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Bentz says he didn't ask for a pardon

GOP congressman says he was unaware another sought pardons from Trump for those objecting to 2020 election

By LES ZAITZ
Oregon Capital Chronicle

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz said Friday, June 24, that he was unaware that a colleague had recommended a presidential pardon for his Jan. 6, 2021, vote to challenge the 2020 election results in Pennsylvania.

Bentz, Oregon's lone Republican in Congress, was one of 138 representatives who objected to counting the Pennsylvania election results in the 2020 presidential race.



Bentz



Brooks

Witnesses told a congressional investigating committee on Thursday, June 23, that a handful of U.S. representatives sought pardons from then-President Donald Trump.

U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, R-Alabama, five days after the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol wrote to the White House because "President Trump asked me to."

Brooks recommended Trump grant general pardons to "every congressman and senator who voted to reject the electoral college vote submissions of Arizona and Pennsylvania."

Brooks said he expected Democrats "with perhaps some liberal Republican help" are "going to abuse America's judicial system by targeting numerous Republicans with sham charges."

In response to written questions, Bentz said through a spokesperson that he had never considered requesting a pardon and hadn't researched the matter. He said he didn't authorize Brooks to represent him in a pardon request.

"I have never even spoken to Rep. Brooks," Bentz said.

They both participate in the Sportsmen's Caucus in the House, their official websites show.

Bentz said he knew nothing of the letter until it became public.

"I was made aware of it in the same manner as everyone else — when the media began talking about it," he said.

Bentz, a former state legislator and

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HONORING VETERANS

La Grande Post 43 honors World War II and Korean War veterans



Isabella Crowley/The Observer

ABOVE: Beverly Moody receives her certificate from Dave Matott — commander of La Grande Post 43 — at a ceremony held to honor World War II and Korean War veterans at the La Grande American Legion annex building on Saturday, June 25, 2022. Moody served during the Korean War. **AT TOP:** From left, John Turner, Alden Thornton, Wayne Jones, Robert "Bob" Goss, Beverly Moody and James Leitch display their certificates of honor during the June 25 ceremony at La Grande American Legion Post 43.

By ISABELLA CROWLEY
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Legionnaires, family and friends filled the American Legion annex building Saturday, June 25, for a ceremony honoring the World War II and Korean War veterans of La Grande Post 43.

All members of American Legion Post 43 who served in the two wars were invited — eight World War II veterans and 25 Korean War veterans.

"At Memorial Day, I was thinking about how our WWII vets are passing away and our Korean War vets are getting older, so we need to make sure the ones who are remaining are honored," said Bobbie Dalglish, adjutant of American Legion Post 43.

Dave Matott — commander of La Grande Post 43 — opened the commemoration and introduced the master of ceremonies,

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Eastern receives grant to help prepare rural students

School receives \$1.2M for recruiting, retaining rural students

By ANDREW CUTLER
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A program designed to help recruit and retain rural students at Eastern Oregon University is getting a boost.

Oregon U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley announced last week that roughly \$1.2 million in grant money will go to Eastern to power a new program called Achieving Careers for Rural Oregon Student Success, or ACROSS. The program's goal is to increase outreach to schools in

the region and provide courses that allow students to earn credits for high school and college at the same time.

"Part of our case is, we're 'Oregon's Rural University,' this is what we do," Tim Seydel, Eastern's vice president for university advancement, said. "We're primed to do this."

Seydel said the ACROSS program ideally could save students up to a full year of tuition and get students into the workforce sooner.



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo, The Observer

Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, hopes to better support rural student success with its new ACROSS program.

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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

	Tonight 51 LOW Mainly clear		Wednesday 79/50 Mostly sunny
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