



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Republican gubernatorial candidate Christine Drazan poses in front of the Prairie Wood Products sign on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022, in Prairie City.

Drazan makes case for governorship

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — The Republican nominee for governor says Oregonians are hungry for change after years of Democratic control that have seen an explosion in crime, homelessness and the state budget.

Christine Drazan, who emerged from a crowded GOP field in the May primary, was in Prairie City on Wednesday, Aug. 17, to tour the recently reopened Prairie Wood Products mill during a campaign swing through Eastern Oregon.

In an interview with the Blue Mountain Eagle, Drazan laid out the reasons she is running for a post that hasn't been won by a Republican since 1984.

Democrat Tina Kotek, independent Betsy Johnson and Drazan are the leading contenders for the governorship, the first election in the state's history when the top elected office was virtually guaranteed to go to a woman. All three women have previously served in the Oregon Legislature.

Drazan has released a "Roadmap for Oregon's Future" that outlines the steps she would take to address various issues throughout the state including homelessness, drugs and mental health, police funding, tax cuts, deregulation, school reforms and government accountability. Details of her plan can be found at christinefororegon.com/roadmap.

The former House minority leader said a monopoly of state government by Democrats has led to a desire for change among Oregonians, change Drazan feels she is capable of providing.

"Over the course of the last 10 years, Oregonians know their lives have gotten worse and not better, and what we're experiencing right now — whether or not it is in our school settings or on our streets or in our communities, whether or not people feel safe, or whether or not a loved one is suffering from addiction — all of those things have happened under the leadership of the Democrats that are running for another term," Drazan said.

"There is a need in our state to have good government — that we give people back this sense that the government is for the people and by the people and not to the people and at the people. That's what we've been experiencing lately. I'm committed to addressing homelessness and improving the quality of life for all Oregonians across our whole state. ... I want every part of Oregon to feel respected and that they have a seat at the table," she added.

Drazan said she isn't concerned about a scenario in which she wins the governorship while the Legislature remains overwhelmingly Democratic, which could hamper her agenda as governor.

"I'm not worried about that at all," she said. "I think that the benefit of our political life is that the governor's office has a unique role to provide balance. That is an opportunity for Democrats, if they should keep the majority in the Legislature, to be able to negotiate with someone with a different philosophical approach to government than they have."

"I believe in limited government that is efficient and effective and performs core functions — strong social safety net, strong schools, good roads — and also government isn't everything to everybody. We allow for that space where people have choices and they live the consequences of those choices. That's not the Democrats' approach. That's how our state government has doubled in size in one decade. ... Our little state budget for Oregon to serve 4.2 million people is well over \$100 billion, and that's happened over 10 years."

One of Drazan's first acts as governor would be to declare a homelessness state of emergency.

"There is a list of things I'm going to do on Day One and that is one of them because I believe the crisis that we're seeing on our streets can be addressed and must be addressed," Drazan said.

A housing first approach to homelessness doesn't provide accountability when addiction and mental health are directly tied to homelessness, according to Drazan. Giving communities the ability to enforce the ordinances that are on the books and protecting their quality of life are some of the ways Drazan thinks homelessness can be addressed in a better way than it is now.

Drazan also said she would rescind Gov. Kate Brown's cap and trade executive order, calling it an abuse of power. Another action Drazan said she would take is asking for the resignations of various agency heads.

"We need to have a real conversation about functioning government. The DMV needs to work. ODOT needs to build roads. Our foster care system needs to take care of kids. We should have an expectation that government serves Oregonians and functions at its highest possible level, and I need to be able to have confidence in the leadership of those agencies," Drazan added.

Quilts of Valor

Piecemakers guild honors local vets

By RICHARD F. LAMOUNTAIN
For the Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON — Veterans Day is more than two months away. But on Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Grant County Piecemakers' quilt giveaway at Clyde Holliday State Recreation Site, it seemed the holiday had already arrived.

Gathering to celebrate the service and sacrifice of local military veterans, some 115 people dined on burgers, brownies and watermelon. And they witnessed the Piecemakers' presentation of quilts — all of which were designed, pieced, quilted and bound by the group's members — to men and women who have answered their nation's call.

"It's important to honor and recognize our veterans," said Karen Hinton, the Piecemakers' president, in her opening remarks. "They're our heroes and they need to know that. Our respect and admiration for our veterans are what keep us going."

Before the giveaway, Laura Kuffler of the American Warriors Veterans Association presented a \$220 check to the Piecemakers. Hinton and her associates then awarded quilts to 26 recipients, who included:

- Richie Colbert, a Vietnam veteran who spent 20 years in the Air Force.
- Kit Kern, another Vietnam veteran, who served with the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force between 1969 and 1972.
- Ronda Metler, a 12-year Navy veteran. Like her father, who also served in the Navy, she worked as a Morse code operator.



Richard F. LaMountain/Contributed Photo

Clyde Holliday State Recreation Site near Mt. Vernon was the site of a quilt giveaway honoring veterans on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022.

• Jerry Thomason, a paratrooper with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division who served between 1982 and 2002.

Several recipients took the microphone to express their gratitude. "Thanks for this exquisitely crafted quilt — a real piece of Grant County Americana," said Tom McAuslan, who served in the Navy between 1973 and 1978.

"It's a privilege and honor to receive this quilt," seconded Mark Naber, whose Army service stretched from 1973 to 1976. "Thank you to the Piecemakers."

Further summarizing recipients' sentiments was Army veteran Don Mooney: "I want to thank everyone who did this fine work. I will never forget it."

The Piecemakers held their first quilt giveaway in 2018 and, with the exception of a one-year COVID hiatus in 2020, have done so every year since. Recipients are selected by a random drawing of names submitted by local veterans' families and friends.

The giveaway is held in conjunction with the national Quilts of Valor program. Since 2003, activists associated with Quilts of Valor have presented 300,000 quilts — all made by volunteers who donate their talent, time and money — to American military veterans.

The event's sponsors were the Grant County Veteran Services Office, American Legion Post 106, Chester's Market, Gardner Enterprises, Bare Bones Outback Smoke Shop, AAA Thunderbolt, Prospector Ice, Juniper Arts Council and Clyde Holliday State Recreation Site.

The Grant County Piecemakers are led by Hinton, Vice President Ersela Dehiya and Secretary Cheri Bellmore. In addition to the summer quilt giveaway, the group organizes and hosts an annual quilt show at Trowbridge Pavilion.

To join, donate to or inquire further about the Grant County Piecemakers, call 541-620-0120 or email gcpiecemakers@gmail.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



WEDNESDAY, AUG. 24
Hospital district board meeting

• 5 p.m., boardroom, Blue Mountain Hospital, 170 Ford Road, John Day

The board will hold its regular monthly meeting. The agenda includes a financial report for July, the swearing-in of a new board member, the resignation of the hospital's outpatient and provider services director and a discussion of housing issues. The public can attend online via Google Meet using meeting ID meet.google.com/qju-xzcd-yqj or by phone at 786-681-1963 using PIN 657 818 876#.

THURSDAY, AUG. 25
Parks and Rec meeting

• 4 p.m., 845 NW Bridge St., John Day

The John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District board will hold a public meeting at the board office. The public can also attend via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81333358820?pwd=ZXJwZlIIMT0pxWHhkK0V4YmlwMWk1Zz09>. Use meeting ID 813 3335 8820 and passcode 851764.

Yoga in the Park
• 6 p.m., Canyon City Park, Highway 395 North at Park Street
Instructors Ashley Stevick and Amanda Moss of Namaspa Yoga Community lead this free yoga class for people of all skill levels.

SUNDAY, AUG. 28
Silvies Sunday Slam
• 11:30 a.m., The Retreat and Links at Silvies Valley Ranch, 11 miles south of Seneca on Forest Road 3930
Couples date: Any two people play for \$50 each (husband/wife, boyfriend girlfriend, father/

daughter, mother/son, etc.). Sunday Slams, open to all Grant and Harney County residents, include golf, cart, range balls and a hotdog lunch. Check-in at the gatehouse starts at 11:30 a.m., with the first tee time at 1 p.m. Call 800-SILVIES to sign up.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 1
Yoga in the Park
• 6 p.m., Canyon City Park, Highway 395 North at Park Street
Instructors Ashley Stevick and Amanda Moss of Namaspa Yoga Community lead this free yoga class for people of all skill levels.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4
Silvies Sunday Slam
• 11:30 a.m., The Retreat and Links at Silvies Valley Ranch, 11 miles south of Seneca on Forest Road 3930
Labor Day weekend: Wear your biggest, brightest belt buckle, and you and your partner play for \$50 apiece. Sunday Slams, open to all Grant and Harney County residents, include golf, cart, range balls and a hotdog lunch. Check-in at the gatehouse starts at 11:30 a.m., with the first tee time at 1 p.m. Call 800-SILVIES to sign up.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8
Yoga in the Park
• 6 p.m., Canyon City Park, Highway 395 North at Park Street
Instructors Ashley Stevick and Amanda Moss of Namaspa Yoga Community lead this free yoga class

for people of all skill levels.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10
Grant Union Class of '72 reunion
• Noon, Gleason Park, Ing-Hay Way, John Day

Members of the Grant Union High School Class of 1972 are invited to a 50th reunion. The festivities will begin at noon with a casual brown bag lunch at the old City Park (now part of the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site). There will also be a no-host gathering at 7 that evening at the John Day Elks Lodge, 140 NE Dayton St. For more information, call or text Cathy Newbrey Hodges at 360-200-3879.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15
Yoga in the Park
• 6 p.m., Canyon City Park, Highway 395 North at Park Street
Instructors Ashley Stevick and Amanda Moss of Namaspa Yoga Community lead this free yoga class for people of all skill levels.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 22
Yoga in the Park
• 6 p.m., Canyon City Park, Highway 395 North at Park Street
Instructors Ashley Stevick and Amanda Moss of Namaspa Yoga Community lead this free yoga class for people of all skill levels.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24
Monument Buckaroo Festival and Harvest Auction
• Noon to 7 p.m., Monument Senior Center, 269 Main St., Monument
Food, music, games, more food and auctions mark this fifth annual fundraiser for the Monument Senior Center. The festivities begin at noon with a 4-H booth serving tacos and regis-

tration opening for the live and silent auctions. At 1 p.m. there will be live music along with horseshoes, cornhole, face painting and other diversions, with prizes for the kids. The live auction starts at 3 p.m. At 5 p.m., a dinner of salmon and elk with all the trimmings will be served, followed by a desert auction at 6. The cost for dinner is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Children 6-12 are \$7.50, and kids under 6 eat free.

Do you have a community event you'd like to publicize? Email information to editor@bmeagle.com. The deadline is noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.

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TOP GUN MAVERICK (PG-13)
Fri - Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Mon - Thurs 4:00, 7:00

BEAST (R)
Fri - Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:10
Mon - Thurs 4:10, 7:10

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Sincerely, The Railey Family

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