INVESTIGATION: Any recall effort would need 220,458 verified signatures

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at least $85,000 for work that overlapped with policies on which she was an official, although unpaid, advisor to the governor. The EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau reported Jan. 27 that Hayes was paid an additional $118,000 by a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit called the Clean Economy Development Center that worked in 2014 to organize a coalition in support of a permanent Oregon low-carbon fuels standard.

When an additional job that paid Hayes $25,000 in 2011 is factored in, Hayes' contracting work during Kitzhaber's third term appears to have brought in more than $200,000.

Willamette Week has also reported Hayes does not appear to have reported some of her income during this period to the IRS.

Meanwhile, two prospective petitions to recall Kitzhaber were filed with the Secretary of State's office this week.

On Friday, two members of Republican Dennis Richardson's 2014 gubernatorial campaign filed a petition with the Secretary of State's office.

Charlie Pearce was Richardson's campaign manager, and Jacob Daniels served as the campaign's attorney. Pearce confirmed in an email Friday that they filed paperwork to create a political action committee called Oregonians for Public Integrity to raise money in support of the recall effort.

Pearce and Daniels included several allegations against Kitzhaber in their petition, including "facilitating the first lady's use of the governor's mansion in order for his household to make financial gains," and "withholding public records requests from being disclosed which are relevant to this pay to play scandal."

Oregon City resident Arin Marcus also filed a recall petition earlier this week, that included allegations Kitzhaber failed to protect Oregon businesses, families and children.

Under the Oregon Constitution, the governor or any other official must be in office, in their current term, for six months before anyone can launch a recall effort. That led Secretary of State Kate Brown to announce Friday evening that the petitions were filed too early. Kitzhaber's current term began Jan. 12.

Any recall effort would also have to collect a large number of valid signatures to move forward: equal to at least 15 percent of the votes cast in the most recent election for governor. Based on ballots cast for governor in November 2014, that would be 220,458 verified signatures.

Recall petitioners would have 90 days to collect that many valid signatures. Once signatures are certified, the official who is the target of the recall has a choice: Resignation, or a statement about why he or she refuses to resign. An election must be scheduled for no later than 35 days after the resignation deadline. If the official is recalled, the secretary of state would become governor.

It is not unprecedented for an Oregon governor to remain in office, despite facing multiple recall attempts. Barbara Roberts was the target of three recall attempts while she was governor from 1991 to 1994, but none of those qualified for a statewide vote.

Daniels was not deterred by the number of signatures necessary or other challenges of a potential recall.

"We think we can get the 220,000-plus signatures," Daniels said on Friday evening.

SCHOOL: Lowest grad rate was zero

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Pendleton

At Pendleton's Hawthorne Jr./Sr. High School, the on-time graduation rate is also 10 percent, up from three percent in 2012-2013.

Principal Dan Greenough said last year Hawthorne had 31 percent of students complete either a GED or diploma within five years.

"For a lot of students at the alternative school the four years is still a goal, but a lot of them will complete in five years instead," he said.

He said some students come to Hawthorne without enough credits to graduate on time, but like the Innovative Learning Center, the school also has a number of students who use the more individualized learning environment to catch up before transitioning back to regular high school.

"It's pretty fluid," Greenough said.

As for the 69 percent of students who still walk away without a diploma or GED, Greenough said in his experience the reasons they do so are as individual as the students themselves.

He said school counselors and alternative school teachers work hard to reach out to those students and show them the long-term benefits of returning to Hawthorne for a GED.

"Those numbers are faces," he said. "Counselors here know who those students are. They know what they need and they work with them on a regular basis."

Milton-Freewater

Umatilla County used to have three alternative schools, but Milton-Freewater Unified School District shut down Pleasant View School at the end of last year, citing financial concerns. In its last year the school had a 31 percent on-time graduation rate.

Superintendent Rob Clark said the district started out the school year with 38 former Pleasant View students and has 31 still enrolled.

"Some of them fit right in," he said. "They didn't miss a beat and they're doing really well. Others have struggled."

For those that are struggling with reintegration into McLoughlin High School, Clark said the district has been offering some flexibility, including the opportunity to come in later in the day and take some classes online in the evening.

He said in his experience alternative schools serve some students better than a traditional high school. Unusual family circumstances, health issues, a baby at home or a pregnancy, for example, might cause a student to be served well by the flexibility of an alternative school.

"They just can't go to school from 8 to 3," Clark said.

Other students who legitimately struggle with the structure of the traditional school system blossom in a less rigid environment. But Clark said in his experience alternative schools also tend to draw students who just want to "take the path of least resistance" and don't end up doing any better in an alternative school than traditional high school.

"We've got to figure out something for those kids," he said.

Statewide

Hermiston and Pendleton's graduation rates aren't the lowest in the state — that distinction goes to Upper Rogue Center for Educational Opportunity in Eagle Point, which managed to graduate none of its 76 seniors last year. But they are below average for the state's public alternative schools.

A few alternative schools, like Burns Alternative School and Woodburn Success Alternative School, managed to hand more than half of their students a regular high school diploma in four years. Others are in the 20 to 30 percent range.

Most districts don't count their special education program in with their alternative school like Hermiston does, for example.

No one knows how they stack up to private alternative schools that run on contracts with districts, either. In 2012 *The Oregonian* reported that school districts in the Portland area were funneling hundreds of low-performing students into private alternative schools that aren't included on state report cards, hiding the true number of Portland students who fail to graduate.

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SHELTER: Both warming stations have a strict intake process

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warming station stayed closed on freezing nights because of a volunteer shortage.

The Hermiston facility has roughly 100 volunteers, but space for only 13 homeless guests. The homeless decide among themselves earlier in the day who gets to stay, said volunteer Trish Rossell. Volunteers haven't had to turn away anyone yet, she said, but it won't be long.

"Word is getting out," she said. "I won't be surprised if we outgrow our space by next year."

From the back alley entrance Rossell can see every inch of the long, narrow Hermiston warming station. Along one side, 13 futons lean against the wall. Sitting next to each are black garbage bags full of bedding. Guests use the same futons for a week before a volunteer sanitizes them each Sunday. Guests take turns in a tiny bathroom.

"They bird bath in the sink," Rossell said. "They wash their hair and shave."

Guests have access to a microwave, guitar, games, books, movies and a flat screen television. Sometimes the guests bring food to share for potlucks and pool cash to rent a Redbox movie.

"We do the best we can with a tiny space," Rossell said. "We have a small budget, but we do a lot with it."

It's much the same story in Pendleton. Volunteer Coordinator Cassandra Williams saw an article in the newspaper two years ago and got involved. Her passion for the effort grew as she got to know the guests.

"You get to know them as people," she said. "You hear their stories."

The stations may have saved lives. One freezing night in Pendleton, for example, an intoxicated homeless man came to the warming station's front door soaking wet after falling into the river.

"Had we not been there, he may have ended up in the hospital or a funeral home," said Pendleton Nazarene pastor and volunteer Chris Clemons, who chairs the Neighbor 2 Neighbor board that oversees the shelter.

Both warming stations have a strict intake process where guests sign in and relinquish most of their possessions for overnight storage. Rossell and Williams say a good number of the guests are mentally ill and/or have addiction issues, but others are suffering financial reversals. Some have jobs, but can't afford rent.

Williams said her impression of the homeless has changed dramatically. She remembers walking along Pendleton's River Walk and noticing homeless individuals huddled in the cold, and not truly seeing them as people. She now realizes "all it takes is one bad choice."

It's a hard life, said Lonnie Abbot, 41. He is recovering from a bad chest cold, he said. He and his wife Cassie spent a lot of time finding places to sleep where no one will see and object. On those nights when the mercury dips below freezing and the warming station is closed, they don't get much sleep.

> "We do the best we can with a tiny space. We have a small budget, but we do a lot with it."
>
> **— Trish Rossell,** volunteer at the Hermiston Warming station

"We put on lots of layers," said Cassie, 35. "We put on whatever we can find."

Zachary Chase, 22, easily prefers a warm bed in the shelter to the frigid outdoors. He walks most of the night to fight the cold.

"I wear gloves and have a hand warmer when I'm lucky," Chase said. "I wear layers upon layers of jackets. Four, at least."

The Pendleton native said he is applying for jobs, but until he finds one, he'll duck the cold during the day by spending time in the library.

The shelters get plenty of help from local residents. Clemons said the community "has blessed our socks off." During Christmas, "youth groups showed up with plates of cookies and singing carols." Others donated supplies. As far as the two nights the shelter couldn't open, he shook his head.

"Our pool of volunteers is decent, but sickness and work conflicts came together to make a perfect storm," he said. "It kind of broke my heart."

He said volunteers give what they can and aren't pressed to do more.

"Several of our volunteers put in an enormous amount of time," Clemons said, "but they can only do so much."

More space is high on the wish list in Hermiston, along with storage cabinets and showers, but Rossell isn't complaining. The community has taken the little warming station under its wing.

"The outpouring of love and support and compassion is amazing," she said. "Whenever we put the call out for bottled water or anything else, people show up in droves. It's very touching."

Passion runs high among volunteers in both towns, say both Rossell and Williams. But, while volunteers want to do more and often do, they must first focus on the primary goal.

"Our main mission is to keep humans from freezing to death," Rossell said. "If it's 40 degrees, it's uncomfortable, but they won't freeze."

More information about the warming shelters is available at n2npendleton.org or the Hermiston Warming Station Facebook page.

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BURNS: Piloted a WWII B-24 bomber in missions over Germany

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councilor and as chairman of the Hermiston Cemetery District, Hermiston Airport Commission, Hermiston Library Board, Good Samaritan Nursing Home Advisory Board, Hermiston Coordinating Council, Western Heritage Savings & Loan, the Hermiston City Budget Committee and the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce.

According to information provided by his family, Burns made history in 1995 as the first non-farmer inducted into the Oregon State University Agricultural Hall of Fame for his work on improving economic conditions for farms in the area.

He was also involved in several local service clubs and was an active member of Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, serving on the advisory committee to the Baker Diocese and the Archdiocese of Portland.

In his younger days Burns piloted a World War II B-24 bomber through missions over Germany with the 8th Army Air Force 389th Bomb Group stationed in England.

After the war Burns and wife Arlene raised five children — Lynn Duus, Bev Eagy, Dan Burns, Paul Burns and Kevin Burns — in Hermiston. Dan and Kevin took over operation of Burns mortuary after Joe retired in 1993.

Mass of Christian burial for Burns will be held on February 12 at 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church. Burial with military honors will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery.

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