

# Weigum

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## Why a recall?

Charlene Morris alleges that Weigum, in her role as a member of the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District board, violated Oregon Revised Statutes 192.620-670 by communicating via email with fellow board members in drafting the language for the pool bond measure that appeared on the May ballot. The statutes cover Oregon meetings law pertaining to regular meetings, executive sessions, public notices, minutes, the form of the agenda and meetings conducted via telephone or other electronic means.

While Oregon law allows for public bodies such as the parks and rec board to meet and deliberate electronically, it also requires that the public be able to monitor that electronic communication as it's happening.

Jack Orchard, a Portland attorney who specializes in

public records and public meetings law, told the Blue Mountain Eagle for an earlier story that any discussion of the language for the pool bond should have been held in a public meeting that followed all the standard procedures the law requires.

"The discussion of the bond measure in any form was a public meeting matter," he said. "It needed to be agendaed, discussed at an open session with minutes kept. Notice of the meeting was required in the normal course and means."

Orchard added that this is especially true if a quorum of board members was involved in the email communications that occurred in drafting the ballot measure's language.

Also alleged are violations of ORS 192.314-335, which cover access to public records and the timely dissemination of public records.

Morris also claims that Weigum prepared an additional notice of ballot title that was published in the Blue Moun-

tain Eagle in violation of ORS 260.532 and 260.537. Morris said Weigum called herself the "elections authority" and that these actions were taken to mislead voters and cause confusion.

In addition, Morris accused Weigum of violating ORS 294.414, which covers the appointment of a budget committee, pointing to Weigum's role as the JDCC Parks and Recreation District's budget officer.

Morris said Weigum could have taken steps to avoid a recall.

"Lisa had two choices," Morris said. "She could resign or make a statement, which I have not seen."

Morris said she understands Weigum isn't the chair of the parks and recreation board but said Weigum is the board member she had the most communication with when the effort to put the pool bond on the ballot started. "I knew trying to recall all five of (the board members) would not be successful," Morris added.

Morris also alleges that Weigum told her that "we have to do better," referring to the parks and recreation board's efforts to provide transparency to the public, but failed to fol-

low through with any meaningful actions.

Weigum, in her statement of justification in response to Morris' petition, characterized the recall effort as a personal vendetta.

"It is unfortunate that the petitioner is insulting the democratic process by wasting your tax dollars on purposely misinforming the public, spreading blatant lies, and worst of all, continuing to create polarization in our community all because (she) just doesn't like me," Weigum wrote.

## Board chair backs Weigum

Zach Williams, who chairs the parks and recreation district board, said Weigum was being unfairly singled out by the recall effort.

"It's not like any of the things Lisa is being accused of, for one, are Lisa's fault alone. They're all of our responsibility," he said.

"And two, I think everyone would find if they get on a board that you make these mistakes at times," he said.

Williams added that the board's actions had been subjected to heightened scrutiny because of the controversy sur-

rounding the proposal to build a new community swimming pool.

"In 15 years, until the pool bond, not one person from the public had ever shown up to a parks and rec board meeting, not one," he said. "Nobody cared because we were doing good things, and that's all we've ever done."

Williams pushed back against the claim that Weigum had tried to deceive voters.

"The additional notice of ballot title to the Blue Mountain Eagle was a mistake. It was clearly not done to unfairly mislead voters — it was what she thought she was supposed to do," Williams added.

He also pushed back against the budget complaint.

"(Morris) claims (Weigum) broke finance law by not appointing budget committee members correctly, which is not true," he said.

"When I first started, you begged and pleaded for people to show up so you can have a budget committee meeting. This isn't a sought-after position that people are lining up to come get. ... That's the extent to which (Morris) is claiming Lisa broke budget law," Williams said.

Williams said the recall effort against Weigum fits within the political dynamic that has been apparent both locally and nationally in recent years.

"Attack, attack, attack. The feeling is that you're trying to stack these boards to their favor somehow, but I don't know what that outcome is supposed to be," he said.

Weigum's supporters, including Williams, are adamant that recalling her from the Parks and Rec board would be a loss for the community as a whole. "Lisa is a great parks and rec board member," Williams said. "She's very community-minded. She cares about kids and programs and Seventh Street."

If people aren't happy with Weigum's actions on the board, Williams suggested, there is a better way to handle the situation.

"There is a time and a place to change board members, and they're called elections," he said. "Somebody should run against her. Someone should run against us if they don't like what we're doing."

Williams added, "That's the way the process is supposed to work. Recalls — there is a time and a place, but this isn't it."

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## Loans

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\$57,450 for a family of four (limits slightly higher in Wallowa County).

- Home equity must be greater than the value of outstanding home loans plus cost of loan-funded repairs.
- Home must be adequately insured.

What makes the program go is a revolving loan fund built on federal grants awarded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, program manager Kale Elmer explained.

"We've got a pretty large amount of loans out there right now," he said. "As those funds get paid back, we can do more loans."

At the moment, he added, the program has more than \$2.3

### HOW TO APPLY

To find out more about Community Connection's Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program or to fill out a loan application, visit <https://ccno.org/housing-rehabilitation-loan-program/>. To speak with program manager Kale Elmer, call 541-963-3186.

million in loans outstanding. The fund balance for available loans had dropped to less than \$250,000, but the account has been recharged by the awarding of a \$400,000 grant applied for by Grant County. The counties in Community Connection's service area take turns applying for grants, with the money available to any qualified applicant in Northeast Oregon.

"We have been running this program for a number of years across four counties, and we

kind of cycle through," Elmer said. "Last time it was Union County."

The Home Rehabilitation Loan Program has been running for decades and was originally operated by individual cities and counties around Northeast Oregon before Community Connection took the reins some years back. The program has 137 active loans in its portfolio, and another 168 loans have been repaid.

"When I started, the oldest loan we had was from 1980," Elmer said. "That loan was paid back last year."

While the program has proven popular elsewhere, it has been slow to catch on in Grant County. According to Elmer, of the nearly 140 home rehabilitation loans currently outstanding, only 11 are from Grant.

"It's been an uphill bat-

tle to get applicants," he said. "We get a lot of seniors, and we find they'll be reluctant to take a loan even though there's no payments and no interest."

Many seniors worry about leaving behind a loan that their children will have to pay off after they're gone, but Elmer noted that making repairs can substantially increase the value of an older home, making it possible to repay the loan after the home is sold or refinanced.

"You need to take care of it or you're not really leaving them anything," he said.

Both Elmer and Myers are hoping to broaden the program's acceptance in Grant County.

"I don't think we've done a very good job of advertising the benefits of it," Myers said. "It's a pretty good program for elderly, low-income and no-income people."

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# Coffee Break!

- CLUES ACROSS**
- India's "City of Lakes"
  - Large marine mammals
  - Used to carry belongings when traveling
  - Rechristens
  - Equally
  - Heavy plant-eating mammals
  - Millihenny
  - Japanese immigrant to N. America
  - Deep, red-brown sea bream
  - Norse gods
  - Peppermint and peko are two
  - Auguste \_\_\_\_, founder of positivism
  - Self-immolation by fire ritual
  - High-resolution microscope (abbr.)
  - Wide metal vessel used in cooking
  - V-shaped open trough
  - People of southern Benin
  - People of southern Ghana
  - It's a significant creed
  - Period between eclipses
  - Furies
  - Emerged
  - Philippine Island
  - Where wrestlers battle
  - Unhappy
  - Central European river
  - Language
  - Semitransparent gemstone
  - Forming in a bottom layer
  - Distinct region
  - Broad blades
  - Leavened bread
  - Influential cosmetics exec
  - Exclamation of surprise
  - Era free of war
  - One who helps professors
  - Idealistic
  - Ornamental plants
  - Grouped
  - Kids love this street
- CLUES DOWN**
- Protein-rich liquids
  - Musician Clapton
  - Wine
  - When you hope to arrive
  - Something one can get stuck in
  - Midway between east and southeast
  - Mothers
  - German river
  - Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
  - Discharged
  - Areas near the retina
  - Greek mythological sorceress
  - Very unpleasant smell
  - "\_\_ Humbug!"
  - White poplar
  - Journalist Tarbell
  - Teachers
  - One older than you
  - Long Russian river
  - Run battled in
  - Beloved Hollywood alien
  - Holiday (informal)
  - Furniture with open shelves
  - Argued
  - Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
  - Cars have them
  - Volcanic craters
  - Made of fermented honey and water
  - Shelter for mammals or birds
  - One who utilizes
  - Moves swiftly on foot
  - Builder's trough
  - Architectural wing
  46. 12
  - Pacific Standard Time

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to diabetes.

**OBDLO**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Guess Who?**

I am a singer born in Tennessee on November 26, 1939. I picked cotton as a kid and worked as a nurse's aide. A 1971 single helped propel my music career, and I am considered the Queen of Rock and Roll.

**CRYPTO FUN**

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to diabetes. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 4 = E)

**A. 21 16 1 9 5 19 4**  
Clue: Sugar

**B. 15 10 19 1 16 15 10**  
Clue: Regulates sugar

**C. 16 4 8 4 16 19**  
Clue: Measurements

**D. 11 15 4 6**  
Clue: Foods you eat

Puzzle solutions can be found in today's classifieds

**SUDOKU**

3							1	4
		9						5
5				7				2
7	9		8					
		2	4					7
		5		2				1
			6		3	4		9
				4	9			8
						7		

Level: Intermediate

**Fun By The Numbers**

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**DIABETES WORD SEARCH**

M P I P Y M C Y I M N M C B F E E T S P  
V R Y I G C U N E E P C E K E L F K A T  
H U A R Y C K N E V K A A A C Y Y I N U I R  
T O L T D E D E F R A T A H C O C V U A  
I D I S T O M G B I M R G C S R F N S R Y  
E D B O C N O O R G D L F R E C M Y F Y  
E B N R G O H U F I A N B A O H M O A C  
Y E I A F Y N A O N O K S N B P I K C V  
S N L C D I S V E I Y B T U T R H V I O  
E H V R M E A R T O Y R A O F M Y E D N  
U N A U F S D A M R O N M S V S S O S E  
L T B O C A R O T L F A A Y A V T S S E  
E L O U L D N Y K E T B I I P L L R I T  
A G L T Y I G E R I B T V T C V R O S A  
N A E H T L S K C D I A B E T I C A I B  
R C E O U R O M R D B M C H F S T O T D  
Y D R H E K L O F O I M H D F B E A E  
V P C V U K L B N O P T N T A E N A I G  
S G D P S T D R U L I N S U L I N E U D  
S A N E R V E S R B O O G L U C O S E T

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**WORDS**

AGILITY	BREED	CRATE	PET
APRON	BRINDLE	CROUP	SHOW
BALANCE	CANINE	DOCKED	SPAY
BARK	CAPE	DOG	TAIL
BEARD	CHAMPION	HOCKS	VETERINARY
BELLY	CLUB	NEUTER	WITHERS