



Community Health Beat



What's new at BMHD?

Monoclonal Antibody Treatment

Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic continues to offer COVID-19 monoclonal antibody administration to high-risk individuals who qualify. If you have mild to moderate symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19, are presumptively positive, or have a known exposure and are a high risk individual, please contact your local Primary Care Provider's office to discuss as you may be a good candidate for these. Monoclonal antibodies are only authorized for non-hospitalized, high-risk individuals, with mild to moderate symptoms. These antibodies can help prevent progression to severe COVID-19 symptoms and complications. It is best to receive treatment as soon as possible after onset of illness.

Qualifications for monoclonal antibody treatment include:

- age 65 or older
- elevated body mass index
- pregnant
- chronic kidney disease
- diabetes
- immunosuppression
- cardiovascular disease, including high blood pressure
- chronic lung disease such as COPD or asthma
- sickle cell disease
- neurodevelopment disorders
- having a permanent medical device in place

Contact your Primary Care Provider to see if you qualify.

Our pediatric gym is up and running in Rehabilitation Services!

We're Hiring!

Certified Dietary Manager - (Full Time)

Certified Nursing Assistant | Care Center - (Full Time)

Dietary Services Cook w/CDM Duties - (Full Time)

Environmental Services Technician - (Full Time)

Help Desk Support Technician - (Full Time)

Patient Access Registrar | Emergency Dept. - (Full Time)

Many other full-time, part-time & casual positions available, visit our website for more information & to apply.

Flu Shots available!

00am
m **Call for an appointment:
541-575-0404**

www.bluemountainhospital.org

Farm, timber issues on agenda

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press



Jeff Stone

SALEM—Farm groups and labor advocates are expected to be preoccupied with agricultural overtime wages during Oregon's monthlong legislative session that begins on Feb. 1.

The prospect of eliminating the agriculture industry's exemption from higher overtime wages got a lot of attention from lawmakers last year, but attempts to negotiate a compromise have been complicated by litigation over the issue.

A lawsuit alleges the exemption lacks an underpinning in state law and isn't constitutional because farmworkers are excluded from "privileges" enjoyed by other employees.

It's been an unsettling experience for farm representatives, who were negotiating in "good faith" with labor advocates who were "looking at us in the eye" while planning the legal attack, said Mary Anne Cooper, vice president of public policy for the Oregon Farm Bureau.

The overtime issue has been presented as a "racial equity agenda item," but in reality, ending the exemption wouldn't put more money into farmworkers' pockets, she said. "It's just not going to be the result because our members can't afford to pay more wages."

Proponents of ending the overtime exemption seem to believe farmers can just raise their prices, when they'd actually be forced to limit employee hours to contain labor costs, said Jeff Stone, executive director of the Oregon Association of Nurseries.

"Clearly, we need to use different words because they don't understand the price-taking side of ag," he said.

Timber compromise

Another major natural resource proposal before Oregon lawmakers will be the compromise deal between environmental groups and the timber industry, under which logging buffers near streams would be expanded.

The agreement would also

restrict logging below steep slopes to prevent sediment from reaching streams and implement other changes in the forest practices law.

The "private timber accord" was negotiated with help from Gov. Kate Brown's office. It is anticipated to receive a "rubber stamp" from lawmakers in 2022.

"This is a legislative priority and has all the ingredients to pass," said Cooper, adding that the Oregon Farm Bureau is still studying the proposal. "I have a hard time seeing a situation where it doesn't go forward."

Certain aspects of the accord, such as increased regulations for beaver removal in forests, have made the Farm Bureau nervous about the implications for agriculture.

"It could be a reason to adapt that policy to other lands," said Lauren Smith, the group's director of government affairs.

The Farm Bureau also plans to advocate for the resumption of a program under which private landowners pay an assessment to raise money for predator control by USDA's Wildlife Services. The program was allowed to sunset during the previous legislative session after animal advocates opposed extending it.

"There doesn't seem to be an avenue for our communities to manage predators," Smith said.

Climate legislation

There's likely to be action on climate legislation, if Democratic lawmakers try to enshrine an emissions reduction plan from the state's Department of Environmental Quality in law, Stone said.

"I expect there will be a bill to codify whatever the Climate Protection Plan rules say," he said. "I'd be surprised if the majority did not try to push something through legislatively."

Oregon politics by the numbers going into election year

By GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

Saturday may have been New Year's Day, but for hardcore political watchers, the first toot of a 2022 party horn also sounds the dawn of an election year full of numbers to remember and crunch. A few key counts:

It's 69 days until the March 8 deadline to file to run for most political offices.

And 139 days until the May 17 primary election day.

Plus 311 days until the biggest day of all: the Nov. 8 general election. Just 447,840 minutes away.

Tally on top job

With more than two months until the deadline to jump into the fray, 28 people have already filed to run for governor.

The field so far includes 13 Republicans, 12 Democrats, two unaffiliated candidates and one Independent Party candidate.

After the primary, there will be one Republican and one Democrat who'll move on to the general election. The three others are all trying to qualify for the Nov. 8 general election. Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, says she will shed the party label to run without a political party.

Governor candidates: What and where

Filings with the Secretary of State's Office show the candidates for governor holding a cross-section of political offices and private jobs.

Among the candidates is the state treasurer, House speaker, House minority leader, a county commissioner, two mayors, a school superintendent, two artists, a journalist, an oncologist, a chiropractor, a cabinetmaker, a software designer, a public policy adviser and one person who listed only "unemployed."

Five candidates live in Portland, four are from Salem, three from Bend and two each from Baker, Clackamas, Jackson, Lane, and Yamhill counties.

Two have previously made it to the final round of voting for governor before. Bud Pierce of Salem was the 2016 Republican nominee in the special election for governor. Patrick Stames was the Independent Party nominee in the 2018 election. Both Pierce and Stames were defeated by Gov. Kate Brown, who can't run again this year because of term limits. Stames endorsed Brown in the late stages of the 2018 campaign. This time around, he's running as a Democrat.

In the end, it will come down to voters. According to the latest count by the secretary of state, in September 2021, there are 2,947,391 registered voters.

The big question mark is the 991,360 "non-affiliated" voters.

Most were automatically registered to vote while getting a new driver's license at the Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicles Division, then didn't mail in the card asking for their political party preference.

Currently, Democrats and Republicans only allow registered party members to vote in the primary.

The reality of closed primaries is that they leave nearly 1 million people out of the process of choosing who is most likely to make it to the general election ballot.

Everybody, regardless of party registration, gets to vote in the general election.

Of those who have registered with a party, the totals:

- Democrats: 1,026,313
- Republicans: 729,676
- Independent Party: 138,489
- Libertarian: 21,640
- Working Families: 8,648
- Pacific Green: 8,002
- Constitution: 3,841
- Progressive: 3,016
- Other parties: 16,406