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TODAY

Dr. William Keim will speak about date rape on campus at 6 p.m. in Columbia Rm. 150.



INSIDE

Oregon defender returns to soccer team after knee injury sidelines her for five weeks

At least six Cabinet members, including Warren Christopher, intend to leave their posts

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WEATHER

Scattered Showers.
High 55. Low 45.

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Absentee votes will decide Measure 47

BALLOTS: The measure, which would sharply limit property taxes, was failing by less than 3,000 votes

By Doug Irving
& Charles E. Beggs
Emerald Community Reporter
& The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Neither foes nor supporters were giving up Wednesday as county clerks began tallying a big absentee vote in a tight contest over a property tax limit measure.

"We're clearly hopeful," Chip Terhune, a coordinator of the campaign against Measure 47, said Wednesday.

The history of Oregon property tax initiatives over the past two decades has been



one of close finishes, and the measure on the ballot Tuesday followed that tradition.

As of 5 p.m. Wednesday, the measure was losing by a count of 340,691 votes, or 50 percent, to 342,789, or 50 percent.

More than 500,000 absentee votes remained to be tallied.

Terhune said he believed mailings of new property tax bills in October initially pushed people toward favoring the measure.

"But after that I think people started looking seriously at the pros and cons of the measure and realized there would be cuts

to education and public safety," he said. "I think many just reached the conclusion that the cuts would be too deep."

The sponsor of the measure, Bill Sizemore of Portland, speculated that the late-counted votes could help his side.

"If it's close and the absentees are what determines it, we should win," he said. "Those tend to be older voters, and they are probably the most alarmed about property taxes."

Sizemore, as executive director of Oregon Taxpayers United, led the campaign for the proposed constitutional amendment as a complement to a property tax rate limit approved by voters in 1990.

The rate ceiling, passed by 52 to 48 percent, did not deal with assessed value in-

creases or total tax bills.

Measure 47 was written to reduce taxes by at least 10 percent and then restrict increases to no more than 3 percent a year. After that, tax bills could not rise by more than 3 percent a year.

INSIDE

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Fiscal analysts figure the tax cut would slash local government revenue by about \$1 billion over the next two years. This could drastically reduce school budgets, including the University's.

Sizemore said sponsors of the proposal intended that the loss of revenue be made up from swelling state budget coffers. But nothing in the measure required the state to do that.

Slide show focuses on preservation

ENVIRONMENT: The presentation will center on the effects of forest depletion on Native American lands

By Tom Potter
Student Activities Reporter

Preservation of the environment and protecting the habitat of Native American peoples will be the focus of a slide show being presented today.

The presentation, which is co-sponsored by the ASUO Survival Center and the ASUO Native American Student Union, will be in the EMU Fir Room at 7 p.m.

The presentation is open to anyone in the community who is interested.

Two members of an environmental activist group and a Nuxalk tribe member who lives in the Coastal British Columbia region will be talking about their personal experiences with timbering in the area and the destruction of the native habitat.

"I think it's a good idea for students to attend because [destruction of native homes] is not an uncommon experience for tribes," NASU Co-director Leece Lee said.

Forest Action Network is an environmental group that fights the destruction of virgin forests on Vancouver Island. The group is also involved in helping native people preserve their habitat.

"It's a struggle between corporate interests and people who recognize greater value beyond money," Survival Center Co-director Michael Turaski said.

Logging alternatives need to be implemented not only because of the destruction of the homes of Native American people, but also to preserve the ecosystem, Turaski said.

"When you look at resources of the forest, there's a lot more in it than logs and paper," he said.

He suggested one alternative would be to boost the tourism and recreation industries rather than logging the land.

"People have got to start adapting and

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MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

Today is the last day to sample food that may rotate throughout the EMU Fishbowl in the future. Next to the booths is an area where people can vote for their favorite vendors and evaluate food prices.

Changes in EMU could lead to new food options

CHOICES: Customers are encouraged to evaluate potential vendors today in the EMU Courtyard

By Ben Kwasney
Higher Education Reporter

EMU food customers will not be faced with the same pizza and tacos if proposed changes to the EMU food court are finalized.

The proposed changes would wipe out Taco Time and Little Caesar's and could replace them with booths familiar to those at the street fair, which takes place on campus twice a year on 13th Avenue.

Before any decisions are made on what vendors will be included in the rotating food court, customers are being encour-

aged to fill out evaluations on vendors who sold food in the EMU Courtyard Wednesday and will also serve food today.

The evaluations ask customers yes and no questions on the product they purchased, as well as a question regarding the price of the food in accordance to food that would be purchased at the EMU.

On Wednesday the vendors working in the courtyard were Holy Cow Vegetarian Foods, Ritta's Burritos, India House and Samurai Duck.

For molecular biology faculty member Ingo Korndorfer, the changes could keep him from eating at restaurants on 13th Avenue. He said sometimes he doesn't eat at all because it has to be quick. More food choices would be a benefit as well, he said.

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