

Rep. Gilliam, diagnosed with ALS in 2015, resigns from House

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon State Rep. Vic Gilliam, R-Silverton, is stepping down effective Feb. 1, the first day of the 2017 legislative session.

Gilliam, who publicly acknowledged his "likely diagnosis" of ALS in late 2015, said in a letter to constituents Jan. 30 that "several changes in life show it's time to announce my resignation as your state representative."

"After prayer, consulting family and friends, I was led to this decision for reasons including fairness to you my constituents," Gilliam wrote.

In an email, his legislative office declined to comment further, saying Gilliam "is asking for privacy."

Gilliam was first appointed to the seat in 2007, and was most recently reelected to the

position in November. According to his biography on the Oregon Legislature's website, Gilliam graduated from Franklin High School in Portland and was a legislative aide to former U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield and served on the state's Educational Coordinating Council as an appointee of former Oregon Gov. Tom McCall.

His departure leaves a vacancy that the local Republican Party needs to fill within 30 days; otherwise the governor must appoint a replacement.

According to state statute, the local Republican party will choose three to five nominees in accordance with party rules, and Marion County commissioners will vote on which of those nominees should take the position.

The spot is one of 25 occupied by Republicans in the Oregon House — the other 35 slots are held by

Democrats, meaning the majority party is just shy of a 3/5 majority in the chamber.

In a statement, House Minority Leader Mike McLane, R-Powell Butte, praised Gilliam as a "wonderful colleague and an even better friend."

"As a freshman legislator, I remember looking up to Vic as a statesman, who handled the people's business with dignity and class, but without taking himself too seriously," McLane said. "As the Republican Leader, I came to rely on him for his counsel, his moral clarity and his unflinching wit."

It's the second post-election vacancy in the Oregon Legislative Assembly. Former state Sen. Chris Edwards, D-Eugene, stepped down in late November to take a position at the University of Oregon's new Knight Campus. Edwards has been replaced by James Manning, Jr.

Survivor of WWII secret escape from Nazis dies in Oregon

MEDFORD (AP) — Harold Hayes, an Army medic and the last survivor of a group of medics and nurses who spent nine weeks evading capture in Nazi-occupied Albania during World War II, has died. He was 94.

All 30 men and women in the group eventually made it out, but it was kept secret to protect partisan fighters who helped them.

Hayes' daughter, Margaret Bleakley, told The New York Times that he died Jan. 22 in a hospital in Medford, Oregon, following an operation to remove a blood clot from his leg.

Hayes was among 13 medics, 13 nurses and four crew members to board a twin-engine cargo plane in Nov. 8, 1943, in Sicily expecting a two-hour flight to help wounded troops in Italy.

"It sure wasn't something any of us expected," said Hayes in a 2013 interview with the Medford Mail Tribune. "We thought we would be in Italy for a very short time, then return."

Bad weather caused the plane to go off course, and it was attacked by German fighters before ducking back into the clouds, finally running low on fuel and landing 25 miles inland.



Bob Pennell/The Medford MailTribune via AP Hayes, an Army medic and the last survivor of a group of medics and nurses who spent nine weeks evading capture in Nazi-occupied Albania during World War II, has died. He was 94.

caught up in Albania's civil war.

"We were caught in the middle of all that," Hayes said. "Some days we walked 24 hours without stopping."

They were listed as missing in action and letters went out to their families.

In late November, British intelligence in Albania learned the American plane had crashed and those aboard were alive. American and British rescue plans were developed.

On Jan. 9, 1943, 10 nurses and 17 medics and crew members boarded a British launch and crossed to Italy. Three nurses who remained behind in the German-occupied city of Berat made it across in March 1944, riding pack mules to the coast and then a torpedo boat across the Adriatic.

The escape was kept classified for years because some partisans who helped the Americans were shot by Germans and, after the war, those suspected of helping the Americans were executed by Enver Hoxha, Albania's Communist dictator. He died in 1985.

"For many years, I didn't say anything about what happened in Albania," Hayes told The New York Times in a 2015 telephone interview.

Brutal winter halts construction in Bend

BEND (AP) — Central Oregon's historic cold temperatures and record snowfalls this winter are hurting Bend's booming construction sector.

The Bulletin newspaper reported Sunday that many building projects — from single-family homes to large commercial projects — are running up to three months behind schedule, are over budget and prompting concerns of possible layoffs.

"We haven't run into this in Bend before," said Jay Nees, project manager with Walsh Construction Co., a commercial builder based in Portland.

Walsh Construction broke ground on a six-building apartment project over the summer. Nees said the apartments would come onto the market in phases. The first buildings are still scheduled to open in late spring. But Nees said some of the buildings that broke ground later in the process are one to two months behind schedule.

Between finding materials that work in low temperatures and keeping work sites safe and clear of snow, ice and other winter hazards, Nees estimated that the cost of winter weather on the apartment project has exceeded \$100,000.

"I think everyone's over budget at this point," Nees said.

Brian Fratzke, principal broker at Fratzke Commercial Real Estate, said one adjustment for builders who come from warmer climates is dealing with a more limited building season. He said many local asphalt plants close for the winter, meaning driveways and parking lots can be difficult to complete between November and March.

"You don't have a 12-month construction season; you just don't," Fratzke said.

Tim Knopp, executive vice president of Central Oregon Builders Association, said builders can often work on commercial and

residential projects through the heart of winter, taking a day or two off as needed. This winter, however, the heavy snow and relentlessly cold temperatures have made it more of a challenge.

"It seems like every 10 to 15 years you get something like this," Knopp said. "I guess this is our year."

Following a heavy snowfall, Knopp said construction crews have to shift gears, using equipment intended for heavy construction for snow removal just to make sites usable.

Nees added that Walsh Construction has resorted to drastic measures — including renting a 120-by-50-foot wedding tent — to keep the foundation of an apartment building warm and without snow.

Even more troublesome in certain cases are consistent hard freezes. Gary North, vice president of Bend-based R&H Construction, said freezes make it a challenge to lay and maintain concrete foundations of buildings.

Judge halts grazing in forest to protect spotted frog

SALEM (AP) — A federal judge has halted cattle grazing in an Oregon national forest until officials can review its impact on Oregon spotted frogs.

The Capital Press reports that U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken says annual grazing authorizations issued by

the U.S. Forest Service did not account for evidence showing harm to the frogs' habitat in the 68,000 acres of Fremont-Winema National Forest.

Plaintiffs argued that frogs of the threatened species gather in shallow pools during dry periods and

are trampled by cattle that regularly venture beyond the areas where they're supposed to graze. The court ruled that the U.S. Forest Service's conclusion that cattle only minimally impact the frogs didn't fully analyze the impact of unauthorized grazing.

Corrections

Free forums, open to the public, will explore acute versus chronic pain, non-drug options for chronic pain and the role of psychosocial support in chronic pain management. These forums are Feb. 23 in Pendleton at Grande Ronde Hospital, April 27 in La Grande at Blue Mountain Conference Center and May 11 in Ontario at Four Corners Cultural Center. All run 6:30-9:30 p.m. Last week's story, "Rising painkiller abuse outpaces available treatment," incorrectly listed locations.

Hailey Heideman and Haylie Peterson were erroneously listed as receiving honorable mention for Lone Community School's honor roll for fall semester 2016. Corrected information placing them on the honor roll was supplied to the East Oregonian Monday.

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast TODAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY Colder with a little snow Periods of snow; total: 1-3" Very cold; a few snow showers Cloudy, a bit of snow; very cold Mostly cloudy and not as cold PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST 29° 17° 22° 17° 22° 18° 28° 24° 39° 32° HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST 34° 20° 24° 21° 26° 20° 26° 22° 36° 32° ALMANAC PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday TEMPERATURE HIGH 39° LOW 31° Yesterdays 43° 28° Normals 43° 28° Records 65° (1971) -15° (1950) PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00" Month to date 1.35" Normal month to date 1.35" Year to date 1.35" Last year to date 1.51" Normal year to date 1.35" HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday TEMPERATURE HIGH 33° LOW 22° Yesterdays 44° 29° Normals 44° 29° Records 64° (1967) -19° (1950) PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00" Month to date 1.40" Normal month to date 1.24" Year to date 1.40" Last year to date 1.10" Normal year to date 1.24" SUN AND MOON Sunrise today 7:18 a.m. Sunset tonight 5:00 p.m. Moonrise today 9:18 a.m. Moonset today 9:26 p.m. First Full Last New Feb 3 Feb 10 Feb 18 Feb 26 REGIONAL FORECAST Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today; a passing shower across the north during the morning. Eastern and Central Oregon: Cloudy today. Snow, 1-3 inches in the north; rain or snow shower near the Cascades and in the south. Western Washington: A shower across the south today; clouds breaking in central parts. Mostly cloudy at the coast. Eastern Washington: A little snow today, accumulating up to an inch in the south; clouds breaking in the north. Cascades: A bit of snow and rain in central parts today; snow showers elsewhere. Northern California: Clouds and sun today. Cloudy tonight. A little rain tomorrow afternoon at the coast.

REGIONAL CITIES Today Wed. Astoria 47 31 c 43 33 c Baker City 27 18 sf 28 17 sn Bend 41 19 c 25 15 sn Brookings 53 43 c 56 45 c Burns 31 22 c 33 17 sn Enterprise 34 17 sn 29 18 sn Eugene 46 36 c 42 32 c Heppner 34 17 i 22 15 sn Hermiston 34 20 sn 24 21 sn John Day 38 22 c 31 21 sn Klamath Falls 44 25 c 44 20 sn La Grande 32 23 sn 29 21 sn Meacham 28 17 sn 22 17 sn Medford 50 35 c 52 39 c Newport 49 37 sh 45 35 c North Bend 52 40 c 53 40 c Ontario 26 22 c 33 23 sn Pasco 36 18 sn 32 22 c Pendleton 29 17 sn 22 17 sn Portland 46 30 c 34 30 c Redmond 39 21 r 26 16 sn Salem 48 33 sh 41 31 c Spokane 31 12 sn 26 12 pc Ukliah 31 15 c 23 15 sn Vancouver 47 28 c 34 29 c Walla Walla 32 18 sn 23 20 c Yakima 39 22 sn 32 21 pc WORLD CITIES Today Wed. Beijing 41 17 s 38 13 s Hong Kong 67 62 pc 71 61 pc Jerusalem 48 39 sh 43 30 pc London 53 47 sh 53 46 r Mexico City 73 46 pc 73 46 pc Moscow 21 20 sn 28 12 sn Paris 55 46 sh 53 46 r Rome 57 50 pc 60 51 pc Seoul 31 20 pc 30 13 s Sydney 99 71 pc 81 72 c Tokyo 47 37 s 49 37 pc WINDS (in mph) Today Wednesday Boardman NNE 4-8 WNE 6-12 Pendleton NNW 6-12 NNW 6-12 UV INDEX TODAY 0 0 1 0 0 0 8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. National Summary: Snow will make for slippery travel from the Upper Midwest to the interior Northeast today. Snow will also blanket part of the interior Northwest to the northern Rockies. Most other areas will be dry. Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 80° in Austin, Texas Low -19° in Gunnison, Colo. NATIONAL CITIES Today Wed. Albuquerque 55 31 s 57 31 s Louisville 52 34 pc 49 27 c Atlanta 67 48 s 68 49 pc Memphis 65 46 s 62 37 pc Atlanta City 50 41 c 52 34 pc Miami 75 58 s 78 64 pc Baltimore 45 34 c 49 30 pc Milwaukee 37 25 sf 31 11 sf Billings 26 11 sn 18 7 sn Minneapolis 37 19 sf 20 10 pc Birmingham 69 48 s 69 47 pc Nashville 63 40 pc 59 33 pc Boise 31 26 c 35 26 c New Orleans 75 54 s 74 54 pc Boston 33 29 sn 41 28 sn New York City 36 34 sn 45 31 pc Charleston, SC 71 47 s 74 50 c Oklahoma City 68 34 s 56 30 c Chicago 39 27 sf 34 14 pc Omaha 44 26 pc 34 18 pc Cleveland 40 31 sn 37 22 sf Portland, ME 73 47 c 73 47 c Dallas 77 48 s 70 46 s Phoenix 62 48 pc 59 31 pc Denver 60 23 pc 45 20 pc Providence 32 29 sn 42 26 pc Detroit 37 28 sn 36 19 sf Raleigh 64 41 s 65 41 pc El Paso 67 39 s 68 38 s Rapid City 32 14 c 21 7 sn Fairbanks 20 3 c 14 -11 c Reno 53 32 pc 53 38 c Fargo 33 6 sf 16 3 c Sacramento 50 45 pc 58 49 pc Honolulu 77 66 pc 78 66 s St. Louis 54 35 pc 45 27 pc Houston 78 58 s 80 60 pc Salt Lake City 39 26 pc 47 31 pc Indianapolis 42 30 pc 38 20 pc San Diego 71 51 s 67 49 pc Jacksonville 73 46 s 75 45 s San Francisco 62 48 pc 59 53 c Kansas City 51 29 pc 40 21 pc Seattle 45 29 pc 42 29 c Las Vegas 64 44 s 65 45 pc Tucson 75 42 c 75 41 c Little Rock 68 44 s 62 37 pc Washington, DC 52 37 pc 51 34 pc Los Angeles 76 50 s 70 50 s Wichita 59 30 pc 48 24 s Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.