

County commission race: Pullen mostly self-funded, Givens goes for write-in redemption

By PHIL WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Rick Pullen of Pendleton reported raising \$3,020 and spending almost \$2,800 so far in his campaign to oust incumbent George Murdock as Umatilla County commissioner.

Murdock, also of Pendleton, has reported raising more than \$10,000 and spending almost \$7,200 to win a second full term as commissioner.

Pullen's campaign financials became public this week on ORESTAR, the Oregon Secretary of State's website for campaign finance activity.

Pullen's plethora of black and yellow political signs led some local political insiders to question how he was paying for the campaign.

The answer is, mostly out of his own pocket, it turns out. According to the website, Pullen has loaned his campaign \$2,100. Close family have given \$500 to the campaign, and the rest comes from small cash contributions.

Pullen paid \$384 to Creative Signs and \$450 to DG Gifts & Screen Printing, both in Pendleton.

Bridgeview Press of Cave Junction in Jose-



Rick Pullen

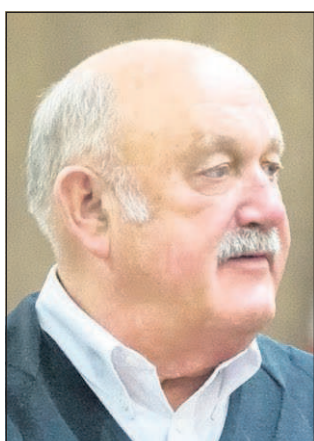
phine County got the biggest check — \$1,537. Pullen also spent \$262.50 for signs from a company in Orlando, Florida.

"We have purchased a lot of our stuff local," Pullen said, and "we've gone where we can" to keep expenses down.

Pullen also said he has family in Cave Junction and listened to their local recommendation.

Murdock and Pullen are facing off for the Position 1 seat on the county board after neither came away with more than 50 percent of the vote in the primary.

Murdock came close, with 45.4 percent, and Pullen pulled in 30.6 percent. Tom Bailor of Pend-



George Murdock

ton came in third with 23.8 percent.

Bailor said he is not endorsing either candidate.

Pullen and Murdock aren't the only race for Umatilla County commissioner on the ballot — commissioner Larry Givens is not giving up on serving a fourth term.

"I got some folks that are supporting a write-in campaign," Givens said. "They approached me. This is supporter driven."

Athena Mayor John Shafer won 52.3 percent of the vote to defeat Givens in the race for position 2 on the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners.

Nearly 12,000 voters cast ballots in that race, while

the entire turnout for the primary was 13,310, or 31 percent.

Givens, commissioner for 12 years, said Mel Keely, vice chair of the county fair board, came to him a couple of weeks ago with the idea of running a write-in campaign for the Nov. 6 election. A few more people made the same pitch soon after; Givens said he gave his blessing and the campaign is catching on in Hermiston, Pendleton and Milton-Freewater.

"It comes from some folks who just are not happy with Mr. Shafer," Givens said, but he did not specify what they might be unhappy about.

Although Shafer garnered a majority of voters in the primary, his name appears on the November ballot along with a space for write-ins.

Umatilla County elections manager Kim Lindell said that's because the county charter specifies voters elect commissioners in November.

Shafer said he is surprised Givens is going for a write-in.

"The people spoke in May," he said. "Now they're going to get the chance to speak in November."



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

A shipping container is offloaded from a railcar at one of the railroad spurs in May 2015 at the Port of Morrow.

POM gets statewide business benefit

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
STAFF WRITER

As the Port of Morrow grows, it will recoup some of the money it has spent to ready its property for new business.

Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency, recently named the Port's East Beach Industrial Site as a "Regionally Significant Industrial Site." The designation is given to entities that are developing sites for industrial use, and offers them tax reimbursement for money they spend on preparing a site.

To qualify for the program, the port had to designate a site and identify reasons the site was not yet "shovel-ready." Those issues became the port's development plan. They include providing fresh and potable water, natural gas, rail and sewer improvements.

Once the port has implemented its capital improvement plan and has tenants on the property, half the taxes tenants pay on their employees will be reimbursed to the port, who can then use that money to pay for up to 100 percent of the cost to ready that site. That cost does not include ver-

tical construction, or any work on buildings — only on the lot.

"It could be anything from grade issues, dealing with access, providing utilities," said Daniel Holbrook, an industrial lands specialist for Business Oregon. "Once the issues are addressed, that site will be regionally significant for industry."

Port Director Ryan Neal said the port had to identify a site that met some requirements before they could apply for the program. The site had to be vacant, slated for industrial use, and had to provide a minimum of 25 jobs.

The East Beach Industrial Site, which the port has identified for development, is about 982 acres, and could provide about 800 jobs, Neal said. He said the site improvements have to be completed by 2023. According to the program, rural sites must also pay employees wages higher than the county or state average, whichever is lower.

The Port of Morrow was the second site in the state to receive the RSIS designation, after the Port of Portland's Troutdale-Reynolds Industrial Park. It is the first to qualify for the program.

BMCC selects interim president

HERMISTON HERALD

Blue Mountain Community College has picked Dr. Connie Green as the college's interim president.

Green retired as president of Tillamook Bay Community College in 2017.

She will guide BMCC while its board conducts a nationwide search to replace Cam Preus, who is leaving BMCC on Oct. 31 to become the executive director of the Oregon Community College Association in Salem.

BMCC board chairman Chris Brown said in a statement that Green has a "strong background" as a college president, leadership coach and workforce devel-



Dr. Connie Green

opment supporter that will help maintain continuity at the college during its search.

"BMCC has maintained strong relationships over the years with the 16 other Oregon community colleges, so we are familiar

with Dr. Green's leadership and experience," he said. "Therefore, the board is very comfortable bringing Dr. Green in to assist us through this transition."

BMCC has hired Gold Hill Associates, a consulting firm that specializes in college executive searches, to assist in recruiting and selecting candidates. The same firm assisted the college in hiring Preus in 2013. The board expects to hire a new president before July 1, 2019.

According to a news release from BMCC, Green has stated she is not interested in applying for the permanent position. She has worked with BMCC in the past after being contracted to

facilitate the college's strategic planning in 2014.

Green has a doctorate degree in education, policy and planning from University of Oregon. She was president of Tillamook Bay Community College for six and a half years and spent 30 years before that in various leadership roles at Chemeketa Community College in Salem.

She also spent two years as a policy advisory on community college and workforce development for the state.

Green will begin on Nov. 15, with vice president of student affairs Diane Drebin named acting president for the two weeks in between.

BMCC to open resource center to help student veterans

HERMISTON HERALD

Student veterans will soon have a place at Blue Mountain Community College to study, meet other veterans, and find resources. The BMCC Veteran's Resource Center will open in Morrow Hall, 2411 NW Carden Ave., Pendleton, on Wednesday, Oct. 10, from 1:30-4 p.m.

The Veteran's Resource Center was funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Veter-

an's Affairs that the college received last year. Student veterans will speak at the center's grand opening, as well as officers from the state veteran's affairs office.

"Opening the Veteran's Resource Center is an exciting opportunity for BMCC to better connect with and provide resources to our students who are veterans," BMCC President Cam Preus said. "We are so thankful for their service to our country, so providing a place for them to gather, study and

gain resources is one way we can show our gratitude and help them toward their educational goals."

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Words cannot express the feeling in our hearts. Thank you for being with us during this difficult time. The lovely cards, the beautiful floral pieces, your thoughts, prayers and words of sympathy will always be remembered.

From the family of
John Michael (Mike) Driscoll
September 23, 1947 - August 29, 2018
Forever in our hearts