

County officials face budget denial

By Steve Hooks
Of the Emerald

The Lane County Budget Committee began picking up the pieces Thursday in the aftermath of the voters' rejection of the \$10 million increase in the property tax base.

The county now must resort to the contingency plan, a scaled-down alternate budget, which requires budget and personnel cuts in almost every department. County officials drew up the plan in April in case voters defeated the proposal to increase the present \$4.2 million tax base to \$14.2 million.

Had voters approved the tax base, the county would have worked with a \$41.1 million budget for 1982-83.

The county still must find \$2.75 million to balance the

current \$31.2 million budget. The committee will consider this problem at Monday's budget session.

The cuts include:
— Reducing the public safety department patrol staff from 26 to seven officers.

— Discontinuing maintenance of all 86 county parks in October.

— Reducing family planning services, alcohol and drug programs, county museum hours and the veterans program offered through the community health and social services department.

— Eliminating routine animal regulation patrol activities in the unincorporated areas, including stock molest and rabies control.

— Reducing the service levels in the district attorney's

office, including prosecution of misdemeanors and traffic offenses, felonies and juvenile crimes.

— Delaying road reconstruction and bridge replacement.

The county now plans to get voter approval in June for a special \$3 million, one-year property tax levy to reduce the sharpness of the cuts. This levy — or the "A" ballot — would be subsidized with state property tax relief.

The heated debate at Thursday's meeting, however, was whether voters should select specific services for property tax funding or approve a general special levy.

"I'm not very excited about 'menu' government," Commissioner Scott Lieuellen said.

Commissioner Otto t'Hooff

argued that voter selection may be the only way to get voter approval of special levies.

t'Hooff plugged a special tax levy for county law enforcement, saying voters would be more willing to approve such a levy. County fire districts have been successful with such special levy proposals, he added.

Budget committee member Carl Hosticka, a University CSPA professor, said that a selection of single-purpose levies would drive the "wedge deeper" between rural county residents and city dwellers.

The budget committee will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the commissioners' conference room of the County Public Service Building to discuss various proposals.

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University student wins GOP senate nomination

University student Michael Cross won a write-in vote in Tuesday's primary election for the Republican nomination to state senate District 21.

Defeating Libertarian Tonie Nathan by a write-in vote of 121-81, Cross will face Sen. Edward Fadeley D-Eugene in November's election.

District 21, which Fadeley has represented during its 10-year existence, includes most of Springfield, the central and north areas of Eugene and the Coburg area.

No Republican had filed for the election, but Cross' write-in win qualifies him for the GOP nomination.

The 21-year-old, political science senior, said he felt "pretty good" about the race, considering he hadn't spent a cent campaigning. "I had zero budget."

He said he conducted most of his campaign by word of mouth or by phone. Much of his support came from University students.

The election outcome was "a welcome relief," he said. Cross, who is active in the College Republican Federation, ran unsuccessfully for a position on the ASUO's Incidental Fee Committee. A Springfield resident, Cross attended Springfield High School and attended Lane Community College for two years before coming to the University.

Nathan said she mounted a last minute campaign at the urging of several republican representatives but "wasn't really running. She said her campaign consisted of two ads totaling \$104 and tags printed with her name for voters to carry into the booths.

Nathan attributed Cross' success to "good organization." She said she wouldn't be surprised if he beats Fadeley in November's election.

"He's (Fadeley) a big spender. The deficits can be laid right at his door," Nathan said. "He's not what they (constituents) want.


Admitting she didn't know much about her opponent, Nathan said "I wish Michael Cross all the luck in the world... whoever he is."

Anchorman to speak

Don Clark, anchorman for KEZI news, speaks on "Values in Media" at the University today.

Clark will speak at the Mars Hill Forum in the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid, from noon to about 1 p.m. A question and answer session follows, ending at 1:30 p.m.

The KEZI newsman graduated from the University journalism school in 1966. He then studied at Emmanuel School of Religion at Milligan College in Tennessee, and earned a master's degree in social ethics from Harvard University.



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