

Tax question Measure 30 basis

Ballots should be received in mail soon for Feb. 3 election

Oregon voters will have the chance to ratify or repeal tax increases during a special vote Feb. 3.

Measure 30 is a citizen referendum on House Bill 2152 passed to balance the state budget. Lawmakers in special session said they arrived at the bill in an effort to maintain the current level of public services and avoid budget cuts.

If enacted, the measure would result in several temporary and permanent changes, and increases to the current tax code.

Revisions would temporarily raise income tax and cigarette tax; reduce dividends received by corporations; and defer corporate tax credits until 2006.

The changes would

permanently eliminate some or all medical expense deductions, eliminate deductions for certain types of business vehicles, reduce property tax discounts, increase the minimum tax for C and S corporations, and require extraterritorial income to be added back into a corporation's Oregon taxable income.

Those who brought the initiative to the ballot oppose this budget measure.

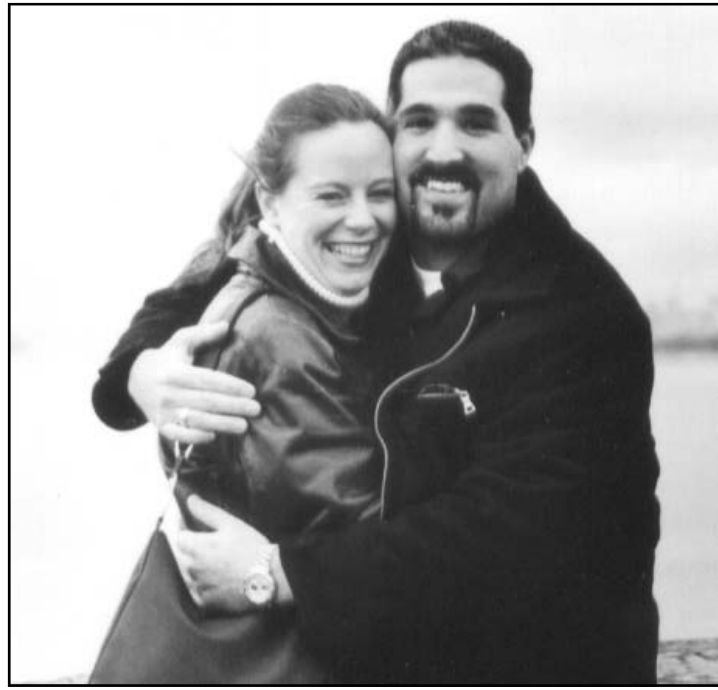
According to a report released by Citizens for a Sound Economy, tax increases at this time would slow Oregon's economic recovery, depressing job creation and discouraging businesses from coming to or staying in the state.

Those who support the tax measure believe that it's imperative to maintain current levels of state spending.

"We're talking about paying for the 'basics' in Oregon," said Cornelia Murphy, political coordinator for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. "...Measure 30 (is) a fight over simply maintaining the status quo."

Should Measure 30 not pass, HB 5077, a disappropriation measure passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Kulonowski would take effect. Legislators could be called back into session to make additional budget cuts.

- Michelle Binker



Upton - Marazzani engaged

Cave Junction residents Pat and Pam Upton announce the engagement and forthcoming wedding of their daughter, Amy Upton to Mike Marazzani of Martinez, Calif. Upton is a 1994 graduate of Illinois Valley High School, and is employed by United Airlines at Denver International Airport. The prospective bridegroom is a medical recruiter. The couple met four years ago in Hawaii while both were employed by United. A late spring wedding in Hawaii is planned. (Photo provided)

I.V. Volunteer Firefighters to the rescue

Tuesday, Jan. 6

*9:55 a.m., public aid 1800 block Laurel Road.

*11:43 a.m., medical aid 100 block S. Kerby Ave.

*1:55 p.m., medical aid 500 block S. Redwood Hwy.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

*3:38 p.m., medical aid 8600 block Takilma Road.

*9:53 p.m., structure fire, 1300 block Holton Creek Road.

Thursday, Jan. 8

*1:50 p.m., fire alarm, 500 block W. River Street.

Friday, Jan. 9

*10:45 a.m., medical aid 500 block Schumacher.

*12:19 p.m., motor vehicle accident (MVA) Redwood Hwy at W. Lister Street.

*1:02 p.m., district-wide medical standby.

*9:03 p.m., medical aid 1600 block E. McMullen Creek.

*10:22 p.m., open burn 24300 block Redwood Hwy.

Saturday, Jan. 10

*4:54 p.m., medical aid 1600 block Crooks Creek Road.



DOWNTOWN CJ COLLISION - Two vehicles were involved in an accident at 12:19 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9 at Redwood Hwy. and W. Lister Street. Emergency responders were American Medical Response, Illinois Valley Fire District and Josephine County Sheriff's Office. No injuries were reported. (Photo by Michelle Binker)

Evergreen Federal pays \$1.9 mil customer bonus

Evergreen Federal Bank will pay an extra \$1,934,000 bonus to its savings customers in addition to the interest they normally receive on their accounts.

This bonus will be given in celebration of Evergreen's 70th anniversary.

Evergreen is the only bank in Oregon to make this type of extraordinary payment. The bank has made several \$1,000,000 extra payments to its customers in the past.

Brady Adams, president of Evergreen, explains; "In 1934 local people came together and formed a community bank. They had a dream about a local bank that would help local people achieve their dreams.

"For the last 70 years, we have been working to

fulfill that dream. Doing so would be impossible without the support of our customers. So we are paying an extra \$1,934,000 bonus to our customers as a way to say thank you."

Evergreen has offices in Cave Junction, Medford, Rogue River, Grants Pass, Brookings and Bandon.



Art's Red Garter Steakhouse & Saloon

124 S. Redwood Hwy.
592-2892

Open 5 to 9 p.m.
Restaurant parking in rear

Oregon TripCheck useful for travel

The Oregon Dept. of Transportation's (ODOT) site, TripCheck.com, has far surpassed previous month's usage numbers.

TripCheck.com and 511 provide access to highway advisory information for state and federal highways in Oregon.

Information is provided by ODOT road crews who perform maintenance and respond to incidents in the field. As more adverse weather develops, ODOT crews are often sent to locations where the weather is most severe or where emergency situations exist.

During the nine days from Christmas Eve

through New Year's Day, the site logged more than 1.2 million visits.

A partial tally released for December 2003 indicated more than 2.3 million site visits with a one-day record on Dec. 29 of 276,000 visits. The prior record for the month was only 1.5 million.

The ODOT travel information phone system, 511 and (800) 977-ODOT, also set a record number of calls for the same nine-day period. The system received 306,000 calls; smashing the previous December 2001 record of 250,000 calls.

With the recent addition of 511 to its system,

ODOT's available phone lines doubled, from 108 to 216 to help alleviate the wait time during severe weather.

"We urge citizens to use the TripCheck.com Web site whenever possible, so that travelers who do not have access to the Internet can still get through on the phone. This way, we can get critical travel information out to as many people as possible during severe weather conditions," said Galen McGill, ODOT Intelligent Transportation Systems manager.

"When our crews on the highway are helping motorists or clearing snow, there can be an impact on their ability to update information," McGill said.

ODOT recommends viewing the TripCheck.com incident maps before taking a trip to get an overall picture of travel conditions.

The site also contains many useful links for travelers to click on such as updated weather cameras.

Vacancy open on JoCo unit for housing

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications from volunteers to fill a vacancy on the Josephine County Housing and Community Development Council's Board.

The housing council administers the federally funded, Section-8 Tenant-based assistance programs for the county.

The deadline for applications is Monday, Jan. 26.

Applications are available in the Board of Commissioners' office, Room 154, Josephine County Courthouse, Grants Pass.

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 * **Marie E. Siemer** *
 * Certified Public Accountant *
 *
 * 592-3630 *
 *
 * Office is now open at *
 * 234 N. Redwood Hwy. *
 * in the *
 * Western Plaza Shopping Center *
 * (Next door to True Value Hardware) *
 *

MANSFIELD R. CLEARY

Attorney at Law
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since 1980

Practice includes but not limited to:

- Bankruptcy - Eliminate financial problems
- Living trusts - Avoid probate
- Estate planning - Wills, power of attorney
- Domestic relations
- Auto accident - Personal Injury
- Criminal - DUII
- Real Estate contracts - Foreclosure

592-2195 200 W. Lister

Senior Nutrition Menu
 Sponsored by

 592-3562

(541) 592-2126, 474-5440
 Meals are served in the CJ County Bldg.
FRIDAY, JAN. 16
 *Western beef steak with country gravy, Lyonnaise potatoes, peas & carrots, herb bread, oatmeal prune bar
MONDAY, JAN. 19
 *Closed for Martin Luther King Day
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21
 *Meat loaf with gravy, whipped potatoes with gravy, cabbage & carrots, onion roll, ranger cookie

TAYLOR'S COUNTRY STORE
 202 S. Redwood Hwy.
 592-5358

Taylor's Sausages

TAYLOR'S SPECIALS
 Roasted Turkey Breast... \$3.99 per lb.
 Taylor Dogs... \$2.50 per lb.
 Lost Coast 8 Ball Stout... \$5.99 six pack (plus deposit)

Events -
TWO GREAT NIGHTS OF MUSIC!
NEW 'QUIETER DINNER MUSIC' SPECIALS!
 *Friday, Jan. 16 - IMBAS - Celtic Rock
 Beef Roulade... \$8.95 (beef roll stuffed with mushrooms baked in tomato sauce)
 *Saturday, Jan. 17 - 'Route 66' - Country/Western
 Dinner Special: BBQ Pork Ribs... \$7.95
 Friday, Jan. 23 - Michelle LeComte & Tim Wallace
 Friday, Jan. 30 - Wally Aiken & friends

THURSDAYS - 6:30 p.m. - Open 'Mic' Night with Jake Thompson

Serving beer & wine ESPRESSO Open for breakfast - 6:30 a.m.