

State elections director resigns position with little explanation

Williams cited 'personal reasons'

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon Elections Director Jim Williams suddenly resigned Tuesday, citing "personal reasons."

"I appreciate the opportunity to have served the secretary of state and the people of Oregon for the past two-and-a-half years," Williams wrote in a resignation letter. "I take pride in all that we accomplished in the Elections Division during this time and to have been a part of many historical election events and activities. I will forever cherish those moments and my experience here."

"Unfortunately, I am unable to continue my role in this agency for personal rea-



Jim Williams

Williams has been director of the Elections Division since October 2013.

Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins has selected Brenda Bayes to serve as interim elections director. She previously worked under Williams as the deputy director of candidate and campaign services.

"With Jim's resignation as our elections director yesterday, I want to reiterate my confidence in, and support for, our new Interim Elections Director Brenda Bayes, the entire team in the Elections Division, and our partners at the county elections offices," Atkins wrote in an email to staff members.

Bayes will serve as interim elections director until the new secretary of state takes office in January. When a director is chosen, Bayes will return to her former position as deputy director.

Gov. Kate Brown, then the

secretary of state, hired Williams in October 2013. Williams then had more than 20 years of experience in three states. He was executive secretary of the Cleveland County Election Board in Norman, Oklahoma, before joining the Oregon Secretary of State's Office. Before that, he worked for the Denver Elections Division and Automated Elections Services, a New Mexico company that provides elections systems support.

As deputy director, Bayes oversaw state candidate filings, processing initiatives and referendums and campaign finance-related election law enforcement, and publication of the voters' pamphlet, among other duties. She has worked for the Elections Division since 1991.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

College support programs receive federal funding

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College has received a \$322,000, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue funding the Talent Search Program, which provides support to first-generation college students.

Talent Search is one of two federally-funded precollege programs used for more than 20 years. The other is Upward Bound. Both serve low-income and potential first-generation college students.

The programs focus on academic achievement, college and career preparation, financial aid for post-secondary education, student advocacy and community and cultural exposure. In addition, tutoring services and skill-building workshops are provided.

Last year, Talent Search served more than 670 students in eight high schools and middle schools in Astoria, Warrenton, Seaside and Knappa.

"Talent Search has provided services to thousands of low-income, first generation college participants in Clatsop County," said John Graves, who recently became director of Upward Bound and Talent Search, replacing the retiring Robert McClelland. "We are thrilled to be able to continue to encourage and support students to graduate from high school, and enroll in and complete college."

OREGON CAPITAL INSIDER
Get the inside scoop on state government and politics!

Astoria 911 dispatchers recognized

The Daily Astorian

Three Astoria 911 dispatchers were recently honored at an Astoria Police staff meeting for their superior performance.

Summer Bartlett received a distinguished service commendation. Candace Pozdolski and Melanie Hughes each received a notice of recognition.

Bartlett was recognized for her performance on December 14, 2015, when she handled a residential structure fire, missing and endangered elderly resident and a hit-and-run involving a grade-school child all during an early morning shift.

Bartlett dispatched four different fire departments to the structure fire and then coordinated multiple agencies to search for the missing



Submitted Photo

Dispatchers Summer Bartlett, left, and Candace Pozdolski and Melanie Hughes were honored for their work.

elderly person. It required the coordination of city, county, state and federal partners.

Pozdolski and Hughes were recognized for their teamwork and multitasking

abilities during a domestic disturbance call October 11, 2015, which involved the discharge of a firearm.

Multiple law enforcement units were sent, fire and EMS were staged out of harm's way, and a perimeter was established to locate the suspect, according to police.

A search of the residence also uncovered a World War II grenade which required the response of the Oregon State Police Bomb Squad.

"I could not be prouder of these three 9-1-1 professionals," Emergency Communications Manager Jeff Rusiecki said in a statement. "We have a highly trained and dedicated staff and so often take the great work they do daily for granted. This was an excellent opportunity to recognize these three for some extraordinary work."

Clatsop Post 12 BBQ Pork Rib Dinner
with Baked Beans, Veggies, Coleslaw & Cornbread

Friday July 22nd 6PM "Karaoke Dave"
\$8.00 4PM Until Gone

Saturday, July 23rd
90th Birthday of the Doughboy Monument

"Doughboy Over the Top at Cantigny"
Presented to the City of Astoria
by Clatsop Post 12, The American Legion on July 21, 1926

3PM: Re-Dedication of the Monument at The Doughboy
4PM: Reception/Dinner/Birthday Cake at Clatsop Post 12
Program to include:
• Displays on Post 12 and Cantigny, France
• Memorial of the Fallen in The Great War
• Charter Members of Clatsop Post 12

5PM: Dinner (until gone)
6PM: Ed Chase, DJ
American Legion | Clatsop Post 12
1132 Exchange Street
All is open to the Public including Program, Memorial and Dinner

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

America's MATTRESS

Serta 1931 85 2016 years of comfort

icomfort
ELEVATE & SAVE UP TO \$800 on a Serta Adjustable Mattress Set*

FREE Delivery* Min. \$599 Purchase
FREE Set-Up*
FREE Mattress Recycle*

perfect sleeper
85th Special Firm, Plush & Pillow Top
Queen Size Set INSTANT IN-STORE \$150 REBATE
King Size Set INSTANT IN-STORE \$360 REBATE

36 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
FREE Delivery • FREE Set-Up • FREE Recycle with minimum purchase

New 2016 Serta icomfort on Sale!

icomfort Experience Healthier Sleep Benefits with icomfort

Hottest Quality Mattress Prices!

4TH OF JULY SALE

Serta Knolltop Sets
Queen Size Sets \$399 Save \$200
King Size Sets \$599 Save \$300
Twin & Full Size set Specials available starting at \$194

Pillow Top
Plush
Firm

THE SLEEP YOU NEED GUARANTEED

IN-HOME 120 DAY TRIAL

Serta **sertapedic**
icomfort **HYBRID**

Warrenton 503-861-6085 Located next to Big 5 and Fred Meyer
HOURS: M-F 10-7; SAT 10-6; SUN 11-6
www.americasmattress.com

With 5 convenient locations NEWPORT | FLORENCE | COOS BAY | LINCOLN CITY | WARRENTON

WALTER E. NELSON CO.
More than just paints, stains and janitorial supplies!

Pool, Spa & Fountain Packing Materials

Grill Cleaners, Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners and MORE!

Paints, Stains & Supplies

Benjamin Moore

2240 Commercial Street, Astoria
503.325.6362
www.WalterENelson.com
Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm