

The Blue Mountain EAGLE

Grant County's newspaper since 1868



LEFT: During the 77th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dick Higgins, the only known Pearl Harbor Survivor living in Bend, posts a U.S. flag on the Veteran's Memorial Bridge in Bend on Dec. 7, 2018. Standing on either side of Dick Higgins are WWII Navy veterans, Leon Devereaux, left, and Les Joslin. RIGHT: Imperial Navy Flying Warrant Officer Nobuo Fujita, the pilot of an attack near Brookings in September 1942. It was the only bombing of the U.S. mainland in World War II.

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

152nd Year • No. 36 • 16 Pages • \$1.50

MyEagleNews.com

Gov. Kate Brown recall drive falls short

Campaign short by 2,796 signatures, less than 1% of required total

By Gary A. Warner
Oregon Capital Bureau

The Oregon Republican Party announced Monday afternoon that it had fallen short of the minimum required signatures on petitions to put a recall of Gov. Kate Brown before voters.

"To our great disappointment, the 'Stop The Abuse — Recall Kate Brown' campaign has fallen 2,796 signatures or less than 1% short of the minimum number of 280,050 sig-

natures required to qualify to put a recall of the Governor on the ballot this fall," said state Republican Party Chairman Bill Currier in a statement.

In a Facebook Live stream with recall supporters, Currier called the outcome "gut-wrenching."

Currier said the COVID-19 pandemic, Brown's emergency declaration and orders limiting gathering sizes and requiring social distancing, along with other issues, caused the drive to come up short.



PMG file photo

Gov. Kate Brown at a press conference in March 2020.

After a final count by the state party, Currier decided the petitions could not be submitted.

"Under state law, prior to the submission of any petition signatures, I, as chief

petitioner, must first attest to having the minimum number of qualified signatures," Currier said. "Therefore, the signatures cannot be submitted."

Secretary of State Bev Clarno confirmed that her office had been told the recall petitions would not be submitted by Monday's 5 p.m. deadline.

"The petitioners do not plan to submit signatures today, meaning the recall will not take place," said Laura Fosmire, Clarno's spokesperson.

It is the second time in two years that a Republican effort to recall Brown has failed to file recall petitions. In 2019,

two efforts to recall Brown — including one by the state Republican party — collected signatures, but did not submit them.

Brown slammed the latest effort as a distraction from the November presidential election.

"This recall attempt was just the latest political ploy to divert attention away from Trump's floundering presidency and disrupt the upcoming election by pitting Oregonians against each other," said Brown spokesman Thomas Wheatley.

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Grant County tracking down COVID-19 receipts

Newly hired emergency management coordinator does not want 'politics of any type' at the EOC

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County's recently hired emergency management coordinator and treasurer are busy tracking down documentation and receipts for the roughly \$250,000 that was spent at the county's Emergency Operations Center earlier this year.

Paul Gray, the county's emergency management coordinator and EOC manager, said he is waiting for former EOC head of Information Technology Seth Klingbeil to return to Grant County from a family emergency to help him log into the EOC's computers.

Meanwhile, Grant County Treasurer Julie Ellison said she is trying to get all of the documentation for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act reimbursement that the county received in case she gets audited.

Ellison said she spoke with the grant-writing service the EOC contracted with, and some of the totals do not match. She said they were not off by much and that it was probably because the state kept changing the guidelines.

Politics at the EOC

At the Aug. 26 county court session, Gray told the court that County Commissioners Sam Palmer, the EOC's public

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Paul Gray



Sam Palmer

Residents demand change at hospital



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Board member Karla Averett, left, listens to concerns from community members Thursday ahead of the Blue Mountain Hospital District board of directors meeting.

Nursing director says former nurse practitioner was fired for entering her own lab results into her medical chart before seeing her provider

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County residents protested the firing of a longtime provider and voiced other concerns about the hospital's management company Thursday at the Blue Mountain Hospital District's board of director's meeting.

Many of the residents were former patients of family nurse practitioner Shawna Clark. Clark was fired last month for entering her lab results into her medical chart before seeing her doctor, according to BMH Director of Nursing Debbie Morris.

"She's been represented poorly in the community," Morris said via teleconference. "They think she (Clark) has done something illegal, a terrible crime, where she may have lost her license. And she hasn't even had a chance or an opportunity to defend herself."

Morris said that Clark forgot to have her annual lab work done before her doctor's appointment in July. Upon realizing she had forgotten, Morris said Clark asked an emergency room provider to order the lab for her, but Clark, Morris said, could not find the order when she looked for it due to the ER provider's computer crashing.

Morris said Clark entered the lab results into her chart while a lab technician witnessed it.

"That is the extent of her crime," Morris said. "But people think she must have stolen drugs or something, the way she has been treated, and the hospital has been so silent about it."

doctor in a reasonable amount of time.

"It is important to see the same doctor, not to see Joe and Martha and Fred," she said, "and they don't have your history, they don't know about you, and they don't have time to go read through your records."

She said the last provider she had at the hospital was Dr. Joseph Bachtold, who relocated to Sisters. Initially, Ediger said, she started seeing another provider but was unable to get back into her regularly.

"She was always gone," she said. "So, I finally just quit, and I go to Sisters, and I see Dr. Bachtold."

Ediger said she and the other residents are not the only ones who feel the way they do. "Time after time after

time, I hear complaints about the Strawberry Wilderness Clinic, one complaint after another," she said. "I don't even want to begin, where that goes, and it gives the hospital a black eye."

She said, when she talks to people who show an interest in moving to Grant County, she tells them, "It's a wonderful place, but if you're older and have medical issues, you need to think about it before you move here."

Ediger said at one point most routine medical services could be taken care of in

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The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

From left, Gary Miller, Shawn Duncan, Leslie Traylor, Meredith Ediger, Richard Boyer, Rusty Clark, Mary Ellen Brooks and Peggy Clark demand change at Blue Mountain Hospital Thursday.

"THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY HAS NEUTERED THE BOARD. IT IS TIME FOR THE HOSPITAL TO GET BACK TO THE WAY IT USED TO BE, INSTEAD OF SENDING THE MONEY BACK TO TENNESSEE."

—Gary Miller, former hospital district board chair



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