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Republicans begin efforts to recall Gov. Kate Brown

By DIRK VANDERHART
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — In response to the recent legislative session, Oregon Democrats have cheered a wide array of policy proposals they were able to muscle through with supermajorities in the state House and Senate.

Republicans, meanwhile, want to recall the governor.

The head of the Oregon Republican Party on Monday took a first step toward forcing a recall election of Gov. Kate Brown, whose term expires at the end of 2022.

In a prospective petition filing with the Oregon Secretary of State, Oregon GOP Chair Bill Currier listed Brown's support for a cap-and-trade program to curb greenhouse gas emissions and a bill granting undocumented immigrants driving privileges among his reasons for beginning a recall.

Oregon voters overturned a law to give undocumented immigrants driver's cards in 2014.

"The people of Oregon deserve and expect a Governor that honors the will of the voters and works for the good of all citizens, not just special interests and politically-motivated agendas," Currier wrote.

The document is one of two recall efforts filed with elections officials Monday — the first possible day to file a recall petition against Brown. The other was made by Michael Cross, a Salem resident who is behind a website dedicated to recalling the governor.

In his filing, Cross suggests Brown "raised taxes mercilessly and spends OUR money recklessly." Like Currier, he cites driving privileges for undocumented immigrants and concerns about the public employees retirement system as reasons for a recall.

Forcing a recall election is not easy in Oregon. To do so, supporters of the two efforts would need to collect 280,050 valid signatures from Oregon voters — nearly twice the amount required to force a vote on amending the state constitution.

Under Oregon rules, the two groups have 90 days to collect those signatures, assuming documents initiating a petition are "complete and correct."

"I would describe it as a tall

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Pendleton OKs urban renewal funds for street repairs

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Deteriorating roads in Pendleton's urban renewal district are getting a boost in funding for repairs.

The Pendleton Development Commission, which consists of the city council, voted 6-2 Tues-

day night to use almost \$1.5 million in urban renewal funds for roads in the district.

The district will receive \$5.9 million through August 2023, when the urban renewal program expires. The development commission's advisory committee at a June 25 workshop recommended using 25 percent of the money

— or \$1.475 million — for public projects and the rest for privately owned projects.

Streets in the urban renewal district need about \$6 million for repairs, according to the memo from Charles Denight, the commission's associate director, and \$1.9 million of that would go to "severely deteriorated" streets.

Byers Avenue is the top project for street repair in the district. The city estimated that project alone would cost \$1.7 million out of the total.

Councilor Paul Chalmers, who presides over the PDC, asked before the vote if the city would

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Brothers lose lives in plane crash



Contributed photo

Bennett, left, Ike and Mel Riffel pose together at Mel's wedding in Redding, California.

Two major U.S. airlines announce plans to keep their Boeing Max planes grounded until November

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Mary Ann Tangney smiles when she thinks of her two nephews, then feels deep sadness wash over her. It's an emotional tug-of-war that happens often when the brothers come to mind. Sometimes the emotions intertwine.

Melvin and Bennett Riffel died in March when Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 crashed minutes after takeoff. The crash, which left 157 dead, marked the second Boeing 737 Max to go down in five months. In October, 189 people died on Lion Air Flight 610 when it nose-

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Contributed photo

Melvin, left, and Bennett Riffel pose with their dog Tank in this undated photo.

GoFundMe passes goal for local family facing medical emergency

By JESSICA POLLARD
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Last Saturday was going to be the first relaxing one in a long while for longtime Pendleton resident Kathy Barkley. She and her husband, Lloyd Barkley, were ready to unwind after the previous weekend's Wildhorse Pow Wow, where she is the head judge and he is the arena director.

But something was not right. Barkley had mentioned to her daughter, Tucelia Barkley, that she had an intense headache a few days prior. Tylenol was not helping. By Saturday morning, the headache became so painful, Barkley woke her sleeping husband and they rushed to the St. Anthony Hospital emergency room.

A CT Scan confirmed that

Barkley, 60, was suffering an aneurysm. She was life-flighted to Portland's Oregon Health & Science University, where she underwent emergency surgery on Sunday morning.

"Everything was very quick," said Barkley's daughter, Tucelia, who joined her parents in Portland. "There weren't any complications, she didn't bleed out very much, she maintained full body functions. She's very aware of what's going on."

She said that while the surgery went well, doctors are concerned over her mother's low blood pressure.

As of now, Tucelia Barkley and her father remain by Kathy's side in Portland, where she'll be staying for

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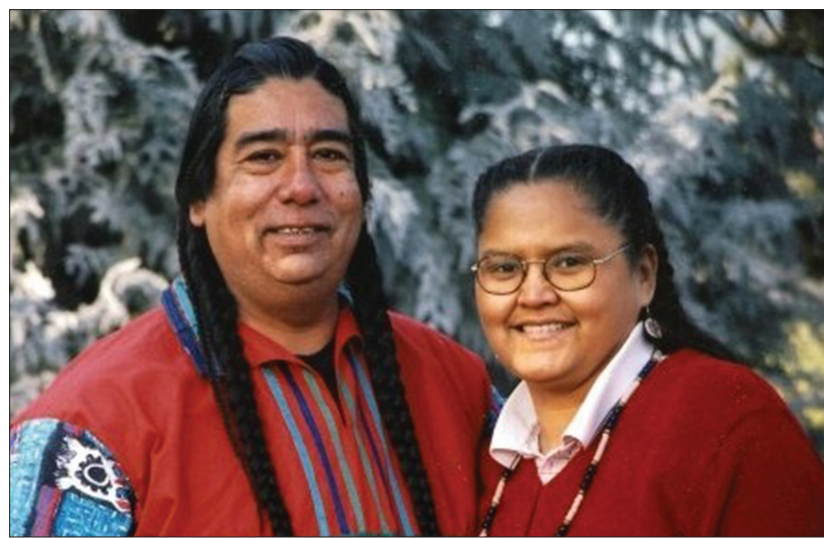


Photo courtesy of the Barkley family

Kathy Barkley, right, suffered an aneurysm last Saturday that led to her being life-flighted to Portland's Oregon Health & Science University for emergency surgery. Since then, a GoFundMe page has been established to help her husband Lloyd, left, to visit her while she is in the hospital.

