

# Legislative logjam rolls on toward do-or-die day Friday

By Gary A. Warner  
Oregon Capital Bureau

April 13, the deadline for those work sessions, where committees amend and vote on bills.

## Brakes vs. no breaks

Monday was “National Napping Day,” which felt appropriate for many lawmakers and observers. House Republicans again required that each bill be read out loud in its entirety, as a way of tapping the brakes on the Democratic supermajority’s pace of approving their agenda.

Normally, bills are read by title only unless there is an objection. The GOP has objected each floor session.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, has countered by cutting into scheduled breaks and extending evening floor sessions.

## Bill for Oregon MIA advances

The first bill of the day that was read out loud had complete bipartisan support. The House unanimously approved HB 2700, which would include Oregonians who were listed as missing in action in wars, but whose remains were later found and returned to Oregon, among those eligible for roadside memorial signs.

The bill is being championed by veterans activist Dick



Oregon Capital Bureau file photo

The House chamber in the state Capitol in Salem.

Tobiason of the Bend Heroes Foundation. Rep. Jack Zika, R-Redmond, thanked Tobiason on behalf of the Legislature for bringing the issue to them.

“They may be gone, but are not forgotten,” Zika said.

The bill next goes to the Senate, where passage is expected.

About 1,000 servicemembers from Oregon remain MIA, mostly from World War II.

## Power trio appears at subcommittee meeting

The three most powerful politicians in Salem appeared together — virtually — on Monday for a Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education hearing.

Gov. Kate Brown, Senate President Peter Courtney,

D-Salem, and Kotek spoke in support of their joint proposal for a \$250 million summer learning and childcare package.

Supporters say the program will help thousands of Oregon children catch up on learning and socializing after a year of mostly virtual schooling.

The legislation “will set our kids up for success by letting them be kids again, in environments that foster creativity, learning, and joy,” Brown said.

Hearings on the program and other education spending will continue Wednesday.

## U of O tops list of Oregon COVID-19 cases

A New York Times review of COVID-19 cases published March 2 shows 3,189 cases of

the disease linked to Oregon colleges since February 2020.

The University of Oregon had the highest reported positive test count at 1,479. Oregon State is second at 787 cases, and Eastern Oregon University was third at 111 cases.

The Times put an asterisk next to Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, which reported 335 cases early in the pandemic. The campus includes a medical center and other facilities that serve the community.

The review compiled 535,000 cases at more than 1,900 colleges and universities. The Times estimated this as an undercount because of no standardized reporting, contact tracing or infection database for all colleges.

The Times said it had identified more than 100 campus-related COVID-19 deaths nationwide, primarily among school employees in 2020. It did not break out the deaths by state or institution.

## Pendleton affordable housing vote Tuesday

Legislation that would allow Pendleton to join Bend and Redmond in an affordable housing pilot program is scheduled for a House vote on Tuesday.

HB 2160, sponsored by Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, would greenlight Land Conservation and Development Commission approval for an eventual plan to build on up to 50 acres outside of Pendleton’s current urban growth boundary.

The bill passed the House Housing Committee unanimously.

## Republicans push for Capitol reopening

Senate Republicans who staged a one-day walkout last month, and their counterparts in the House requiring the reading of bills in full, both say one of the central issues is their demand to reopen the Capitol to the public.

“What the people of Oregon want is for this Capitol to be open and to have access to in-person hearings,” said Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, during comments on the Senate floor last Thursday. “Many other states are already doing this with greater COVID problems than exist in Oregon today.”

The Capitol has been closed for a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ZIP code around the Capitol has had the highest number of positive cases of any in the state. Control of the Capitol falls to the Legislature.

# Everyone 18 and older in Grant County eligible for COVID-19 vaccine waitlist

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Creek and Dayville within the next three weeks.

She said the health department will begin scheduling people on the waitlist and that anyone interested in getting a shot can email vaccine@ccsemail.org with their name, date of birth, phone number, mailing address and any chronic health conditions. Lindsay said the health department will send a confirmation email within 48 hours.

Lindsay said those who cannot email can call the health department from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 541-575-0429, or Strawberry Wildemess Clinic at 541-575-0404, to ask to be on the waitlist.

She said email allows the staff to track those interested in getting the vaccine more efficiently and reduces demand on the phone lines at both the health department and urgent care center.

Len’s Pharmacy will also be scheduling appointments to administer 100 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. To sign up for vaccination at the pharmacy, call 541-575-0629.

Owner Greg Armstrong said the pharmacy will begin administering the vaccine by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to noon. Mondays through Wednesdays.

Armstrong said the pharmacy would need to schedule at least 10 people per appointment period as the vaccine has a short shelf-life after the bottle is pierced.

He said Len’s would be in sync with the county in respect to eligible groups.

The health department originally announced last week that all adults 18 and older were eligible for the vaccine, before changing the statement to all adults are eligible for the vaccine waitlist.

# Bentz announces 2021 Congressional Art Competition

Blue Mountain Eagle

Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, announced that his office has begun accepting submissions for the 2021 Congressional Art Competition. High school students from across Oregon’s Second District are invited to compete in this annual visual art competition for a chance to have their artwork displayed in the United States Capitol.

Submissions for the Congressional Art Competition will be reviewed by a panel of experts which includes local artists and art professors. One winner and several runners-up will be selected.

In addition to a coveted spot in the 2021 national student art exhibit in the Capitol,

the winner could receive complimentary round-trip airfare for two to visit Washington, D.C., a chance to see their artwork on display and an invitation to a reception held in their honor.

Runners-up will receive local recognition, and their artwork will be displayed in one of Congressman Bentz’s offices.

To enter the contest, high school students living in Oregon’s Second Congressional District should submit the Student Release Form and no more than two photos (.jpeg) of their two-dimensional artwork to Wyndess James at wyndess.james@mail.house.gov by April 23.

For further information, visit https://bentz.house.gov/services/art-competition.

# American Legion Auxiliary to meet

Blue Mountain Eagle

The American Legion Auxiliary Ellis Tracy Unit will meet at 2 p.m.

Friday, March 19, at the Grant County Chamber of Commerce.

All members are encouraged to attend.

*The family of Homer Harrison would like to sincerely thank everyone for the many cards, calls, and prayers sent to us as expressions of sympathy for our loss.*

*Thank you,*  
*Jeannette, Bill & Scott*

## OBITUARIES

### Mattie L. Osborne

Mattie L. Osborne, age 75, passed away Saturday, March 6, at her residence in Fox, Oregon. Memorial contributions in her honor can be made to the Hamilton Cemetery through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. To leave an online condolence for the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

### Joyce May Hendricks

Joyce May Hendricks, age 90, passed away Saturday, March 13, at Settler’s Park Assisted Living in Baker City. She had lived most of her life in Grant County.

A recitation of the Rosary will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 19, at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in John Day. A memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 20, also at the church. A committal service will take place at St. Andrews Catholic Cemetery in Canyon City immediately following the Mass. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or to Blue Mountain Hospice through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97814.

To offer online condolences to Joyce’s family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

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## Last Week’s Temps

Day	HI/LO
John Day Tuesday	48/27
Wednesday	47/27
Thursday	51/32
Friday	52/25
Saturday	59/28
Sunday	58/33
Monday	44/30

### 24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY  
162.500 MHZ

## WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17 - 23

Day	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Weather							
Forecast	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Chance of rain	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Chance of rain/snow	Partly sunny
High	56	62	51	47	49	48	56
Low	37	37	30	29	34	26	30