion into Eastern Oregon is imminent, but how soon is unknown.

Idaho Gov. Brad Little has made several attempts to pass fetal heart-beat laws that would make it virtually impossible for abortions to

occur in the state. Planned Parenthood brought a lawsuit to the Idaho Supreme Court, temporarily blocking the bill before it could take effect in April.

Little in a letter to the Idaho Senate acknowledged this was a likely outcome: "I fear the novel civil enforcement mechanism will in short order be proven unconstitutional and unwise."

Eastern Oregon will be the most accessible place for Idahoans to receive care. Planned Parenthood officials made it clear that by doing so they would be taxing an already taxed system. Providing a brick-

and-mortar location in Eastern Oregon would take service providers that Planned Parenthood doesn't have.

Eastern Oregon also has the most dissent to abortion laws inside of Oregon.

Father Daniel Maxwell of the Hermiston Catholic Church expressed nothing but support to the possible Supreme Court ruling.

"We Catholics will be overjoyed because it will make abortion unthinkable by many people," he said.

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WALLOWA COUNTY

ODFW approves killing two wolves

By GEORGE PLAVERN
Capital Press

JOSEPH — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has issued a kill permit for up to two wolves from the Chesnimnus pack in Wallowa County.

State wildlife biologists determined members of the pack were responsible for two confirmed attacks on livestock between April 25 and 27 on a public grazing allotment north of Joseph, resulting in three dead calves.

ODFW can authorize lethal take of wolves that prey on livestock after two confirmed depredations in nine months. That is the current standard for "chronic depredation" in Eastern Oregon, where wolves were removed from the state endangered species list in 2015.

Tom Birkmaier, who ranches along Crow Creek, said Tuesday, May 3, he received the kill permit April 29. He is allowed to take two Chesnimnus pack wolves in Dorrance Pasture or Trap Canyon Pasture, where the kills were confirmed.

"I asked for the removal of the pack," Birkmaier said. "They issued me a kill permit for two."

The kill permit is good through May 24. He said his latest wolf attacks were on April 30, when a cow took wolf bites to protect her calf.

"She saved her calf ... she had two bite marks on her ribs," he said. "I walked that cow and her calf down 7 miles to my ranch and I'm now taking care of them."

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Snipping back the chill



Photos by Greg Lehman/Walla Walla Union-Bulletin
Top: Dana Dibble looks over some very early cherries in his Milton-Freewater orchard, April 19, 2022. Above: A bee does the important work of pollination in Dana Dibble's cherry orchard, April 19, 2022. The late-blooming Benton varieties may be hampered by pollinators in a torpor from the unseasonably cold weather, though the extent of this concern isn't yet clear.

Warming systems and a little luck save Milton-Freewater orchard from spring frost

By EMRY DINMAN
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

MILTON-FREEWATER — Winter weather in the middle of April could have been disastrous for Dana Dibble, admits the third-generation Milton-Freewater grower as he inspects his orchards, vineyard and U-pick raspberries.

But with the Walla Walla Valley having warmed up after a series of freezing nights, Dibble thinks his plants escaped mostly unscathed, due in part to preparation and good luck.

Dibble is quick to credit a lucky atmospheric cloud cover with taking the bite out of the unlucky cold front. A blanket of clouds acted as an insulating layer on several particularly cold nights, Dibble said, preventing temperatures from dropping dangerously low.

"So, whether I did anything — we got really lucky," Dibble said. "We got really lucky. We had a couple of nights that we should have got wiped out, but clouds came over, and when the clouds come over, it can save ya."

The cold weather early in April was particularly prolonged, with daily lows in the Walla Walla-area fluctuating from 31 to 33 degrees between April 10-16.

But cold weather is a common occurrence for the region, Dibble said. This is the third year in a row that a spring frost has threatened his fruit, he continued, and temperatures at 5 degrees below zero around New Year's seem to have hit his apricots hard, which are producing around 25% of their normal crop.

Even if he has avoided losing fruit to this month's frost, he worries that weeks of colder weather have made pollinators less effective, which would reduce the amount of fruit produced by his apple and cherry trees.

"There was fairly good pollination weather early on," Dibble said. "My plums are probably OK. Early cherries may be OK."

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Pendleton job fair beckons workers

Labor shortage continues to be a common hurdle

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — About 40 employers in Pendleton participated in a job fair Tuesday, May 3, aiming to fill the ranks of their staffs.

Tammy Thompson, regional recruiter of drivers for First Student charter bus rental, was among the companies and businesses in the main hall of the Pendleton Convention Center. The

company recently won the contract to serve the Pendleton School District.

"We really need help," Thompson said. "We're desperate."

First Student offers school bus drivers \$21.50 per hour, depending on experience, with a \$4,000 sign-on bonus for new hires and \$6,000 for those pre-certified.

The nonprofit Clearview Disability Resource Center, 1114 S.W. Frazer Ave., also was looking for part-time bus drivers. It transports people to medical appointments, both in and out of town, to the Tri-Cities or Portland.

"We need three drivers,

but they have to pass background checks," recruiter Jeremy Umbarger said.

Pendleton Chamber of Commerce Executive officer Cheri Rosenberg and schools to careers coordinator Patti Hyatt organized the event. Private companies and government entities alike came to the fair.

Rosenberg estimated that by 4:30 p.m., approximately 200 people had gone through the convention center. She said the employment situation in Pendleton is no worse and no better than anywhere else.

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Kathy Aney/East Oregonian
Jeremy Umbarger of Clearview Disability Resource Center, Pendleton, mans a table at a job fair Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at the Pendleton Convention Center. Clearview has 10 vans and offers nonemergency medical transportation to people on the Oregon Health Plan. The business faces a common problem — finding enough employees.

