

## Republicans list priorities for session

House Republican Leader Wayne Scott (R-Canby) has released the House Republican agenda for the 2007 session that began Monday, Jan. 8.

The document's title, "Building Oregon from the Community Up," reflects the caucus's belief that government closest to the people governs best, according to Scott.

"We have an agenda for successful students, responsible government, safe families and a robust economy," he said. "House Republicans want to strengthen Oregon's communities, and empower citizens to create local jobs and improve their neighborhoods and schools."

Highlights of the session agenda include developing a rainy-day fund, achieving round-the-clock state trooper coverage on highways, as well as expanding workforce and skill development programs in high schools and community colleges. House Republicans also pledge to protect working families and small businesses from irresponsible tax increases.

"This document is the product of caucus workgroups that met early this year, and caucus discussions that occurred after the election," said Scott.

"The 2007 session will be different for House Republicans," he said, "but we will continue to work toward increased accountability and fiscal responsibility, and oppose efforts to expand state government at the expense of local decision-making."

## JoCo seeks volunteers

Applications to fill two vacancies on the fair board and one on the airports commission are being accepted by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

The fair board is comprised of seven members, who meet once a month to review business management, finances and other affairs for the fairgrounds. The term length is three years.

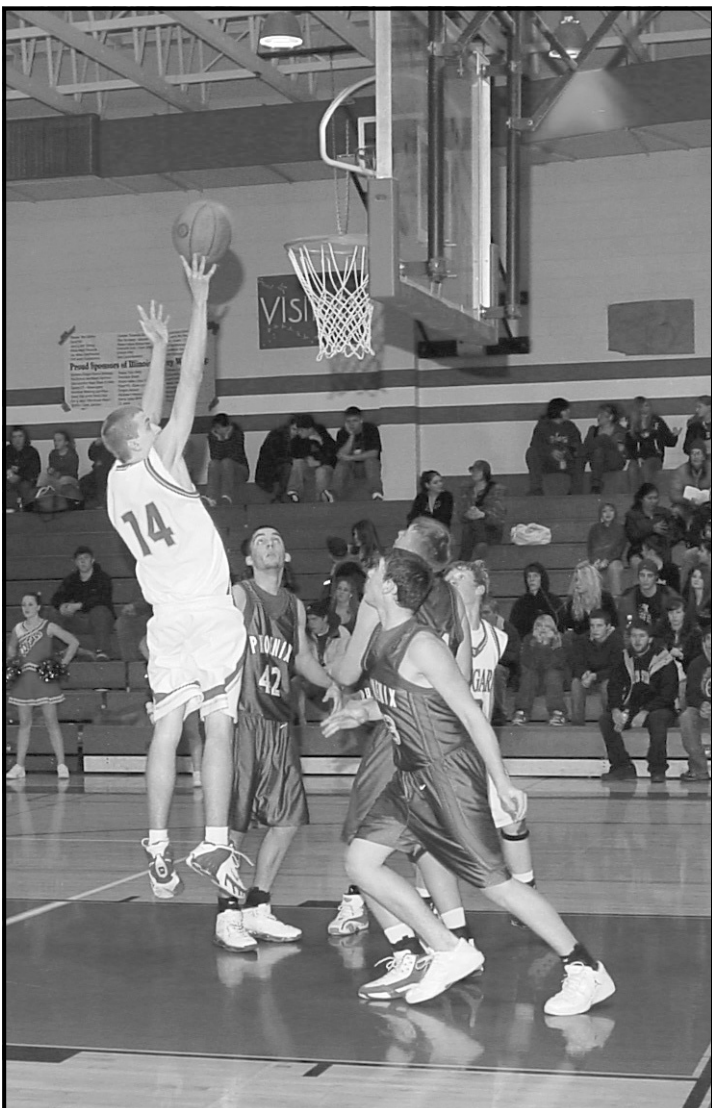
Applications will be accepted until Friday, Jan. 19.

The seven-member airport commission works to advise the board of commissioners by promoting safe general and recreational aviation, and enhancing economic development and tourism activities. Also, becoming an asset to communities and general business sectors in the county.

The current open position represents Grants Pass business interests, and the term will expire on March 1, 2010. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Applications for the fair board and airport commission are available at the commissioners office at the county courthouse, Room 154, in Grants Pass.

For more information phone 474-5221.



**COUGARS KEEL-HAULED 75-45 -- The Phoenix Pirates swamped Illinois Valley Friday night, Jan. 5 in a Skyline Conference varsity contest in Ken Mann Memorial Gym. All scorers were led by I.V.'s Steven Paul, with 18 points, including three treys. I.V.'s varsity girls lost the same night 51-43 against the Pirates in Phoenix. Cougar Sheena Cole led all scorers with 30 points. The Cougar boys (0-2 in Skyline play; 4-6 overall) played Rogue River Tuesday night, Jan. 9 on the Chieftains' court. The I.V. girls (1-2 Skyline; 6-5 overall) played the Chieftains in Cave Junction Tuesday. (Photo by Dale Sandberg for 'Illinois Valley News')**

## OLCC revenue reported

Oregon Liquor Control Commission distributed \$426,153 in November liquor revenue to Josephine, Douglas, Jackson, and Lane counties and their 37 incorporated cities.

\*Josephine County, population 79,645, \$16,732; Cave Junction \$919; Grants Pass \$17,070.

\*Jackson County, population 194,515, \$40,865; Ashland \$12,732; Butte Falls \$271; Central Point \$9,549; Eagle Point \$4,625; Gold Hill \$659; Jacksonville \$1,518; Medford \$43,807; Phoenix \$2,843; Rogue River \$1,217; Shady Cove \$1,613; Talent \$3,816;

Douglas County, population 102,905, received \$21,619. Lane County, population 336,085, received \$70,607.

OLCC distributed \$8.26 million statewide during November, using a formula based on Oregon's population of 3.63 million. The amount was 21-cents per capita for counties; 61-cents for cities.

The 36 counties received 10 percent of the total, \$762,922; 239 cities, 20 percent, \$1.53 million; state general fund, 56 percent, \$4.27 million; and city revenue-sharing account, 14 percent, \$1.07 million. Additionally, the State Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services received \$610,997; and the Oregon Wine Board got \$20,628.

OLCC revenue is derived from the sale of distilled spirits in 241 liquor stores, taxes on malt beverages and wine, license fees, and fines for liquor law violations.

Last month's revenue share was \$9.5 million.

OLCC collects privilege taxes of \$2.60 for a 31-gallon barrel of malt beverage, 67-cents a gallon for taxable wine with an alcohol content of 14 percent or under and 77-cents on taxable wine with more than 14 percent. Of that, 2-cents a gallon goes to the Oregon Wine Board to fund research and promotion.

## Governor touts 'ever-better' Oregon

Gov. Kulongoski called on the business community to be a better partner with the state and advance his priorities around education, health care, energy independence and fiscal security for the 2007 legislative session that began Monday, Jan. 8.

Also during the Oregon Business Plan Economic Summit last week, Kulongoski announced the appointment of Allen Alley to serve in the newly reconfigured position of deputy chief of staff, alongside Tim Nesbitt. He said that Alley will oversee the economic development, technology, transportation, workforce training, and energy policy areas.

Alley, according to an announcement from the governor's office, has more than 30 years experience in multiple disciplines from engineering to marketing, venture capital and entrepreneurship. In January 1997 he co-founded Pixelworks, one of Oregon's leading technology companies.

Alley stepped down as president and CEO of Pixelworks last month. He continues as chairman of the board of directors.

In introducing the newest member of his leadership team, the governor called him "an individual who will help strengthen the bridge between the public and private sectors."

Last month the governor announced the reconfiguration of his office, appointing Chip Terhune as his chief of staff and Nesbitt to oversee education, human services and health care, public safety and natural resources policies as one of two deputy chiefs of staff.

At that time, the governor also announced establishing the second deputy chief of staff position to oversee economic development, technology, workforce training, transportation and infrastructure and energy policies.

Highlighting the need for sustained investment in education from early childhood through post-secondary and skills training, children's health care and renewable and alternative energy, the governor offered his vision for putting the state on the path

to an "ever-better Oregon."

"We learned good lessons in bad times," he added. "Working together now, we can apply those lessons to build an ever-better Oregon -- an ever-better Oregon because that phrase suggests more than improvement. It suggests progress, which endures -- and a vision, which guides us through good times and bad."

The governor emphasized that the defeats of Measures 41 (state income tax cut) and 48 (spending limits) show that Oregon is

ready to move forward and make the key investments to mend the damage to public services created by the cuts of the last recession.

"With a recovering economy, we have the opportunity and obligation to bring fiscal stability to our education system, and inspire and prepare students to achieve their full potential."

"We've worked too hard -- and sacrificed too much -- to become complacent now. We must not settle for just better, when 'ever better' is within our grasp," the governor concluded.

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Some thoughts for the New Year:  
"I received the fundamentals of my education in school, but that was not enough. My real education, the superstructure, the details, the true architecture, I got out of the public library. For an impoverished child whose family could not afford to buy books, the library was the open door to wonder and achievement, and I can never be sufficiently grateful that I had the wit to charge through that door and make the most of it. Now, when I read constantly about the way in which library funds are being cut and cut, I can only think that the door is closing and that American society has found one more way to destroy itself."  
Isaac Asimov. New York: Doubleday, 1994

**A musician must make music.  
An artist must paint, and a poet must write if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself. What one can be, one must be.**  
- Abraham Moslow -

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