CANDIDATES *from page 6A*

16,000 new jobs and make our roads safer. We passed a first in the nation pay equity and fair scheduling bills.

We worked together to ensure that 430,000 Oregonians have access to affordable health care because everyone should be able to see the doctor when they're sick.

Buehler: Brown has been in elected office for 30 years and the past four as governor. She has more money than any other governor in Oregon's history, yet our most pressing problems continue to get worse — teachers are still getting laid off, class sizes are getting bigger and our graduation rates are still third-worst in the nation.

We have a growing homelessness crisis and vulnerable foster kids are not getting the care they need. Brown had her chance to show that she is capable of solving the big problems facing Oregonians.

We need new leadership. I will lead where Kate Brown has failed.

U.S. Congressional Race

DeFazio and Robinson face off for the fifth time.

Oregon has five Congressional Districts and Florence is included in District 4. District 4 represents the southern half of Oregon's coastal counties including Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane and Linn counties and most of Benton and Josephine counties.

Democrat Rep. Peter DeFazio has represented District 4 since 1987 and is running for re-election this year. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tufts University and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Oregon. He is the ranking member on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and is running against opponent Art Robinson.

Robinson has a Bachelor of Science degree from the California Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California in San Diego. He is a well-known scientific and medical researcher, having worked with Linus Pauling co-founding the prestigious Institute of Orthomolecular Medicine.

He served as president, director and tenured research professor at the research facility after it was renamed the Linus Pauling Institute in 1971.

Why are you interested in representing Oregon District 4?

DeFazio: Most Oregonians are tired of partisan bickering and gridlock in Washington. And so am I. But I have a fire in my belly and a lot of good ideas about how we can make progress for the American people.

I would like the Congress to work together to improve health care, make investments in job-creating infrastructure programs and make college more affordable. I will work with the Trump White House or anybody else to meet those goals. But when I disagree with the president or my party I will use my voice and my vote to stand up for our Oregon values.

I have built seniority that puts me in position to be the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee if Democrats win the majority. I will be part of crafting an agenda that makes investments in our roads, bridges, ports and airports and creates jobs and strengthens the economy.

Robinson: I am running because I think I can do a good job. I have been successful in medical research and I have been a successful educator and scientist. Most importantly, I have been successful in the real world. Mr. DeFazio has served in congress for 40 years and he has no real-world experience.

As a scientist I am a problem solver. DeFazio does not want to solve the problems we face, he just wants to figure out how he can benefit from them. All he really cares about is making sure he gets re-elected.

What issues are you most concerned with at this time?

DeFazio: Many Oregonians are one serious health issue away from personal financial crisis. Quality affordable healthcare is the top concern of most Americans and a top priority for Democrats in Congress. It's time to reduce healthcare costs by expanding coverage, protecting consumers, creating a public option outside of the for-profit insurance industry, and allowing the federal government to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare recipients.

Robinson: I am really concerned with improving access to medical care. There are estimates that as much as 20 percent of the earnings of real people go to paying for their medical costs and medical care. I have spent a lifetime working in the medical field and know we can make a lot of progress there. The economy has improved under President Trump and we need to take this opportunity to support the president's initiatives to reform healthcare.

Again, Mr. DeFazio has no interest in providing good health care to people; all he wants to do is figure out a way to secure votes, while continuing to postpone meaningful changes to the healthcare system.

What are the most significant challenges facing the House this term?

DeFazio: If Democrats win the majority in the House, it will be a message from the electorate that they want Congress to uphold its constitutional duty to serve as a check on the Trump administration. As Chairman of the House Transportation Committee with oversight of the General Services Administration, I plan to investigate the president's conflict of interest as both the lessee and lessor of the Trump Hotel and White House involvement in the siting of a new FBI Headquarters.

It will be a challenge to find common ground legislatively, but I'm hopeful that we can come together in Congress to make a significant investment in our nation's infrastructure to create good-paying jobs in construction, technology and engineering, and get the country's economy moving.

I have three bipartisan infrastructure proposals — that are fully paid for and would not increase the deficit — that would invest over $500 billion in the nation's crumbling roads, bridges, transit systems, ports, harbors, and airports. According to the Council of Economic Advisers, every $1 billion invested in transportation infrastructure creates or sustains 13,000 jobs.

I am also hopeful we can find common ground to reduce healthcare costs by expanding coverage, protecting consumers, creating a public option outside of the for-profit insurance industry, and allowing the federal government to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare recipients.

Robinson: Electing representatives that support the president. President Trump has done a great job fixing the economy and cutting taxes. But Mr. DeFazio opposes the president, not for his ideas or policies but as a partisan attack on the president.

I think it is very important that we elect representatives that support the president and his policies. Mr. DeFazio has opposed any changes that the president has wanted to make, not because of the policies, but as a way to make a partisan point.

He does this for votes, not because of what he believes.

Provide our readers with the major differences between your opponents and yourself

DeFazio: I supported the Affordable Care Act and expansion of Medicare to 150,000 people in my district. My opponent opposes expanding Medicare and making health care more affordable.

I support strengthening Social Security by lifting the cap and making all income subject to the federal payroll tax — a waiter shouldn't pay a higher percentage of his or her salary to Social Security than a CEO of a corporation. My opponent wants to privatize Social Security and let Wall Street gamble with it.

I've always supported a woman's right to choose and access the health care that she needs.

I stand with Planned Parenthood and have opposed efforts to defund this critical service. My opponent has said that he's "rabidly pro-life" and has said that banning abortion is the most important issue in America.

I believe that the federal government can and should do more to invest in our students and schools by increasing K-12 funding, as well as affordable higher education opportunities. My opponent has consistently said that "the whole public-school system is child abuse" and that he thinks "public schools should be abolished."

I am actively working in Congress to advance plans and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and address the dangers of a changing climate. My opponent believes that climate change is a myth and we should "Burn the coal fields" because we would benefit from the increase in carbon dioxide.

My opponent believes chronic radiation is good for your health.

I don't.

Robinson: The main difference between Mr. DeFazio and myself, as I have said, is his lack of real-world experience and the fact that he doesn't really want to solve problems, he wants to benefit from them.

He believes that big government can solve every problem by creating another tax. He has been more concerned with getting re-elected than in addressing the issues that Oregonians care about. He did nothing to save our timber industry when he had the chance.

He got money for the counties and did nothing to keep the industry alive. He did not solve the problem, he figured out how to benefit from the problem.

Every election he has given speeches to fix the VA (Veterans Affairs). He has someone at his office take calls from vets needing help and he helps those individuals that call his office.

The problems our VA Department has could be fixed simply by issuing a medical card for all veterans. That card could be used at any medical facility, anywhere in the country. But he hasn't done that because he doesn't want to fix the problem, he just wants to get votes.

Please share anything else you feel is important for our readers to know about this election

DeFazio: This is the most important election of our lifetime. I hope I have earned your vote for U.S. Representative to return to Congress and continue fighting for our shared priorities and values.

Robinson: We need to elect someone that has a fresh perspective on the problems that we face. It is also important to build on the positive steps made by President Trump and send individuals to the House of Representatives that will work with the president to implement his reform agenda.

I just want to say two words that are very popular across the country: "Term limits."

There is a point where a congressman becomes unproductive, ineffective and complacent and I believe that Mr. DeFazio has reached that point.

Both Robinson and DeFazio are firm supporters of a strong educational component in the communities they serve. Robinson believes in school choice and home schooling as alternatives to the traditional government centered education program.

DeFazio has taken a different course, embracing the university system by channeling approved congressional pay raises into a scholarship fund for his constituents.

COASTAL *from page 1A*

President Trump in April, which encourages offshore oil and gas exploration and production in federal waters on the Outer Continental Shelf, which includes waters off of the Oregon coast.

"Our country is blessed with incredible natural resources, including abundant offshore oil and natural gas resources, but the federal government has kept 94% of these offshore areas closed for exploration and production," Trump said. "This deprives our country of potentially thousands and thousands of jobs and billions in wealth."

The need to maintain the states' special mix of forests, mountains, seashores and wildlife is clear, according to Brown, who cites the significant economic and cultural assets that could be jeopardized if the president's plan to increase offshore oil drilling is implemented.

The protection afforded by Brown's order is important, not only for the fiscal benefits gained from visitors, but also for the historical and cultural aspects of the region that may be compromised.

Brown also pointed out that many locations along the coast hold special significance for Native American tribes. These groups are sovereign entities, recognized by the state and federal government, and any development that impacts that sovereignty is a violation of law.

Other reasons given by Brown include the 22,000 jobs and $2 billion created by the coastal tourism and recreation industry annually and the historic accessibility of all 363 miles of Oregon's coast to the public.

According to Brown, the Oregon Coastal Management Program has a unique oversight responsibility to determine the best ways to protect and enrich Oregon's coastal assets. Her inclusion of this program in her order implies the organization would be integral to the process of determining the viability of any federal attempt to extract oil or gas from Oregon's coastal waters.

The timing of Brown's order was significant in a smaller, but meaningful way. The order took effect two days prior to the 2018 State of the Coast Conference and one week before the mid-term elections on Nov. 6.

The State of the Coast was held Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Hales Center for the Performing Arts at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay. It was sponsored and coordinated by the Oregon Sea Grant branch of Oregon State University (OSU).

Jaime Doyle is a member of the Sea Grant Extension faculty and was part of the team that coordinated this year's conference.

"There is such a positive energy from participants at State of the Coast," Doyle said. "We see this enthusiasm for our coast, for the marine environment and for our coastal communities, as a key piece of the future of our coast, and we are thrilled to provide a space that can help to cultivate this passion."

According to Doyle, there was a panel specifically on Oil and Gas off the Oregon Coast.

"We try to cover timely issues at State of the Coast, and while we could not have anticipated that Gov. Kate Brown would have issued an executive order banning offshore drilling two days before the conference, it speaks to how relevant that panel was," she said.

Sea Grant Oregon states that its mission is to serve as a catalyst that promotes discovery, understanding, and resilience for Oregon coastal communities and ecosystems.

Sea Grant also manages the Visitor Center at OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport as an ocean and coastal learning center for all ages.

The State of the Coast Conference brought together a wide array of individuals involved in one way or another with life on the Oregon coast.

The schedule of speakers and workshops was extensive, with presenters speaking about topics ranging from family fishing traditions to the disappearance of eelgrass from estuaries along the Oregon coast.

The keynote speaker for the conference was science author and lecturer Sam Kean. Kean is an engaging and humorous speaker, highlighting during his discussion the many unusual situations he has encountered researching and interviewing subjects for his four books, all dealing with different aspects of science.

An afternoon workshop highlighted the issue of energy exploration and production off of Oregon's coast. One of the points made was the research that indicates the amount of oil available for collection here is minimal, in comparison to other areas, and the cost of obtaining that oil would be prohibitive.

One of the more intriguing presentations of the day discussed the ongoing work being done at the Pac Wav energy center in Newport. The location is operated by staff and researchers from OSU and has been approved by the state to host a series of tests for evaluating the different ways of collecting and storing the energy generated by waves.

OSU has received $40 million from the Department of Energy for this program and the first tests should begin in early 2020.

The State of the Coast Conference is a tangible example of the growing importance OSU is playing in the development and understanding of the many interconnected scientific aspects of coastal life in Oregon.

OSU is working closely with the Hatfield Marine Research Center, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other state and federal entities, to determine the best way to maintain and support the coastal ecosystems that generate high levels of interest and large amounts of revenue for the state each year.

Doyle believes the growth of the State of the Coast conference will continue as more families and individuals discover the natural beauty of the state's coastline.

"The diversity of break-out sessions hopefully had something for everyone. It's a jam-packed day ... Every year we have grown our student science and art exhibits, and this year has been our best yet," she said.

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