

DAIRY: Motion hearing set for May 8

Continued from 1A and otherwise care for the cattle, the herd's value is at risk of declining, according to Rabobank.

Rabobank is now seeking "relief" from the automatic stay of the Velde's property foreclosure under bankruptcy law to allow for an auction and avoid "potentially catastrophic consequences" to its collateral at Lost Valley Farm.

A bankruptcy judge will consider the motion at a hearing set for May 8 in Fresno, Calif., during which the Velde will also ask to use cash that serves as collateral for debt.

Te Velde said he had no comment about Rabobank's claims and *Capital Press* was unable to reach the attorney representing him in the bankruptcy case.

After several loans went into default, Te Velde had the opportunity to restructure his "massive debt load" during a "lengthy" forbearance agreement that expired at the end of 2017, but he never developed such a plan, according to Rabobank.

In its court filing, Rabobank claims Te Velde's "erratic and unreliable" behavior is caused by "habitual" use of methamphetamine, which prompted a subsidiary of the Tillamook County Creamery Association to cancel its milk-buying contract with the dairy.

Te Velde has "no cash on hand" and wouldn't be able to continue operating his dairies without \$4 million in advances from Rabobank to pay for feed, water and labor at the facil-

ity, according to Rabobank's filing.

"While Rabobank will act responsibly to protect the value of the LVF herd, Rabobank is not willing to finance the drug-addled fanciful dreams of this Debtor during a lengthy Chapter 11 case that involves about 24,000 cows, 28,000 other head of livestock, three dairies in two states and about \$160 million in total debt," the company said in a court filing.

Rabobank claims that Te Velde checked out of a drug rehab clinic in April to convince Columbia River Processing — the Tillamook Creamery's affiliate — to reinstate the milk-buying contract, but then returned to the facility.

"As a regulated financial institution, Rabobank cannot continue to lend to a borrower in this condition," the company said.

Patrick Critser, CEO of the Tillamook Creamery, submitted a declaration in support of Rabobank's request and stated the company has withheld milk proceeds from Lost Valley Farm due to agricultural service liens filed by other unpaid creditors.

The subsidiary, Columbia River Processing, or CRP, is buying milk from the dairy until Rabobank is able to conduct an auction but will stop after May 31.

"In no event, however, is CRP willing to continue to accept and pay for milk from the dairy on an ongoing basis, other than that for a short period and solely to facilitate an auction of Te Velde's herd," he said.

Te Velde argues he cannot pay his labor.

BOUNDS: Born in Umatilla raised in Hermiston

Continued from 1A

tions of the home state senators. Refusing to play by the rules when the rules don't suit you is bad enough, but in government it fuels cynicism, partisanship, and public disgust."

The controversy
Neither senator has issued a "blue slip" in favor of Bounds, a stamp of approval from senators when the president nominates a judicial candidate from their home state. Federal judge candidates don't usually advance to a committee hearing without a that slip.

Merkley and Wyden initially opposed the politically conservative Bounds' nomination in September because it hadn't gone through a bipartisan review process. President Donald Trump renominated Bonds in January and a bipartisan committee of lawyers recommended Bounds in a list of four finalists in February.

But after they submitted their list, the liberal advocacy organization Alliance for Justice reported on several op-eds Bounds wrote for a student-run publication as an undergraduate at Stanford University in the 1990s.

In his writings, Bounds railed against "multiculturalists" on campus, universities that punished or expelled students accused of rape without proving their case "beyond a reasonable doubt," students protesting a union-busting hotel, and the idea of "sensitivity" after intoxicated athletes vandalized a gay pride statue.

After the op-eds were publicized, Bounds distanced himself from those comments, calling them "the objectionable words and views recited from three or four of my college op-eds (that) do not reflect the views I have hewn to as a lawyer and, frankly, as a grown-up."

But Bounds' apologies weren't enough to reverse Wyden and Merkley's opposition.

"That lack of honesty made Mr. Bounds an unsuitable nominee for a lifetime appointment to the bench," they said Monday. "Simply put, this all adds up to one more piece of troubling evidence of the Republicans changing the rules to pack the courts."

Despite the controversy, Bounds' local support has remained steadfast.

Walden issued a statement after the Alliance for Justice report reiterating his support for Bounds.

Pendleton Mayor John Turner, Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann, and the Oregon Wheat Growers League were among the individuals and groups that supported Bounds' original nomination in 2017. Following the op-ed controversy, a group calling themselves Friends of Ryan Bounds wrote an open letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee extolling Bounds' qualities. The group included Hermiston attorney Sally Anderson-Hansell and high ranking officials from Western Oregon University, Legacy Emmanuel Hospital in Portland, Starbucks Coffee Co., and American Medical Concepts Inc.

Bounds was born in Umatilla and grew up in Hermiston before leaving home to attend Stanford and Yale.

Bounds has worked as a commercial lawyer in Portland, a federal prosecutor for the District of Columbia and an assistant to the President on domestic policy. He is the brother of Lorissa Bounds, Walden's chief of staff.

The rest of the process

Although both Oregon senators oppose Bounds, neither sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

If Bounds is able to receive approval from the committee and confirmation from the full U.S. Senate, the 44-year-old will achieve a historical rarity.

The last time federal judicial nominees advanced to the Senate Judiciary Committee without a blue slip from both home state senators was in 2003 and 2004, and none of the four candidates were confirmed, according to McClatchy.

The Congressional Research Service couldn't find an instance where a nominee without at least one blue slip was approved by the Senate.

The Ninth District Circuit Court of Appeals hears constitutional cases appealed at the Circuit Court level and covers a massive geographic area that includes, Oregon, California, Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana Nevada, and Guam.

The court, which has 29 active judges, has come under criticism from Trump due to the liberal majority on the bench.

AL FRESCO: Future of parklets remains unclear

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said, and even create space to promote events.

"We would still like to have it so much," Schulberg said.

Whitney Minthorn at Moe Pho Noodles & Cafe, which recently opened near the Great Pacific, said outside seating is good for business. People walking and driving past get to smell and see the food, as well as customers enjoying themselves.

"Any time we have someone sitting outside, we get busy," he said.

While some see down-

town parking at a premium, Minthorn said losing a few spaces would not hurt businesses due to all the parking in and around downtown.

"There's plenty of parking," he said. "You just have to walk a little bit."

Denight and Molly Turner, the Pendleton Downtown Association's executive director, reached that same conclusion in their study last year. They looked at 650 parking spaces in and around downtown — the 311 public parking spaces and the 339 on-street parking spaces — and found

that, on average, more than half of parking spaces were vacant at any given time. And the vacancy for the six public lots near Main Street often neared 70 percent.

Turner said the Downtown Association would get behind a push for parklets if there was more interest from downtown businesses, and obviously some already support the idea. But the bigger issue is the vacancy in the public lots in and near downtown, including the lots on either side of the 500 block of South Main Street.

"We'd need to see

increased utilization of the public lots," she said.

Kim Burt said Pendleton blocks off Main Street parking during Round-Up week, plus the south end of Main loses parking on Fridays from May through October to accommodate the Farmers Market. There's other events that draw people downtown.

The larger point, she said, is Pendleton is a tourism spot. Parklets help make for an inviting downtown. Just how much does the loss of a few spaces matter if tourists keep coming back to Pendleton?

COBA: Majority of time is focused on COO duties

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— the person in between the governor and state agency heads.

Coba estimates that about 75 percent of her time is spent on COO duties, and the remaining 25 percent leading the Department of Administrative Services, which oversees a broad range of statewide services such as procurement and risk management, and houses the offices of the state economist and chief information officer.

When she was appointed, Coba made a list of her priorities in the new post: recruit a younger and more diverse state workforce; advocate for accountability and transparency in state government; foster government leadership and restore trust in government.

A year and a half later, she's the first to say that the state will have to work hard, especially in a prosperous economy, to hire the next generation of public servants to stave off a wave of impending retirements.

As of mid-2017, 34 percent of the state workforce was eligible to retire. Under Coba's leadership, DAS has created an online "toolkit" that state agencies can use to think through their succession planning.

But she says that the state will have to find a way to make a career in government attractive to young workers.

"A lot of work needs to be done there," Coba said. "A lot of opportunity for those that don't work in government, but again, how do you convince them that you can really do cool things working in state government? I don't think people put those two words together, 'state government,' and 'cool.'"

And then there's another

workforce challenge Coba has been focused on: leadership.

While critics of the governor have pointed to turnover among state agency heads, Coba says she doesn't think the amount of turnover is abnormal, especially in an era where people move more frequently between positions and employers.

"We're seeing workforce turnover more often anyway," Coba says. "We see that at the agency director level for a whole host of different reasons."

Not all of those agency director departures, of course, were voluntary, such as the August departure of Oregon Health Authority Director Lynne Saxton and, in March, State Librarian MaryKay Dahlgreen.

But most director departures, Coba says, were retirements and directors moving on to other jobs.

Coba, who works "in concert" with the Governor's Office to help and evaluate state agency leaders, says each situation is different.

"There isn't a standard process we use," she says. "It is situation specific."

Lisa Sumption, director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, says Coba recognized the need for more training for new agency directors.

"Katy saw the gap, and said, we need a new agency directors' forum," Sumption said.

Sumption and ODOT Director Matt Garrett are both quick to praise Coba.

"She focuses, I think, her attention on doing what is right, what is just, rather than doing what is politically expedient," Garrett said. "I'm a big Katy Coba fan."

Garrett describes Coba's

leadership style as both collaborative and consistent.

Sumption says Coba is also helpful in "navigating" discussions about state agency budgets at the legislature.

State Sen. Alan DeBoer, R-Ashland, who sits on legislative committees focused on information technology and general government operations, says he's "impressed" with her work so far.

"I can only tell you from my experience meeting with her and her testifying in front of committees, that I'm very impressed with her," DeBoer said. "I think she'll do a great job."

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown, said in a statement that Coba "has become invaluable to my vision for effective and efficient government services."

Yet other hurdles lie ahead. The state has had mixed success updating legacy technology systems. A new statewide phone system has encountered hiccups. The state's human resources system, which is 30 years old, is also in need of updating.

Rather than building its own system, the state is using software-as-a-service technology that the contractor, IBM, will continually update.

Coba is looking for ways to streamline state technology, says Sumption, who chairs a state government leadership steering committee on information technology.

"She's focusing in on the efficiencies of government to say, 'Hold on, we don't need 100 payroll systems or 100 HR systems. We need one, and we're not really that unique,'" Sumption said.

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