

RIDGEVIEW'S NUNES WINS STATE TITLE

THE FRESHMAN SHATTERS HER PREVIOUS RECORD • CLASS 5A JAVELIN, SPORTS, B1



# The Bulletin

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

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U.S. military | Mental health

## Student vet designs app to combat suicides among service members



Veteran Clay Webster conducts a preflight instrument check Thursday in the cockpit of a Robinson R-44 helicopter at Bend Municipal Airport.

BY BRYCE DOLE • The Bulletin

Clay Webster, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, sat in his truck outside the Bend Municipal Airport on March 10, reading through the Facebook post that began: “FINAL CRY FOR HELP.”

The 23-year-old student veteran at Central Oregon Community College scrolled with growing sadness as he took in the story of yet another veteran at the brink of suicide. The post, written by Steven Osborne, a 32-year-old Marine Corps veteran who served four years in Afghanistan, described the “internal pain, sorrow and depression” that looms over many veterans post-combat.

The post read: “I hope now with this letter, it will send a message to the (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs). And not just another forgotten letter that the VA hides in its closet full of dead souls from those who served proudly but came home broken like me, asking for help but had the door slammed in their face ... They pushed me to this level.”

### Need help?

To get help, call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 or text 838255.

Webster had never met Osborne before he died by suicide that day. But to him, this was a story that was all too familiar. In 2016, his high school friend Grant Hodge had died by suicide while also serving as a radio operator in the Marines. “At the time, it seemed like a freak accident, but as you go through enlistment, you see that it happened more and more to different people in different areas,” he said.

See **Veteran** / A7



Webster, a Marine Corps veteran, wears a bracelet in memory of a friend and fellow veteran who took his own life.

RACE FOR GOVERNOR  
IN OREGON

## Johnson’s brigades tee up in ‘full-court press’

BY GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

The “Betsy Brigades” are revving up to move into the Oregon political scene, carrying the message of the insurgent moderate seeking to become just the second independent governor in state history.

“We’re in full-court press,” Johnson said in an interview on primary Election Day. “We’re going to have Betsy Brigades teeing up to gather signatures in every county.”

Johnson’s mixing of basketball and golf metaphors is symbolic of what she says Oregon needs in its politics: a variety.

“Take the best ideas from Democrats and the best ideas of Republicans so Oregon can get its mojo back,” she said.



### ELECTION

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She’s eager to unleash her campaign, sending volunteers dubbed “Betsy Brigades” out to connect with voters in all 36 counties.

With Democrats and Republicans exhausted and depleted by primary races, she’s jumping into the spotlight with the largest war chest of all. Johnson has raised more than \$8 million, and currently has \$5.3 million in her campaign fund. Her campaign has attracted large contributions from what critics have called the “bulldozer and buzz saw” industries — timber and construction.

The largest amount — \$1.75 million — has come from Nike co-founder Phil Knight.

Johnson’s first campaign goal is to gather at least 24,000 valid signatures to submit to the Secretary of State’s Office by Aug. 16.

“We’ll blow by that number,” she said.

### Middle ground

Johnson has sought to stake out the middle ground between what she called “the shrill voices of the left and right.” She’s lined up endorsements from the moderate wings of both the Democratic and Republican party.

See **Johnson** / A4

## Bend babysitter is on trial in assault on baby

State presents internet searches, such as ‘wanting to hit babies for no reason’

BY GARRETT ANDREWS  
The Bulletin

Around midday Oct. 31, 2018, paramedics were called to a unit in the West-side Village Apartments in Bend, where, they were told, a 14-month-old child had fallen off a bed and hit her head.

The girl was screaming though unresponsive, her eyes “stuck in one spot,” the child’s babysitter, Trishelle Linschied, told 911.

Linschied, then 25, ran a small day care out of the two-bedroom apartment she shared with a roommate. She was alone with the child at the time the injury occurred.

The girl, Jackson Rose Sykes, was medically airlifted from St. Charles Bend to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland, where she was treated for a brain hemorrhage.

See **Babysitter** / A7

## Hydro Flask is sued by former employee for sex discrimination



In this 2017 file photo, Hydro Flask Marketing Director Yiorgos Makris gives a tour of the Hydro Flask headquarters in Bend.

BY GARRETT ANDREWS  
The Bulletin

A former social media coordinator for Hydro Flask is suing the Bend-based bottle-maker, alleging her boss harassed her over a 3-year period, while upper management supported him.

Kelli Delperdang was hired as a social media coordinator in August 2016, and terminated by the company in November 2020.

She alleges in a lawsuit, filed Monday in Deschutes County Circuit Court, that

she was wrongfully terminated after her manager subjected her to sexual harassment, a hostile work environment, gender discrimination and retaliation.

Delperdang, 32, is seeking \$241,000 in damages.

Hydro Flask Marketing Director Yiorgos Makris is named as a party in the lawsuit. A company representative said this week that Makris was still with the company. He did not return phone calls or an email.

See **Hydro Flask** / A4