

# Local & State

KATE BROWN, KNUTE BUEHLER HAVE COMBINED TO RAISE \$18.7 MILLION

## Governor's race sets money record

By Gary A. Warner  
WesCom News Service

SALEM — The 2018 race for governor is the most expensive in Oregon history, and there's still six weeks until the books will be closed.

State campaign finance reports filed through Monday show Gov. Kate Brown has raised about \$11.3 million. Her Republican opponent, state Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, has raised about \$7.4 million.

The record total of about \$18.7 million tops the \$17.7 million raised and spent in the 2010 governor's race won by Democrat John Kitzhaber over Republican Chris Dudley.

Brown reported a month's worth of campaign finances Monday. Contributions included \$250,000 from Everytown for Gun Safety, a

gun control group backed by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Brown also received \$250,000 from the Democratic Governors Association, which has now given her a total of \$353,000.

The true level of 2018 fundraising and spending won't be known until early next month when both candidates will have to adhere to a seven-day period between the time they raise or spend money and when they have to report it.

Currently, candidates have a 30-day window. Brown's updated figures bring her reporting through Sept. 22. Buehler's is through Aug. 22. Both campaigns are complying with state law in the way they are currently reporting their finances.

The totals do not include money raised and spent by outside groups that are running ads against candidates.

Buehler has received a total of \$1.5 million from Nike co-founder Phil Knight, the largest donation by an individual to a candidate in

Oregon history.

Brown's biggest single contribution is \$500,000 from EMILY's List, a national group that backs pro-choice Democratic candidates.

She has received a total of \$370,000 from Team Oregon, a political action committee created to promote her re-election and to build Democratic majorities in the Legislature. Defend Oregon Values, a political action committee created by House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, and other top Democrats to promote a Democratic agenda in Salem, has contributed \$693,000 to Brown. She received a new contribution of \$100,000 from the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, AFL-CIO.

The money to Brown from Everytown for Gun Safety is the second time in two years that Bloomberg has aided Brown. He directly contributed \$250,000 to her 2016 campaign to finish out the term of Kitzhaber, who resigned in 2015 and was replaced by

Brown, the secretary of state at the time.

Both campaigns have spent heavily on television. Brown's latest filing shows she has purchased a total of \$1.8 million in broadcast time through Buying Time LLC, a campaign consulting firm in Washington, D.C. Buehler has purchased \$2.3 million in broadcast time through Strategic Media Services of Arlington, Virginia.

The Oregonian newspaper has reported that national Republicans say Buehler has received a total of \$750,000 from the Republican Governors Association, an amount as yet to show up on Buehler's campaign filings.

The Republican governors' group contributed \$2.5 million to Dudley's campaign in 2010, with much of the money coming in the last six weeks of the close race with Kitzhaber. The group contributed only \$125,000 to Bud Pierce's 2016 governor's campaign against Brown.



Brown



Buehler

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Free car seat inspections set for Oct. 6

A free car seat check-up event will take place Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Baker City Fire Department, 1616 Second St., from 9 a.m. to noon. Certified Child Passenger Safety technicians will be on hand to offer education and answer questions on how to properly secure a child in a child safety seat, proper use and installation of the child restraint and/or booster seats in the vehicle, proper use of LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) system, and appropriate positioning of occupants in vehicles with airbags.

The event is free and an appointment is not necessary. Each seat check takes approximately 40 minutes.

The purpose of this check-up event is to provide parents and caregivers with information on the proper use and installation of their child safety seats. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States and correctly used child safety seats can reduce the risk of death as much as 71 percent; however, three out of four seats are not used or installed correctly.

The clinic is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Transportation, St. Alphonsus Medical Center and Baker City Police Department. For further information please contact: CPS Technician, Phoebe Wachtel with the Baker City Police Department at 541-524-2014.

### Concert will support Children's Theater

True North will give a concert Oct. 5 as a fundraiser to support bringing Missoula Children's Theater back to Baker City.

The event will be at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 2177 First St., Baker City. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance at Betty's Books or Crossroads Carnegie Art Center. Tickets at the door are \$25.

The concert was arranged by Carol Harley. "Crossroads was humbled when Carol came to us with this wonderful concert she was planning," said Ginger Savage, Crossroads director.

## Merkley's bill designed to boost forest thinning

By Andrew Selsky  
Associated Press

SALEM — After a summer wildfire season that blanketed much of the West in smoke, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley introduced a bill Wednesday that would reduce the severity of wildfire by thinning forests that are crowded with too many trees and have become fuel for megafires.

The bill would create a \$1 billion fund to allow the Forest Service to increase the pace and scale of wildfire reduction projects, empower federal agencies to work with local communities to plan

and prepare for wildfires, and permanently reauthorize a collaborative forest restoration program that brings stakeholders together to thin forests. "I'm hoping it'll become a bipartisan vision. Everybody who pays any attention to the forest sees these benefits," Merkley said, speaking from Washington in a conference call with reporters.

See *Thinning* / Page 6A

## Walden questions McLeod-Skinner's connections to E. Oregon ranchers

By Andrew Selsky  
Associated Press

SALEM — The Republican incumbent of a conservative U.S. House district in Oregon, whose forefathers trekked to what was then a territory over 170 years ago, is attacking the pioneer credentials of his Democratic opponent.

Rep. Greg Walden's online ad targeted Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner as they campaign in one of the largest U.S. congressional districts, a ranching-agricultural region covering plains, desert and mountains in Eastern and Central Oregon. Cowboy hats and pickup trucks are prominent, and so is a rugged independence.

In an Associated Press interview in August, McLeod-Skinner noted that her

wife, Cassandra Skinner's family has been ranching in Eastern Oregon for over 100 years. Skinner is also a distant relative of former Oregon Cattlemen's Association President Bob Skinner, McLeod-Skinner said.

Walden's ad quotes the rancher speaking dismissively of the link.

"It's time to clear up this nonsense about Jamie McLeod-Skinner being part of our ranch family. She's a California liberal who came out to the ranch a few months back and got a selfie under our sign," Bob Skinner is quoted as saying. "Her wife may share our last name, but they're a distant branch of the family."

Skinner asked McLeod-Skinner to stop using his

ranch sign in her campaign.

Responding to the ad, McLeod-Skinner said she never claimed Skinner's endorsement. He had invited her to his ranch, she said.

"We talked about public lands, we talked about a lot of different issues, water issues," the Democratic candidate said. She also went to the cattlemen's association.

"He was very cordial, so I was surprised to see the tone" in the Walden ad that focuses "on divisiveness we're seeing in Washington," McLeod-Skinner said.

She said she wants constituents to reach across party lines to find common ground on health care, education and economic development.

Walden's ad said his paternal ancestors came to Oregon

in fall 1845 before it became a state in 1859. He's seeking his 11th term in Congress.

McLeod-Skinner went to Ashland High School in Oregon and received a law degree from the University of Oregon. She is a former city councilwoman in Santa Clara, California.

While campaigning, McLeod-Skinner has crisscrossed the district — the second-biggest in America among states with multiple districts — in a Jeep pulling a teardrop trailer that she sleeps in.

McLeod-Skinner and Walden have a televised debate scheduled for Oct. 5 (see story on Page 6A).

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**The Baker County Veterans office will be closed from Monday, October 1st through Friday, October 5th**

**We will be open for business on Monday, October 8th 2018.**

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