

Local & State

Hundreds demonstrate in Salem against state's stay-at-home order

By Dick Hughes
For the Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Hundreds of people turned out at the Oregon State Capitol on Saturday for a "#ReOpenOregon" rally.

People came and went on a rainy day, lining both sides of the street in front of the Capitol, which has been closed to the public for several weeks as a public health precaution.

Demonstrators held signs and waved American flags as vehicles circled the Capitol, honking their support. Some participants wore masks and maintained social distances. Others gathered together.

A group calling itself Oregon Uniting for Liberty organized the Salem rally, which was endorsed by the Oregon Republican Party and other organizations.

Signs included "Fear is the virus," "Freedom is bi-partisan," "My freedom does not end where your fear begins," "Unlock Oregon," "Fire Gov. Brown, reopen Oregon," "Boycott China" and "Gov. Brown, I went to church on Sunday. Please don't arrest me." Other signs supported President Donald Trump and Republican candidates.

"This isn't a partisan political event, but instead a public rally to rescue our livelihoods and freedoms from being extinguished by a government that has forgotten that, in America, government must operate with the consent of the governed," party Chairman Bill Currier said beforehand.

"The shutdown in Oregon was intended to 'flatten the



Andrew Selsky / Associated Press

People hold signs outside the Capitol in Salem on Saturday in protest of Gov. Kate Brown's executive order that shut down much of Oregon's economy.

"This isn't a partisan political event, but instead a public rally to rescue our livelihoods and freedoms from being extinguished by a government that has forgotten that, in America, government must operate with the consent of the governed"

— Bill Currier, chairman, Oregon Republican Party

curve' of COVID-19 infections and prevent cases severe enough to need hospitalization. Unfortunately, it has been at the cost of damaging Oregon's economy and pushing many of our businesses, institutions, and activities deemed 'non-essential' by the Governor to the point of collapse," Currier said.

Brown commented to Oregon Public Broadcasting before the rally: "I know folks are worried about how they're going to pay their rent, put food on the table and buy essentials for their families," Brown said. "I just would ask folks as they operate their First Amendment right to free speech to maintain social distancing, wear masks and be considerate of others."

Medical experts say a gradual phase out of the stay-at-home orders is necessary to prevent rapid spread of the virus.

Statewide polling conducted by DHM Research in Portland has shown strong support for Gov. Brown's directives that forced many businesses to close and others to maintain social distancing.

In promoting the rally, Oregon Uniting for Liberty explained: "We assert that

Governor Brown has unconstitutionally restricted our freedom of assembly, infringed upon our right to freely worship, closed access to public lands, and prohibited businesses from engaging in commerce. She has deemed certain businesses 'essential' while refusing to allow other businesses to remain open even if they are able to implement policies or methods of operation that minimize the risk of spreading this virus. She has unilaterally issued orders that ignore the diversity of our state and denied localities the ability to do what is best for the citizens in their towns, cities, and counties. These orders are threatening the very freedom and liberties our Founding Fathers guaranteed to us in the Constitution — the same liberties guaranteed in the Oregon Constitution."

OBITUARIES

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Ira Haskett

1951-2020

Gordon Ira Haskett, 73, died April 16, 2020.

A graveside service with military honors will take place as soon as the restrictions are lifted, with the date and time to be announced.

Ira was born on Nov. 14, 1946. He graduated from Broomfield High School in Colorado in 1964. He was an all-around athlete — a state wrestler, holder of many track records until just recently, and lettered in football and baseball. Ira attended two years of college at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Ira then entered the U.S. Air Force in 1966. He was stationed at Cam Ranh Bay Vietnam. Ira was a medic in the



Ira Haskett

Aero-med-tech division. It was during these years he met his lifelong friend, Jerry Bellak, a brother of the heart.

Ira moved to Boise following the service to continue his education at Boise State University. He was married to Marilyn Ann Stahl in 1973. They later divorced but remained friends through their lives.

Ira's love of aviation led to him working for Morrison Knudsen Western Aircraft for 16 years, then for All West Aviation for seven years.

He moved to Black Canyon Ranch in Hells Canyon in 2003, a family ranch established in 1903 by Ira's great-grandfather, Finley Gordon. This ranch was a passion for Ira, he loved the country and wildlife always.

Ira truly made friends wherever he went, and he never forgot those same friends throughout his lifetime. Ira loved the outdoors, and many family trips rockhounding were made through the years, to such exotic places such as Dis-mal Swamp, Idaho. Ira was a talented

artist, drawing from his early years. He dabbled in stained glass, flint knapping, and jewelry making. Ira remained an athlete throughout his life. He was an avid golfer and bowler (two 300-games), and he even enjoyed a little horticulture.

Ira was a gentle soul, helping all around him.

Ira is survived by his loving partner whom he considered his wife, JoAnn Jackson; his devoted sister, Irene M. Greenough, and her husband, Mark; his nephew, Jason Unruh and family of Aurora, Colorado; his lifelong friend, Jerry Bellak of Nampa, Idaho; and numerous cousins and dear friends.

Ira was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon I. and Lucille K. Haskett.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Ira, the family suggests the V.F.W. Post No. 7847 through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

HEART TO HEART

Thanks to all who helped with cleanup

The Baker City Downtown Design Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to all who participated in our first Downtown Cleanup event. This Spring Clean Fling was a two-day weekend event that included 25 community volunteers.

Our businesses are responsible for keeping their buildings, sidewalks, benches, planters, and tree wells clean and tidy. When running a small business, there

is often not a lot of free time to catch up on these duties. This event provided an opportunity for the community to lend a helping hand to our cherished businesses. It's always best to support them through sales, but during this time of forced closures, our town really stepped up to give in other ways. Most of our business owners are not receiving any financial support for themselves. Their spirits could use some lifting. They give thousands of dollars to our community

programs every year. It was a great way to repay them for their kindness.

We would like to thank individuals and businesses that helped out by donating materials for the spruce up. D&B Supply, Katherine Bailey at Edward Jones, Royal Artisan, Tom Novak, and Thatcher's Ace Hardware specifically helped with tree wells, flowers, garbage collection, and paint.

Spring is a time for hope. We hope to make this an annual event coinciding with the weekend following Earth and Arbor Day. It will serve as a reminder to sweep away the winter garbage and gravel and get ready for a colorful, event-filled summer downtown.

Kate Reid

Baker City Downtown Design Committee



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Clerk reminds voters of ballot return options

By Stefanie Kirby
Baker County Clerk

The May 19 primary election cycle is in full swing. Due to Oregon being a vote-by-mail state for over 20 years, we are comfortable, familiar and confident with this process and are able to maintain schedule of an election during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Ballots for the May 19 primary election went to the post office for mailing Wednesday, April 29. Voters should start seeing those arrive in their mail boxes soon. Voters should be aware that with the high volume of registration updates, specifically political party changes to vote in the primary election, there is a large chance that you will receive a ballot for your previous party before your updated party. We have been working through those changes and reissuing ballots as quickly as we can.

You should be receiving your reissued ballot in the mail shortly after your initial ballot. It is important to note that once a ballot is reissued for a voter, it inactivates your other ballot so it cannot be voted.

With the closures to the public of city hall offices in Richland, Halfway and Huntington, voters can still access those drop sites by simply using the city drop boxes or slots near their door. The City Recorders will be checking those daily, with exception of weekends, and will place any ballots into the locked official ballot drop boxes issued by the Clerk's Office. Additionally, due to the safety of citizens and the possibility of limited personnel resources, the Baker City Community Connection drop site location will not be utilized for this election.

The drop site locations are:

- Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third St., Baker City, Fourth Street drive-thru drop box open at all times
- Huntington City Hall, 50 E. Adams St., 541-869-2202
- Richland City Hall, 89 Main St., 541-893-6141
- Halfway City Hall, 155 E. Record St. Suite B, 541-742-4741

New this year, as a result of legislation passed in 2019, the state of Oregon is paying for return postage on all ballots for all Oregon elections. Though this is unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic, it begins with perfect timing for us to encourage voters to continue to stay home, stay safe and vote by mail as no stamp is needed to return your ballot by mail. As with all other elections, when you receive your ballot in the mail, please vote it early and when mailing back to us, please do not mail any later than one week prior to election date to ensure it makes it to us in time as postmarks do not count.

While most of the Courthouse remains closed to the public, the Clerk's Office will be open on an appointment basis for election business. We remain in the office to serve the public so please call us by phone at 541-523-8207 during regular business hours if you have any questions or need assistance with your ballot.

Low-flying helicopter prompts calls to 911

A helicopter flying without lights for night vision goggle training prompted several calls to Baker County's 911 system Sunday night.

Callers said the helicopter was flying without

lights near the Elkhorn Mountains. According to the Sheriff's Office, the FAA website listed a flight plan expiring early Tuesday. The Sheriff's Office didn't say whether it was a military aircraft.

Perdy up the horse fer mom...



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NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations

FAILURE TO ABIDE BY DE-FERRED PROSECUTION FOR FOURTH-DEGREE DOMESTIC ASSAULT and HARASSMENT (Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Larry Merl Barker, 39, of 34644 Stices Gulch, 12:58 a.m. Saturday, in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

THIRD-DEGREE THEFT: Ed-

ward Allen Braswell, 45, of Baker City; and Kimberly Lynn Winter, 27, of Baker City; both were cited and released at 6:29 p.m. Friday; in connection with a report of shoplifting at Grocery Outlet, 297 E. Campbell St.

Oregon State Police Arrests, citations

THIRD-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: Jamie Weiss, 55, of Baker City, 4:48 p.m. Friday, at Geiser-Pollman Park; cited and released.