

Governor proclaims Oregon Community Bank Week

SALEM — Governor Kate Brown has officially proclaimed October 16-20 as Community Bank Week in Oregon.

The Governor bestowed this proclamation in support of the essential role Oregon's community banks play in supporting local economies.

Members of the Community Banks of Oregon (CBO), which represents the 21 banks headquartered in Oregon, will be celebrating Community Bank Week by holding open houses, speaking to community groups, delivering financial education and hosting local legislators.

These and other efforts will be aimed at showcasing the positive impact community banks have on the communities they serve.

In her proclamation, Governor Brown stated, "Community banks are an inte-

gral part of Oregon's overall economy through their community giving, dedication as good neighbors, and above all, their critical role in providing reliable financial services to Oregonians.

"Community banks play a significant role in local economic development efforts, stimulating the economy to produce jobs and create new opportunities."

In a recent survey conducted by the Oregon Bankers Association, community banks reported loans to Oregon small businesses topping \$5.9 billion in a single year. Community banks are also the chief source of bank credit for agriculture enterprises.

Beyond financial services, community banks in Oregon are supporters of their communities through charitable giving and volunteer time. The survey

found that Oregon's community banks contributed \$4.9 million to nonprofits and community organizations, and their employees logged over 64,000 volunteer hours.

In celebration of Oregon Community Bank Week 2017, Oregon Pacific Bank will be awarding \$1,000 to a local individual or organization to help fund a project that demonstrates the greatest community impact.

Community Impact Award Eligibility and Requirements are:

- Applications can be submitted on behalf of an individual, an organization or group, or a business.
- Applications must be fully completed online at www.opbc.com to be considered and must include at least one letter of support from a community member considered to be in

good standing.

• e-Community Impact Award must be utilized within one of the following communities: Coos County, Douglas County, Lane County, Jackson County and Josephine County.

• e-winner of the Community Impact Award must report all

progress to Oregon Pacific Bank and agree to allow Oregon Pacific Bank to document and promote the success of the project through photographs, social media and press releases.

• e-winner must follow the guidelines for acceptable usage

of gifted funds. If funds awarded are not used for the purpose as specified on the application, the winner will be held responsible to reimburse the Bank.

Apply online by visiting www.opbc.com/community-impact-award-application.

Peter DeFazio calls on VA to address issues at Roseburg hospital

WASHINGTON — Rep. Peter DeFazio Thursday called to task the continuing leadership failures within the Veterans Administration (VA) and specifically called on officials to change the management system at the VA Roseburg Health Care System (VARHS).

Rep. DeFazio called for the changes while speaking in support of the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick's Whistleblower Protection Act, legislation that would impose stringent penalties on those who retaliate against whistleblowers and provide greater protections for whistleblowers.

The Senate-approved legislation unanimously passed the House on Thursday and will now go to President Trump to be signed into law.

DeFazio has received dozens of complaints from

concerned constituents, many of whom are experienced medical professionals, about the lack of effective and accountable management at the VARHS.

"For years, I have received numerous complaints about the substandard management throughout the VARHS, and yet nothing has changed despite repeated outreach to every level of leadership at the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a direct appeal to the Secretary last week," said DeFazio. "Poor management has resulted in degraded patient care and difficulty in recruiting and retaining talented medical professionals to help Oregon's veterans."

DeFazio went on to say that, in addition to delays and government bureaucracy, veteran care is being hampered by

management issues.

"Doctors, nurses, and other VA employees are putting their careers on the line to improve the system, risking potential retaliation from the same inadequate leadership," said DeFazio. "The status quo is entirely unacceptable, and it is time for the VA to stop passing the buck and take immediate action. Our veterans deserve better."

In 2014, the VA surpassed the Department of Defense (DOD) for the total number of whistleblower complaints filed with the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) even though the DOD has almost double the number of civilian employees as the VA. In 2015, the Office of Special Counsel found that 35 percent of all whistleblower complaints were filed by VA employees.

New Oregon license plates to be more 'reflective'

Oregon vehicle registration plates are becoming easier to read at night with more reflective background sheeting.

DMV will start issuing the standard tree plates with the new material in late October.

DMV's plate vendor, Portland-based Irwin-Hodson, is using new 3M HD License Plate Sheeting. The new plates will first appear starting with plate 001 KJW as DMV and its 60 field offices issue their plate supplies.

Other types of Oregon plates will be converted to the new sheeting in the future.

The new HD sheeting is more reflective, secure and durable than the previous material. Vehicle owners also may notice new features on these plates: Oregon's state outline on the left and two letters printed vertically on the far right side of the plate.

The two letters are a manufacturer's code to identify the month and year the sheeting was produced.

The previous plate sheeting used tiny pieces of round glass beads inside other materials to produce reflectivity, which shines outward like a flood-

light.

The new sheeting is "prismatic" or "high-definition" sheeting. It is similar to road signs, which appear brighter at night.



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Thursday, October 19 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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AND

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Friday, October 20 | 10:30 a.m.

Location: Florence Events Center
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COCKTAIL HOUR: THE SHOW

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Pre-concert talk at 6:15 pm

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- Purple Pelican
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- Florence City Hall
- BeauxArts Fine Art Materials & Gallery