



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

An entrance to St. Charles Bend, seen in September 2020.

St. Charles

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The health system says 1,784 people will owe \$1,000 or less and said it is offering different options for staff, including a “payment plan, a lump sum payment or a reduction of earned time off (vacation time) to offset their balance owed,” Goodman said.

A spokesperson from the Oregon Nurses Association, the union representing St. Charles nurses, said some staff members are being asked to pay back as much as \$3,000. “While we recognize this is an inconvenience for our employees, we’ve communicated from the beginning that this is a step we’d eventually need to take,” Goodman said. “We have made every effort to keep our employees apprised of the situation.”

The move by St. Charles has sparked immediate outrage and pushback from its employees who say they are being asked to make thousands of dollars worth of repayments with little clarity as to how the health system decided what they should pay.

“I think there’s a right way of going about getting this fixed, and I don’t know if making our employees responsible for it is the right way to go about it,” said Josh Plank, a hospitalist with St. Charles who is part of the organizing committee for the providers union. He added: “They clearly have enough money to pay a multimillion dollar law firm to fight our union representation, so I don’t think they’re in that bad of a financial situation.”

The Oregon Nurses Association on Thursday told its members not to make the repayments for now. The union’s general counsel wrote a cease and desist order for the health system and planned to send it Friday, urging it to halt the repayment process and claiming that what it was doing was illegal.

The association “will vigorously defend its members rights to be free from this unlawful activity,” according to a copy of the letter obtained by The Bulletin. “The fact that St. Charles believes it made an error does not surprise anyone. St. Charles use of unlawful debt collection demands against its employees to correct its own error is beyond the pale.”

St. Charles argues that it kept employees apprised of the situation in recent months, sending 19 emails and holding town hall meetings to discuss the situation and ask questions.

But Plank and Scott Palmer, the director of communications for the Oregon Nurses Association, said some health care workers didn’t know they would need to pay money back until this week. Multiple employees were informed of what they would need to repay

with sticky notes.

Megan Bovi, a nurse, was approaching the end of the night shift in the pediatric unit at St. Charles Bend on Wednesday morning when her director approached her with some forms and a light blue sticky note.

On the note, she said, was the amount that Central Oregon’s largest health system said she needed to pay back: \$2,964.50.

“They’re supposed to take care of us,” said Bovi, who read the forms and saw that, if she signed the forms but did not agree to a payment plan, she would have to complete the payment in two weeks. “We have the job of taking care of patients ... It’s their job to take care of us, their employees. This is not how you approach (employees) with a serious problem. This was absolute disrespect.”

The latest controversy comes as St. Charles — the only hospital system for eight counties — is repeatedly rocked by financial hardship after the pandemic damaged the hospital system’s bottom line and caused a staffing shortage that left some staff concerned that the institution was falling into disarray.

Those challenges have soured morale among the health system’s employees. Since January, the Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industries has received 12 claims or complaints against St. Charles relating to compensation, six of which came in July alone. Nine of the complaints or claims involved break or meal periods.

In recent months, the health system has also laid off two executives and more than 100 employees in a single month.

Goodman said that “many of our caregivers have already acknowledged they’ve been overpaid and have authorized a repayment agreement.”

Palmer said it wasn’t right to ask health care workers to now make these payments after enduring the pandemic’s toll.

“Nurses have been working incredibly hard in one of the most challenging hospital environments,” he said, adding: “It’s just adding insult to injury.”

The nurses association is asking that St. Charles withdraw its demands for repayment by 9 a.m. on Aug. 15 “or we will pursue further legal actions.”

Bovi said she gladly would sit down with an accountant or somebody from human resources to determine if, and how much, she was overpaid. But the sudden demands for repayment, after months where she was under the impression that the health system had resolved the time-keeping issue, left her feeling blindsided.

She said, “This was just one more punch in the gut.”

■ Reporter: 541-617-7854, bdole@bendbulletin.com

Election

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Johnson, a longtime Democratic state senator from Columbia County, resigned from the Senate and left the Democratic Party last year to mount a bid for governor as an unaffiliated candidate.

To do so, state law requires she submit petitions with enough valid signatures to equal 1% of the total vote in the last presidential election.

Based on the 2020 election, Johnson needs 23,743 valid signatures.

Signatures are checked against voter records to invalidate anyone who doesn’t qualify as an Oregon voter.

The longtime rule-of-thumb is to turn in 50% more signatures than needed. That’s a comfortable buffer to ensure the number thrown out doesn’t push the effort under the minimum needed to qualify.

Johnson campaign spokes-

person Jennifer Sitton said late last week that the campaign was well on track to far surpass the number needed. Volunteer “Betsy Brigades” are out in force with petitions as part of the “Run, Betsy, Run” campaign.

Johnson supporters were collecting signatures at the Deschutes County Fair, while other campaigns for governor, Congress and the Legislature also had booths.

Former Happy Valley Mayor Lori Chavez-DeRemer drove a golf cart decked out in campaign signs to shuttle fairgoers from the parking lot to the entrance.

The Johnson campaign confirmed Thursday that it is on pace and will announce plans for events around the petition submission in the near future.

Vote counting ends Nov. 15

The general election date is Nov. 8. That’s when voting stops. But counting votes will

go on until Nov. 15.

Under a state law that went into effect this year, mailed ballots postmarked on or before Election Day will be counted if they arrive at county clerks’ offices within one week after Nov. 8.

The new balloting rules were used in the May 17 primary, which was marred by smeared bar codes on ballots in Clackamas County that further delayed final results on key races.

One of the most watched was the 5th Congressional District upset win by Democratic challenger Jamie McLeod-Skinner of Terrebonne over incumbent U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader, D-Canby. Schrader won Clackamas County, but it wasn’t enough to flip the overall outcome.

Adding a wrinkle into the math for the general election is that the week after Nov. 8 will include two days with no regular mail service. Not only is Nov. 13 the usual Sunday

with no mail pick up and delivery, but so is Veterans Day, on Friday, Nov. 11.

The cut-off date will remain seven calendar days after Election Day, with properly postmarked ballots having to arrive by Nov. 15, according to Ben Morris, communications director for the Secretary of State’s Office.

No ballot with a postmark after Nov. 8 will be counted during the one-week period. No ballot, regardless of postmark, will be counted after Nov. 15.

During a briefing in the spring, Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan said the state works with the U.S. Post Office to aggressively sweep all mailboxes for ballots in the days after a statewide election.

The majority of ballots are mailed in the county where they are to be counted and arrive within the first couple of days after the election.

■ gwarner@eomediagroup.com

CENTRAL OREGON WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Correction	Christian Science	Jewish Synagogues	Roman Catholic
The Worship Directory that ran on Saturday, Aug. 6 on A4 inadvertently ran the incorrect directory listings. The Bulletin regrets the error.	First Church of Christ, Scientist 1013 NE 10th St., Suite 100 Bend, OR 97701 www.christiansciencechurchbend.org fccsbend@gmail.com 541-604-4292 We invite you to join our in-person church services at 10:00am Sundays and 7:00pm Wednesdays. Services offered in-person and online via Zoom: Sunday Service 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Wednesday Testimony Meeting 7:00 pm Reading Room (same address) open to the public Monday-Friday, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Congregation Shalom Bayit Jewish Community of Central Oregon (JCCO), an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism Welcoming newcomers, interfaith families, LGBTQ, and Jews by choice for 30+ years. Rabbi Yossi Feintuch Aug 19, 7PM Erev Shabat Aug 20, 10AM B'nai Mitzvot Torah Service Active Torah Study Group Most Saturdays, 11 am Active Hebrew School Events: Live, Zoom or Hybrid Visit www.JCCOBend.com for more information about joining these and other upcoming events. Or call (541) 668-6887 or email Secretary@JCCOBend.com	Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Parish Rev. Paul Antao, Pastor www.holyredeemerparish.net Parish Office: 541-536-3571 HOLY REDEEMER ROMAN CATHOLIC, LA PINE 16137 Burgess Rd. Mass: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:00 am & Sun. 10:00 am HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC SUNRIVER 18143 Cottonwood Rd. Mass: Thurs. 9:30 am Sat. 5:30 pm Sun. 8:00 am OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS ROMAN CATHOLIC, GILCHRIST 120 Mississippi Drive Mass: Sun. 12:30 pm HOLY FAMILY ROMAN CATHOLIC, NEAR CHRISTMAS VALLEY 57255 Fort Rock Road Fort Rock Mass: Sun. 3:30 pm “We are a church family, centered on the Eucharist, living and sharing our faith and God-given talents and gifts.”
Adventist	Jewish Synagogues	Lutheran	Presbyterian
Cascade Seventh-day Adventist Church 60670 Brookwood Blvd. Bend, Oregon 97702 cascadeor.adventistchurch.org We seek to enhance quality of life for all people in our communities, adhering to the ideals described in the Bible, & sharing our faith in God. Saturday Services Sabbath School 9:30 am Worship Hour 10:45 am For information call Pastor Merle Greenway 630.487.6330 CHECK YOUR AD On the first day it runs to make sure it is correct. Call 541-617-7823 for corrections.	Congregation Shalom Bayit Jewish Community of Central Oregon (JCCO), an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism Welcoming newcomers, interfaith families, LGBTQ, and Jews by choice for 30+ years. Rabbi Yossi Feintuch Sun, July 24, NOON Annual Member Meeting Zoom and live. Food served before and after the meeting. Wed, July 27, 7PM CJE: Other Prominent Women in the Bible’s Hall of Fame. Active Torah Study Group Most Saturdays, 10:30 am Active Hebrew School Events: Live, Zoom or Hybrid Visit www.JCCOBend.com for more information about joining these and other upcoming events. Or call (541) 668-6887 or email Secretary@JCCOBend.com	Concordia Lutheran Mission (LCMS) “The mission of the Church is to forgive sins through the Gospel and thereby grant eternal life. St. John 20:21-23, The Augsburg Confession, Article XXVIII.8-9, 10.” Sunday the 14th St. Luke 12:51, “Jesus Saves by Bringing Peace with God.” The Rev. Willis C. Jenson, Pastor 8286 11th Street, Terrebonne. http://www.concordiamlcms.com Facebook: Concordia Lutheran Mission Phone: 541-325-6773	First Presbyterian Bend Embodying Spacious Christianity & Welcoming All 230 NE 9th St. www.bendfp.org Facebook & Instagram: @bendfp Speaking Sunday Tyler McQuilkin Join us Sundays: 8:00 am - Heritage Hall 8:45-9:45 am - Centering Prayer Group 10 am - Main Sanctuary 10 am Online at bendfp.org 11 am - Television KTZW Channels 12/612
Baptist	Advertise Your Church Here!	Roman Catholic	Unitarian Universalists
First Missionary Baptist Church 21129 Reed Market Rd. Bend, OR 97702 541-382-6081 Jimmy Hubbard, Jr, Pastor Transportation available for Sundays Worship Opportunities (Nursery available) Sunday Sunday School - 9:45am (Bible Classes for all ages) Prayer Time - 10:40am Worship - 10:50am Afternoon Worship - 2:00pm Wednesday Ladies Bible Study - 10:00am Bible Study and Prayer - 7:00pm Highland Baptist Church 3100 SW Highland Ave., Redmond 541-548-4161 Lead Pastor: Lance Logue Sunday Worship Services: Blended – 8 & 9:30 AM Contemporary – 11 AM (Worship Center) hbc Español - 10:30 am (Youth Room) *9:30 AM & 11 AM live-stream at: www.hbcredmond.org How can hbc pray for you? prayer@hbcredmond.org	Only \$30.00 each week, publishes every Saturday. Discounted Contract Rates Available! For more information Contact The Bulletin at 541-617-7823 Hours: 10am-3pm Mon-Fri Temple Beth Tikvah Temple Beth Tikvah is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism. We welcome interfaith families and Jews by choice. Our monthly activities include: Services, religious education for children and adults, Hebrew school, Torah study, social action projects, and social activities. Rabbi Johanna Hershenson Sunday, August 14 at 9:00 am – Chevruta - Torah Study – Prophetic Judaism Sunday, August 21 at 9:00 am – Chevruta - Torah Study – Prophetic Judaism Sunday, August 21 at 11:00 am – Moral Courage: A learning and Practice Group To join a specific event, please email templebethtikvah@gmail.com Or call 541-388-8826	St. Francis Of Assisi Roman Catholic Church Rev. Jose Thomas Mudakodiyil, Pastor Rev. Shaji Thomas, Parochial Vicar 541-382-3631 Church Locations Historic Church: Corner of Franklin and Lava 27th St. Church & Office: 2450 NE 27th Street Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.; 27th Sunday: 7:30 a.m. & 10 a.m.; 27th Sunday: 12:30 p.m.; 27th St - Español Sunday: 4:30 p.m.; H.C. Weekday Masses (M-F) 7 a.m.; 27th St 12:15 p.m.; H.C. Saturday Mass 8 a.m.: H.C. Eucharistic Adoration (M-F) 7:30 a.m.-12 noon; 27th St 12:45 p.m.-6 p.m.; H.C. Reconciliation: 27th St Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. Saturday: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday: 8:30 a.m.; H.C.	UUFCO Diverse Beliefs, One Fellowship August 14, 2022 at 10 a.m. “What’s On Your Mind?” with Rev. Scott Rudolph, Minister As our thoughts drift, we bounce between our personal lives and world events. We have to-do lists alongside hopes and dreams. There is worry, wonder, and gratitude. This week we explore what is on our minds to give some shape to future Sunday mornings. Coffee hour follows the service. Masks optional. Join in person or via Zoom at www.uufco.org. Bend, Oregon 541-385-3908

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

469 NW WALL ST., BEND

Rooted ...

Open ...

Growing ...

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8 AM WORSHIP @ TRINITY

10 AM WORSHIP @ ST. HELENS & ONLINE

MORE INFO @ TRINITYBEND.ORG

MEALS SCHEDULE @ FAMILYKITCHEN.ORG