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Tuition assistance program awaits approval

National Guard and Reserve members could receive free tuition at Oregon University System schools

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

Oregon National Guard and Reserve members returning from areas of active hostility may soon have an opportunity for free higher education

at the Oregon University System school of their choice.

OUS announced Tuesday the creation of the Voyager Tuition Assistance program, a fee remission that will waive tuition dollars that

National Guard and Reserve members are required to pay.

Diane Saunders, director of communications for OUS, said the system expects the State Board of Higher Education to approve the program March 4.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski and OUS Acting Chancellor George Pernsteiner commented on the tuition remission in a press release.

"Education is one of the primary reasons that many of Oregon's soldiers enter military service," Kulongoski said. "The Voyager Program is an example of how the Oregon University System can both recognize the service of Oregon's National Guard members and reservists and help them access a post-secondary education so they can contribute to our communities

once they return home."

"Returning to the United States after active engagement in a conflict area can be a difficult transition at times," Pernsteiner said. "Our hope is that this scholarship aid will provide Guard and Reserve members with the financial help they need to begin or to complete their undergraduate degree without the worry of how

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BIDS FOR CHARITY



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Lundquist College of Business is holding its fourth-annual silent auction today in room 440 of the Lillis Business Complex. All proceeds benefit FOOD for Lane County. Bids can be placed until 3 p.m. today on \$6,000 worth of items ranging from lunch for four with University President Dave Frohnmayer to six sandwiches from Carl's Jr. The auction was extended an additional day to allow people more time to browse the "huge variety" of items and make bids, auction organizer Robin Bagent said. Bagent said the auction grows in size every year and the business college is hoping to raise at least \$5,000 this year.

the Law of the Land

Measure 37's execution has caused a backlash of proposed legislation to attempt to clarify the policy

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

When Measure 37 passed in November, policymakers and land activists weren't quite sure what to expect.

Now, nearly four months later, not much has changed.

The measure became law on Dec. 2, giving property owners the right to seek compensation from the government if land-use restrictions implemented after the property was purchased reduced the value of the land.

Since then, claims have been filed across the state, and the state legislature is looking for ways to enable and clarify a law that policymakers and land development watchdogs agree is complicated and confusing.

Bills are currently circulating in the legislature concerning Measure 37, and Rep. Bob Ackerman, D-Eugene, said several more are expected to be introduced in the coming weeks, though whether they will make it through both chambers is unclear.

Senate Bill 406 aims to establish a compensation system to be used for Measure 37 claims, which have thus far gone uncompensated because of the lack of money throughout the state.

But Ackerman said the likelihood that the bill will pass is slim because it involves a tax imposition the state senate is not authorized to enforce and the senate is where the bill was introduced.

"I don't think the compensation feature is going to fly," Ackerman said. "It's unconstitutional on its face right now."

No funds for compensation means the only retribution for property owners filing Measure 37 claims will involve allowing them a waiver on the land-use regulations imposed after their property was purchased.

Land-use watchdog group 1000 Friends of Oregon and various farm bureaus and farmers have filed a lawsuit contesting the constitutionality of Measure 37, claiming the measure creates a privileged class of property owners and grants unfair privileges to individuals based solely on the year in which their property was purchased rather than allowing for a fair public process.

Sprawling subdivisions near Hood River, Ore., and land development near the grave site of Chief Joseph are just a few of the devastating types of development property owners are petitioning for under Measure 37, 1000 Friends of Oregon staff planner Dan Eisenbeis said.

"We simply can't afford to sacrifice the

IN BRIEF

Eugene police officer donates thoughtful gift to jokester

He's been an indelible figure of Eugene eccentricity, posted in front of the University Bookstore on East 13th Avenue most school days, delivering piercing one-liners to unsuspecting pedestrians and advertising his hand-drawn joke books. And now, he has gotten some recognition.

Frog, creator of the infamous joke-book series, arrived at his post last Friday to find that the antiquated newspaper box that held his joke books had been replaced by a new box. Eugene police officer Randy Ellis donated and painted the box appropriately in a frog motif, Frog said.

"He did a pretty good job, I think," Frog said in his characteristic raspy voice.

The old box was retired after a decade-long career as Frog's makeshift storefront. Frog said between normal wear and tear and students kicking the box, "it was pretty much trashed."

"It got beat up. ... There are some really stupid people that go to school. ...

Sometimes I wonder how they get into college," he said referring to the miscreants with loose feet.

The feet of humorless students weren't the only thing the old newspaper box had to endure. Frog's right to sell joke books without a license was repeatedly challenged by the City of Eugene until the prolific jokester took the legal fight all the way to the state Supreme Court and won. Then the city established an ordinance disallowing all vending on Frog's coveted strip on East 13th Avenue. But resilient Frog had the last laugh when his lawyer found a loophole that allows newsstands of any kind.

"I only advertise and tell people to go to the box," Frog explained.

Frog will release his 62nd joke book, a tribute to rap titled "Snoop Froggy Frog," in April.

University graduate Beth Devereaux dropped by Thursday to pick up two joke books, "Return of the Frog Joke Book for Kids" and "Son of Frog Joke Book." Devereaux bought her first joke book in 1986.

"I just finished my thesis on joke telling for kids," she said.

As for Ellis, Frog said he's got a complimentary joke book reserved just for him.

— Moriah Balingit



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Beth Devereaux checks out Frog's new joke book box, which a local police officer donated to replace the timeworn old one.