Oregon dumps troubled health exchange site

By GOSIA WOZNIAK
The Associated Press

Oregon, once expected to be a national leader in the federal health care overhaul, on Thursday moved to become the first state to dump its troubled online health exchange and take the federal marketplace instead. A top Cover Oregon official, Alex Pettit, said fixing the existing system would be too costly at an estimated $78 million, would take too long to implement, and would be too risky. The state’s site still isn’t fully functional seven months after a failed launch.

Pettit said switching to the federal system would cost $4 million to $6 million. An advisory committee made the recommendation to drop the glitch-plagued site for private policies, but suggested that Oregon continue using its current technology for Medicaid enrollments.

The Cover Oregon board will vote on the proposal.

Adapt Woldford can’t stand still

Our proud Foothills magazine for May/June is off the presses, with an eclectic selection of stories and pictures.

The lead article about Adelie Woldford tells her views on design, a field she knows well. But her local activism is not touched on in this story. She was one of the original committee that dreamed of a performing arts center, raising more than $2 million in the first campaign, thanks to a $1 million gift from Bolt Stanley.

She started an endowment fund to bring students to the center. And the Arts on the Avenue project was her baby, and still is. She just assumed presidency of the arts council. She simply can’t stand still, and we’re all the better for that.

WHAT’S NEXT

A few drops
Low: 41 High: 58
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Resisting Facebook
A confession from a former social media holdout

Support us. It is clear that the work the Mustard Seed does is still a necessary service in this community.

The center’s executive director, Janet Stutzman, resigned April 4 after 22 years on the job.

Stutzman Friday declined to comment on why she resigned or whether she was responsible for ensuring the tax returns.

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Lunchtime in the 3-5 year-old room at the Mustard Seed in 2009.