

Corner

Editor's

Educating our children offers taxpayers a better return on investment for each tax dollar

LANEY FOUSE
Editor-in-Chief

It costs Oregon taxpayers approximately \$17,645 per year to house a prisoner. Yet, on average, we spend only \$4,000 per student per year. What's wrong with this picture?

Perhaps our collective mind set needs adjusting. When I read about the prison population and the "luxuries" afforded them by our tax dollars, I get irritated.

The only time we seem to get worked up about a prison is when it's going to be built in our backyard. Now, why can't get just as excited about educating our children? Are we an investment we can fund now, for which we will see a long-term positive economic outcome in our future.

It has always been my understanding: a prisoner is someone who has lost their right to liberty for their crime against society. Yet, by not providing our children with their right to an education, we are keeping them prisoners. We, figuratively speaking, make them prisoners by locking up their minds and throwing away the key.

In less than a week, voters in the Oregon City School District will make a decision concerning their

overcrowded and badly-need-to-be-renovated buildings. The May 20 vote-by-mail election requires a voter turn-out of 14,000. It needs only 7,000 "yes" votes to win. The college Board of Education is putting their support behind the bond campaign. Its slogan reads "Bond For Our Kids."

Perhaps the biggest question on every voters mind is just exactly what is this going to cost me? According to campaign literature, the \$65 million bond would cost each taxpayer \$1.60 per \$1000 of assessed property value. Or, to simplify it, anyone owning a \$100,000 home would pay less than \$14 per month.

You are probably asking yourself, "How will the bond affect my property taxes?"

Would you believe, because of Measure 47, most taxpayers will end up paying less, even when the bond measure is approved? The "cut-and-cap" measure limits the amount of property taxes the school district can collect for keeping its doors open.

And, if you are just a bit sensitive about teachers' salaries, do not worry. The money from this measure is going to be used to upgrade and improve facilities in each of the 14 schools in the district.

Some key areas of the measure would positively impact the college.



Oregon City High School's 50-acre Moss campus is adjacent to Clackamas. The expansion planned for the Moss campus would enhance the cooperative professional-technical programs, including the automotive classes at Clackamas. The potential for shared facilities would expand the learning opportunities available for students.

Now, that's a lot of cluck for your buck. For the cost of a pizza you can invest in your community's future. So dig that ballot out of the stack of mail on your counter, mark it "yes" and send it in. Or, perhaps sometime in the near future, while eating pizza in your dining room the prisoners in the facility outside your window will be staring back at you.

If you
can't
teach
me,
don't
criticize
me.
-Sonya
Carson

Event Calendar

■ **Today**
Chrysalis: Women Writers
Noon to 1 p.m.
B112
Call ext. 2371 for information

■ **Today**
Women's Book Group
B112
Noon to 1 p.m. Free event
Call ext. 2268 for information

■ **Now showing through June 5**
Annual Student Art Show
Pauling Gallery -- Free event
Open to the public
Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Call ext. 2333 for information

■ **Today**
Cooperative Work Experience Presentation
Barlow 112
Open to the public
10 to 11:30 a.m.
Presenter: Enrique Washington,
staffing specialist for Nike.
Call ext. 2273 for information

■ **Today**
Final day to vote for next year's Phi Theta Kappa Officers
McLoughlin 232
Open to all members
Ballots accepted all day. Place them in the envelope outside Kate Gray's office. New officers will be announced next week.
Call ext. 2371 or 2210 for information

■ **Now through May 26**
Clackamas Basketball Rally tryouts
Sign up in CC140
Call ext. 2247 for information

■ **Today**
Free USTA Clinic for tennis players and students who wish to work with after-school programs or recreational programs.
Randall Gym
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Call ext. 2450 for information

■ **Today**
Recruiters from NW Telemarketing Community Center
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Call ext. 2409 for information

■ **Now through May 31**
Spring Sell-abration at the bookstore
Located in McLoughlin Hall. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Closed Monday, May 26.

■ **Thursday, May 15**
Recruiters from UPS Community Center
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Call ext. 2409 for information

■ **Thursday, May 15 and Friday May 16**
Native Plant Sale
Environmental Learning Center
Noon to 4 p.m.
Nonnative plants are being liquidated from the site. Bargains available on various conifers, shrubs, bamboo, new and old variety of apple trees.
Call ext. 2351 for more information.

■ **TODAY**
1 p.m softball class challenges all staff to a softball gam .
On the field adjacent to Clairmont Hall.
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Call ext. 2291 for information

■ **Wednesday, May 21**
Annual Instrumental Jazz Night
McLoughlin Theatre
7:30 p.m. Admission \$2 for students and seniors, \$3 for nonstudents, no charge for those 12 and under.
Call ext. 2343 for information

■ **Thursday, May 22**
General Meeting -- Phi Theta Kappa
McLoughlin 204
12:30 p.m. -- Free pizza & punch
Call ext. 2371 or 2210 for information

■ **Thursday, May 29**
Donations will gladly be accepted for the Spring Garage Sale Fundraiser
Sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa in the Community Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Call ext. 2371 or 2210 for information

■ **Friday, May 30**
Spring Garage Sale Fundraiser
Sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa Community Center
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Call ext. 2371 or 2210 for information

■ **Saturday, May 31**
7th annual "Paint the Town Clean" project, coordinated by SOLV. Largest graffiti removal event in the Northwest.
Volunteers needed for this one-day event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Materials and instruction will be provided.
Call SOLV at 503-844-9571 for complete information.

■ **Saturday, June 7**
Ged & Jan Desforges Picnic/BBQ
Barton Park on the Clackamas River
Starts at 3 p.m. The potluck picnic will include games -- maybe even cricket. This is a chance for the Fulbrighters to start saying farewell before they return to England in August.
Call ext. 3212 for information

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Musical
group:
Channelight

• Saturday,
May 31

• 8 p.m.

• Carnegie
Center (old
Oregon City
library)

• Free to the
public.

• Refresh-
ments
available.

• For more
information
contact Bill
Briare at
ext. 2457