

Drawing down the moon



As the full moon rises outside, Korey Leckband dances to the beat of the drums. Nolly Shoumard follows dressed in a headdress as part of a Pow Wow put on by Springfield High School Friday.

Proposed measures may help colleges

EDUCATION: Oregon Senator Shirley Gold suggested ways to boost Oregon school funding

By Jean M. Bond
Higher Education Reporter

Oregon colleges could benefit from some of the school funding measures proposed by Oregon State Senator Shirley Gold at Tuesday's Senate Finance and Tax Policy Committee meeting.

Gold proposed several measures to help fund Oregon schools, which have suffered a decrease in funding since Oregonians passed a property tax limit in 1990.

Gold also requested a special legislative session to discuss school funding, but said it seems unlikely that a special session will take place.

"
We just can't go on this way.
Time is running out.

Shirley Gold
State Senator

"
One of Gold's proposals, a repeal of the corporate and individual tax rebates, could give Oregon schools an extra \$300 million, and part of this could go to higher education, Gold said.

Gov. John Kitzhaber is not against a repeal of the corporate tax kicker, but thinks it would not provide enough money, said Steve Marks, senior policy advisor for the governor.

Other measures Gold suggested included a change in how

taxes are divided between cities or counties and schools, and the "local option."

This option would allow voters to raise taxes in their K-12 public school districts.

If the legislature does not take action on these measures, Gold said she will use the initiative and referendum process to put the measures before Oregon voters.

"We just can't go on this way," she said. "Time is running out."

Kitzhaber is against calling a special legislative session on school funding because no one has a plan of action, and the state does not have extra money to allocate, Marks said. However, the governor has appointed a task force to look into the local option.

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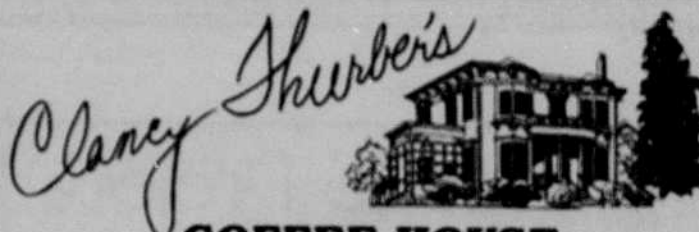
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