

USS Oregon officially joins U.S. Navy fleet

GROTON, Conn. (AP) — The USS Oregon officially joined the U.S. Navy fleet on Saturday, May 28, marking the first submarine named after the Beaver State in more than a century.

The newest Virginia-class fast attack submarine, which can dive to depths greater than 800 feet, was originally christened in 2019. But the

COVID-19 pandemic created some “slips in schedule” for the crew, said U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., whose district includes General Dynamics Corp.’s Electric Boat Shipyard where the 377-foot submarine was constructed.

“But I think the record should be clear that despite that unprecedented disruption, you showed up for work

every day and did your job,” Courtney told the crew of approximately 136 Navy personnel during Saturday’s ceremony, held at the U.S. Submarine Base in Groton.

“Please know that as you embark on your deployments, the people of this state in Rhode Island will be 100% behind you, and you will always be welcome here,” Courtney said.

It marked the Navy’s first in-person commission ceremony since 2019, due to the pandemic. There was, however, a christening ceremony for the USS Hyman Rickover in August 2021.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, who said she felt at home with the mist and overcast skies, urged the crew members to embrace the traits Oregonian

residents possess, including a sense of adventure as well as being courageous, collaborative and compassionate.

“May this crew remember that at the heart of service is compassion and love: love of this country, love of this people, love of her values,” said Brown, a Democrat.

The Oregon is the second Block IV Virginia-class subma-

rines to enter service. The Navy said the sub is designed to conduct anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, delivery of special operations forces, strike warfare, irregular warfare, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, and mine warfare.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn. called the new submarine “one of the technological marvels of the world.”

Progressive ousts Biden-backed Schrader in Oregon primary

McLeod-Skinner defeats incumbent Kurt Schrader in Democratic primary

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Seven-term U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader, a centrist who was endorsed by President Joe Biden, has been ousted in the Democratic primary in Oregon by progressive challenger Jamie McLeod-Skinner after results were delayed more than a week by a ballot-printing issue.

The vote count in the state’s 5th Congressional District was slowed because tens of thousands of ballots were printed with blurry bar codes, making them unreadable by vote-counting machines. Workers in Clackamas County, the state’s third-largest county, had to transfer votes by hand to fresh ballots so they could be tallied. That process continued Friday for other races yet to be called.

McLeod-Skinner had the backing of the local Democratic parties in all four counties covered by the redrawn seat, which now leans a little less blue. In her campaign, she urged stronger action to combat climate change and complained that Schrader was too conservative. She also portrayed Schrader as a politician who had lost touch with his party’s base and in the pocket of large pharmaceutical companies on issues like prescription drug prices.

McLeod-Skinner will face Republican Lori Chavez-DeRemer in November. Chavez-DeRemer is the former mayor of Happy Valley. She has said she will support businesses and police and address “the crisis on our southern border.”

In a statement on Twitter, McLeod-Skinner thanked Schrader for his years of service and said Oregon Democrats should see the contest’s outcome as “an evaluation of our ideas and as a confirmation of our values.”

“From Sellwood to Sunriver, Oregonians never stopped believing we can protect our families, our climate and our civil rights,” she wrote. “Oregonians — this is your victory.”

Biden made Schrader his first endorsement of the year but it didn’t help the moderate Democrat in a district that now includes Bend, one of the state’s fastest-growing Democratic areas where McLeod-Skinner had more name recognition.

Schrader has voted against some of Biden’s priorities, including a money-saving plan to let Medicare negotiate the price it pays for prescription drugs. A year ago, he was one of only two members of his party to vote against a \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief bill because, among several reasons, he did not support including an increase to the minimum wage.

Those decisions may be what cost him re-election, said John Horvick, political director at the nonpartisan public opinion firm DHM Research.

“He’s a moderate, but it’s more specific to the issues where he went against the party,” he said. “The big one is really his reluctance to support Democrats on prescription drugs. You can break with your party in a lot of different areas but a highly salient, deeply held position in the party — that was a deal breaker.”

What remains to be seen is if McLeod-Skinner will compete well in the general election in a district that is split fairly evenly between Republicans and Democrats. Democrats’ hold on the seat could be at risk if moderate voters perceive her as too progressive, he said.

The Republican nominee, Chavez-DeRemer, is endorsed by the third-ranking House Republican, U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York — an endorsement Chavez-DeRemer highlighted in her primary campaign in a crowded field. That might play well in more conservative parts of the redrawn district that stretches from the Portland suburbs toward rural central Oregon.

“To me, it’s a toss-up race going forward and candidate quality is going to matter,” Horvick said. “The opportunities for Oregon to be central in the national conversation is higher this cycle than any cycle I can think of in recent memory.”

Storm

Continued from Page A1

A slow-moving storm moved into Oregon from the Pacific Ocean the next day, Friday, May 27, and the significant rain started in earnest.

That day’s total was 0.33 at the airport.

Saturday, with 0.57 of an inch, and Sunday, with 0.40, were both wetter still.

The three-day total of 1.3 inches nearly matched May’s monthly average of 1.42 inches, and was the wettest three-day period since July 2015.

May is the wettest month, statistically speaking, at the airport. May hasn’t been living up to that reputation for the past several years, however.

Through 11 a.m. on Monday, May 30, the current version was already the wettest May, with 2.05 inches, since 2015, when the monthly total was 1.98 inches.

This May will be the dampest since 2011, when the rainfall total was 3.24 inches.

(The all-time May record is 4.2 inches, set in 1998.)

The persistent periods of wet weather that started in early April have reversed what had been an exceedingly dry start to 2022.

The total precipitation at the airport for January, February and March was a meager 0.67 of an inch — just 30% of average for that period.

April, with 1.26 inches, not only surpassed its average of 0.80, but it was the first month at the airport with more than an inch of rain since May 2020 (1.11 inches).

April and May mark the first consecutive months with more than one inch of rain at the airport since February and March 2014, when the totals were 1.19 and 1.04 inches, respectively.

The storms of April and May have boosted the 2022 rainfall total to 3.96 inches through 9 a.m. on May 30 — 89% of average.

The copious quantities of rain during the holiday weekend stem largely from the type of storm and its relatively sluggish movement, according to the National Weather Service.

Unlike a typical spring cold front, which is propelled by powerful winds in the upper atmosphere and brings a brief burst of rain, the holiday weekend storm was what meteorologists call an “upper level low.” These storms move much more slowly, and this particular version was nearly stationary, in Western Idaho, for many hours.

That allowed some of the moisture to move back into Eastern Oregon even after the center of the storm had moved into Idaho, a relatively rare situation when precipitation moves from east to west.

This pattern led to significant three-day (Friday, May 27, through Sunday, May 29) rain totals in addition to the Baker City Airport’s 1.3 inches:



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

A Memorial Day weekend storm pushed the May rainfall total in Baker City to its highest total since May 2011.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Rain on an avalanche lily in the Elkhorn Mountains on Sunday, May 29, 2022.

The holiday weekend storm was what meteorologists call an “upper level low.” These storms move much more slowly, and this particular version was nearly stationary, in Western Idaho, for many hours.

lowest high temperature for that day, set in 1988. Monday, May 30, was likely to set a record, as the National Weather Service was forecasting a high of 48 degrees. The lowest high temperature recorded on that date is 52, set in 1967.

The average high temperature for both May 29 and May 30 is 70 degrees.

Snow fell in the mountains during the weekend, with the Wallowa Lake Tramway reporting 18 inches of new snow atop Mount Howard, which is slightly over 8,000 feet, on Sunday.

Abnormally chilly, too

The weekend storm also caused temperatures to plummet to levels more typical of March than late May.

The high temperature on Sunday, May 29, at the Baker City Airport was 52 degrees. That’s only one degree warmer than the record

Oregon measure aims to limit legislative walkouts

SALEM (AP) — Oregon’s public sector unions are pushing a ballot measure that would limit the ability of the minority party in the Legislature to use walkouts to block legislation.

Republicans have used the tactic frequently at the Capitol in recent years to try to thwart the agenda of Democrats, who have firm control of both the state House and Senate.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports that under the proposal, a lawmaker who is marked unexcused by a chamber’s presiding officer 10 or more times in a single legislative session would be barred under the state Constitution from seeking re-election.

On Friday, May 27, backers of Initiative Petition 14, dubbed “Legislative Accountability 1,” said they submitted 183,942 signatures to the Oregon secretary of state.

To qualify for the November ballot, state elections officials

will need to determine that at least 149,360 of those signatures are from registered Oregon voters.

“It’s long past time that there were rules in place to make sure politicians show up to do their jobs,” Oregon Education Association President Reed Scott-Schwalbach, one of two chief petitioners, said in a statement Friday.

Because of the proposal’s reliance on unexcused absences, the law would place a lot of power in the hands of the speaker of the House and the Senate president, the two presiding officers who decide whether or not a lawmaker’s absence is excused.

Excused absences are fairly routine in Salem, with lawmakers filing requests with presiding officers explaining why they are unable to attend. They are not granted in cases where lawmakers are absent in order to block legislation.

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