

GOP chairman candidate on food stamps in 2014

The Register-Guard

EUGENE — Since 2009, Mark Callahan has waged an endless series of political campaigns.

He's run, unsuccessfully, for the U.S. Senate (twice), Eugene-area seats in the state Legislature (three times), the Lane County Board of Commissioners, the Eugene School Board, the Mount Hood Community College Board and, in 2012, for president.

Now, on the back of a shock victory in the Oregon Republican primary for U.S. Senate last year, the 39-year-old wants to be chairman of the Oregon GOP. Callahan, who lived in Eugene for years before more recently moving to Portland, announced in a Dec. 20 Facebook post that he will challenge current leader Bill Currier.

If Callahan wins that internal party vote later this month, it would put a decidedly unconventional Republican at the helm.

Callahan describes himself as a fiscal and constitutional conservative, and he has previously said he's a member of the tea party movement.

But court records from a custody dispute between Callahan and his ex-wife, Sherri, in 2014 contain a surprising admission: That in June, shortly after his first U.S. Senate campaign, Callahan was receiving food stamps.

That federally funded benefit, formally called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is designed for low-income residents. Many Republicans, including President-elect Donald Trump, paint the program as wasteful and ripe for fraud.

In the filings, Callahan didn't say when he started claiming the benefit, but the court filing in Marion County was made only a month after the 2014 primary election for U.S. Senate, where Callahan finished a distant third.

During that campaign, Callahan poured \$9,090 of his own money into his candidacy and loaned his campaign another \$6,500, according to federal campaign finance records. That made him — easily — the top contributor to his campaign.

Receiving public assistance while, or shortly after, funding one's political campaign is highly unusual and compromising for a candidate, some political observers and experts say. That's particularly the case for a GOP hopeful, given many Republicans' virulent criticism of safety-net programs.

Reached by phone Thursday, Callahan declined to be interviewed. Via email, he acknowledged being on SNAP in 2014 "to provide food for my 2 young daughters and myself."

"The amount of SNAP benefits I received after the primary election was very meager in comparison to others," he wrote.

Callahan declined to answer questions about when he started receiving public assistance and if he is still on food stamps.

Data about individual food stamp recipients is not a public record, so it's impossible to independently answer those questions.

Eligibility for food stamps is based primarily on someone's current income — provided they have less than \$25,000 in "liquid assets," usually cash

savings. Given that Callahan shared joint custody of his two daughters with his ex-wife at the time, he would have been eligible for food stamps if he was making less than \$26,000 a year.

In June 2014, Callahan was unemployed.

In the court filing, he wrote that he was claiming unemployment benefits as well. That spring, Callahan requested to go part-time at his network administrator job at a Portland technology company "to allow time for me to be active in my campaign for the U.S. Senate," he wrote.

Callahan claimed that he was laid off on March 21, 2014 — two months before the primary — because "my employer stated that they needed a full-time person."

According to his LinkedIn page, Callahan hasn't had a full-time job since. "Looking for my next opportunity," Callahan's page currently states.

But Callahan said in an email that he has had part-time information technology jobs since March 2014, most of it "contractual and consulting work."

"Income from this type of work is inconsistent," he wrote. "I look for any work, and jobs, so I can provide for my family the best way I can. With the economy being on the skids the last 8 years, times have been tough in terms of finding and keeping employed long term."

A SNAP recipient with children can continue to claim the benefit indefinitely if their income stays below the eligibility threshold.

The Oregon Republican Party's new chairman will be elected by local party officials from around the state.



Aaron Piper/The Tribune via AP
Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent Greg Massa holds a FBI wanted poster at a press conference on Friday, Jan. 13 next to U.S. Attorney Josh Minkler announcing the arrest of Charles Hollin.

Fugitive lived 16 years with crash victim's ID

SEYMOUR, Ind. (AP) — Federal authorities say a man charged in the 1999 abduction and sexual assault of a southern Indiana girl assumed the identity of a car crash victim and lived for years in Minnesota and Oregon until he was arrested this week.

Investigators tracked down 61-year-old Charles Hollin to Salem, Oregon, after he was identified through facial recognition software of his passport photograph, U.S. Attorney Josh Minkler said Friday at a news conference.

Hollin faces federal charges of identity theft and fleeing prosecution, with court documents saying he had disappeared from southern Indiana's Jackson County by the time prosecutors filed charges in early 2000 against him in the abduction and assault of a 10-year-old girl.

Hollin assumed the identity of Andrew David Hall, who was 8 years old when he died due to a 1975 crash in Fayette County, Kentucky, and was buried in southern Indiana, according to an FBI affidavit.

Hollin obtained an \$80,000 home equity loan in 1999 and a person using Hall's identity obtained a Minnesota driver's license in 2001 before moving to Oregon in 2011.

Minkler said FBI agents had reviewed Hollin's disappearance frequently over the years without success until linking him to the photo-

graph with the passport in Hall's name.

"Facial recognition technology, clearly, was the break in the case that we were looking for," Minkler said. "It is a tremendous law enforcement technique used to bring people to justice."

Hollin was arrested at a Wal-Mart store in Salem where he worked and admitted his true identity, federal officials said. Minkler said he didn't know whether Hollin had family in Oregon and that investigators would be checking for any similar unsolved crimes in Minnesota and Oregon.

Hollin was being brought to Indiana on Friday by federal agents and will be turned over to Jackson County authorities soon to face prosecution on felony charges of child molestation and confinement, Minkler said.

Hollin is charged with abducting the child at knifepoint from outside a Seymour girl's club in 1999, taking her to a secluded area and molesting her before leaving her naked along an isolated road about 50 miles south of Indianapolis. DNA tests linked Hollin to the attack, according to court documents.

He faces up to 50 years in prison if convicted of the most serious of the charges.

Jackson County Prosecutor AmyMarie Travis said the victim's father told her that his daughter was doing well and was relieved by Hollin's arrest.

Standoff at Seaside home stretches into 3rd day

SEASIDE (AP) — Seaside police continue to monitor a house where gunshots were fired.

City spokesman Jon Rahl says the man inside the house spoke with officers at least twice Friday, but won't come outside.

Officers have been at the house since Wednesday afternoon, when they responded to a report of a shooter inside. The man's mother left the place when police arrived. She was not hurt.

Shots were fired early Wednesday evening. The gunfire was contained to the house, and none of it was directed at police or neighbors.

Idaho man indicted for abducting wife before deadly crash

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — An Idaho man accused of abducting and stabbing his ex-wife and then causing a fatal crash in Eastern Oregon has been indicted by an Oregon grand jury.

Anthony Montwheeler, 49, was indicted Thursday by a Malheur County jury on felony charges of aggravated murder, kidnapping and assault. Montwheeler is currently hospitalized in Boise, *The Idaho Statesman* reported. Information on Montwheeler's injuries and condition has not been released.

He is accused of kidnapping and killing Annita Harmon, who

divorced him in 2015, killing David Bates, the driver of an SUV Montwheeler's truck struck on an Oregon highway on Monday and seriously injuring a passenger in that SUV.

The passenger in the SUV is listed as in good condition at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Police in Ontario were chasing Montwheeler's pickup after being alerted that a woman was being held against her will and had been stabbed. It is not yet clear if Harmon died from stab wounds or the

crash impact.

Bates and the surviving victim were driving north toward Ontario when Montwheeler's southbound truck crossed the center line and hit them.

Montwheeler and Harmon had co-owned a scrap-metal business based in Weiser, Idaho. They were convicted of first-degree theft in 2012 after underpaying an elderly couple by more than \$10,000.

Montwheeler was sentenced to two years in prison and his wife was sentenced to 16 months in prison.

BRIEFLY

Corrections

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	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with freezing fog	Mostly cloudy with freezing fog	Frigid with clouds and sun	Not as cold with a wintry mix	Periods of rain
15° 7°	19° 8°	18° 9°	39° 36°	48° 40°
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
15° 7°	19° 8°	18° 9°	39° 36°	48° 40°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
17° 9°	20° 10°	18° 11°	33° 30°	44° 38°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 8°	-8°
Normals 41°	27°
Records 70° (1923)	-8° (2017)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.06"
Normal month to date	0.72"
Year to date	1.06"
Last year to date	0.39"
Normal year to date	0.72"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 10°	-12°
Normals 41°	28°
Records 60° (1945)	-12° (2017)

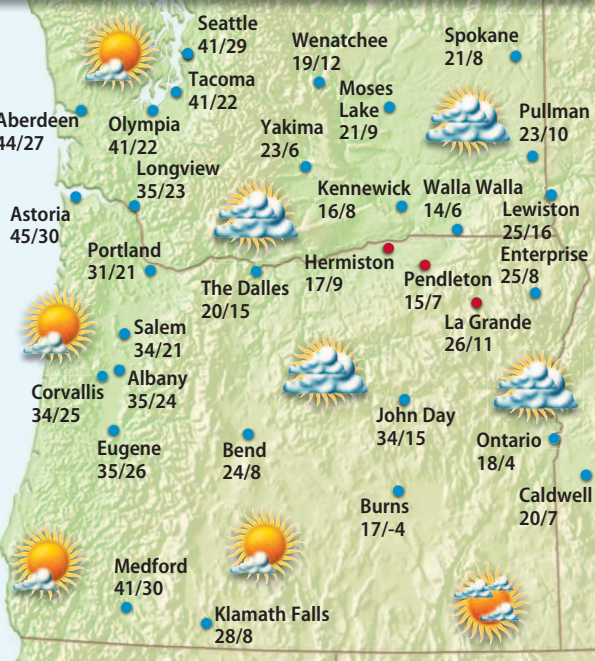
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.61"
Normal month to date	0.53"
Year to date	0.61"
Last year to date	0.22"
Normal year to date	0.53"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:33 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:36 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:38 p.m.
Moonset today	8:54 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Jan 19	Jan 27	Feb 3	Feb 10



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly sunny today. Mainly clear tonight; cold.

Eastern Washington: Cloudy most of the time today into tomorrow with areas of freezing fog.

Cascades: Mostly sunny today. Clear to partly cloudy tonight; cold across the north.

Western Washington: Mostly sunny today. Mainly clear tonight. Variable cloudiness tomorrow.

Northern California: Partly sunny today. A passing shower at the coast this evening. Partly sunny tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	45	30	s	47	33	c
Baker City	15	-1	c	18	1	c
Bend	24	8	c	29	13	c
Brookings	50	38	s	53	38	s
Burns	17	-4	c	19	-4	s
Enterprise	25	8	c	27	9	c
Eugene	35	26	s	38	26	c
Heppner	19	7	c	24	9	c
Hermiston	17	9	c	20	10	c
John Day	34	15	c	34	19	c
Klamath Falls	28	8	s	31	6	s
La Grande	26	11	c	27	12	c
Meacham	26	11	c	29	11	c
Medford	41	30	s	46	27	s
Newport	46	32	s	48	34	c
North Bend	51	35	s	52	36	c
Ontario	18	4	c	15	2	c
Pasco	17	7	c	17	6	c
Pendleton	15	7	c	19	8	c
Portland	31	21	s	34	20	c
Redmond	22	3	c	26	5	c
Salem	34	21	s	36	23	c
Spokane	21	8	c	20	8	c
Ukiah	28	8	c	28	10	c
Vancouver	32	20	s	35	22	c
Walla Walla	14	6	c	16	7	c
Yakima	23	6	c	22	7	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	36	16	s	32	19	pc
Hong Kong	63	60	c	64	59	r
Jerusalem	53	44	c	52	40	pc
London	42	33	pc	49	38	r
Mexico City	62	42	pc	72	45	pc
Moscow	28	26	sn	32	24	sn
Paris	41	30	pc	38	33	r
Rome	50	33	s	45	35	sh
Seoul	25	14	s	32	16	s
Sydney	86	71	sh	79	71	sh
Tokyo	44	32	pc	43	35	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Sunday
Boardman	NNE 3-6	NE 4-8
Pendleton	N 4-8	NNE 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 1 0 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

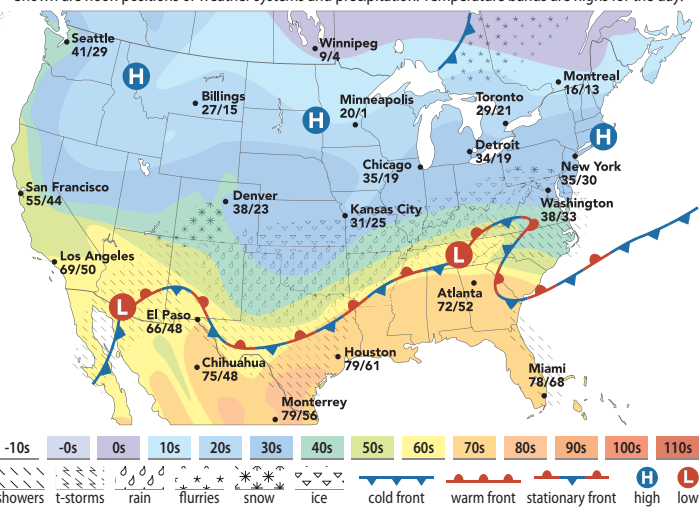
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	56	39	r	50	37	r
Atlanta	72	52	pc	71	53	pc
Baltimore	38	32	sn	43	30	pc
Birmingham	36	29	sn	45	27	pc
Boston	27	15	pc	29	15	s
Chicago	73	52	pc	73	54	pc
Denver	21	7	c	20	5	c
Detroit	31	26	s	36	21	s
El Paso	71	51	pc	72	52	pc
Fairbanks	45	37	sh	44	39	sh
Houston	35	19	c	35	26	c
Los Angeles	36	24	c	34	24	pc