

DeFazio concerned about gas prices

Reintroduction of legislation to address "skyrocketing gas prices" was announced by Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.)

"The legislation would increase fuel efficiency standards as well as lower prices by cracking down on price-gouging by OPEC, imposing a windfall profits tax and increasing competition in the oil industry," among other measures, DeFazio said.

Gas prices in Oregon are currently the fifth highest of any state in the country. DeFazio's legislation,

the Gasoline Price Stabilization Act of 2007, is an updated version of legislation he originally introduced in March 2003.

"We need short-term measures to protect consumers and businesses from skyrocketing prices at the pump, and longer-term proposals to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and promote alternative technologies," DeFazio said.

"The House recently approved an Energy Bill that would repeal a variety of oil industry giveaways and use that money to sig-

nificantly boost the federal investment in alternative and renewable fuels, energy efficiency and conservation programs," he said.

"This is a great start," he added, "but we must do more to ensure that oil companies are not gouging consumers at the pump while waiting for these longer-term efforts to bear fruit."

The DeFazio legislation includes several short-term and long-term proposals to protect consumers and to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign sources of oil, the congressman said.

State burned about tobacco addiction

Public and private entities charged with preventing and treating addictions and mental illness are being urged by the Oregon Dept. of Human Services to help clients quit using tobacco.

A letter was sent to 180 treatment providers, county administrators, prevention specialists, health plans and mental health organizations. In it, Bob Nikkel, DHS assistant director for addictions and mental health, said that tobacco cessation has not been a high enough priority.

"In many cases tobacco

has been used as a positive reinforcement" Nikkel wrote. "Some facilities reward good patient behavior by allowing them to use tobacco."

Nikkel said that people with addictions or mental illness are two to three times more likely to smoke than the general population.

He added that a *Journal of the American Medical Association* article reported during 2000 that in the United States 44 percent of cigarettes are smoked by this population.

"As the nation's leading

preventable cause of disease, disability and death, tobacco is even more harmful for this population," he said.

He urged providers to help clients quit tobacco by encouraging them to use the free tobacco "quit line" -- (800) QUIT-NOW -- that is said to successfully counsel tobacco users, based on past experience.

Providers are urged to work with community tobacco coalitions and help clients engage Oregon Health Plan-financed tobacco-cessation services.

Portland liquor store sales \$7.23 million

Portland's Uptown Liquor Store sold \$7.23 million in distilled spirits during 2006, topping the state's 241 stores in sales for the year, according to Oregon Liquor Control Commission, (OLCC).

Agent Russell Kelley recorded sales of \$4.95 million to neighboring bars, restaurants and other dispensers, and \$2.28 million to walk-in customers.

Agent Charles Woodward's Tigard liquor store was second in sales at \$5.8 million -- \$4.2 million to dispensers and \$1.63 million

to the public. The fifth-ranked store, Salem East, had three times more sales to walk-ins: \$4.07 million to the public and \$1.34 million to dispensers, for a \$5.4 million total. The agent is Douglas Powell.

These stores rounded out the top 20 in sales: Portland 10th Avenue, \$5.64 million; Bend East, \$5.64 million; Beaverton Town Square, \$5.38 million; Gresham Troutdale, \$5.17 million; Oregon City, \$4.77 million; Portland Downtown, \$4.7 million; Portland Eleventh Ave., \$4.58 mil-

lion; Gresham East, \$4.46 million; Eugene NE, \$4.37 million; Portland 205, \$4.3 million; Eugene Downtown, \$4.28 million; Salem South, \$4.2 million.

Also, Portland Hawthorne, \$4.09 million; Portland Jantzen Beach, \$4 million; Milwaukie, \$3.9 million; Bend North, \$3.86 million; and Medford North \$3.8 million.

When the Oregon Liquor Control Commission issued its first price list in February 1934, quarts of Canadian Club whiskey sold for \$5.24.

Fairgrounds 'fairly' close to the wire ...

(Continued from page 1)

with the county as the governing board of all the county's services and a program within the county that, by statute, really is answerable to a fair board," Hill stated.

"The activities that happen at the fairground are dictated by the fair board," she said. "That puts that county service in a unique position compared to other

'Rainy Day' plan OK'd

Historic legislation establishing a General Fund "Rainy Day" account was signed into law Friday, March 16 by Gov. Kulon-goski.

Oregon was one of six states without such a fund, but with the Education Stability Fund. With the bills signed into law Friday, Oregon now will have full protection for education, human services and public safety funding during future economic downturns, according to the governor.

With the bills, "We have built a roof over our heads, and when the next economic storm comes, we'll be ready," the governor said.

"We will continue to provide vital services," he said, "and we will have fulfilled our most solemn obligation as elected officials to protect health, safety and future of the people of Oregon."

House Bills 2707 and 2031 will establish a reserve

county services."

Raffenburg said that the commissioners expect to exercise financial oversight over fair operations, with the fair board handling day-to-day matters.

"Our position is very clear," Raffenburg said. "From an administrative standpoint, the fair manager reports to the county chief operating officer. From an operational standpoint, the

fund to cover future revenue shortfalls. Specifically, they are:

*Retain an estimated \$290.3 million of the anticipated 2007 corporate income tax kicker to finance the reserve fund.

*Require the ending balance of the General Fund (up to 1 percent of its appropriations) to be placed in the fund, an estimated \$138.4 million this biennium.

*Provide \$24.8 million in tax rebates to small businesses with less than \$5 million in Oregon sales.

*Set strict economic criteria and require a three-fifths vote of the Legislature to access the fund.

*Limit the amount that could be drawn from the account in any biennium to two thirds of its total value.

*Designate that interest earned on the fund will be committed to the fund.

*Cap the size of the account to 7.5 percent of the prior biennium's General Fund revenues.

fair manager reports to the fair board."

McBee said that the MOU "will probably be ready" by March 28.

In terms of achieving solvency, McBee said that a series of community fundraisers have been scheduled, including a barbecue chicken dinner, dance, grandstand show and silent auction.

McBee said she is optimistic that these measures will be enough to raise the \$93,000 that the fair still owes the county.

"Between all of these, we'll be fine," McBee said. "We'll make it."

Raffenburg said that the fair board needs to recognize the overall severity of the situation, and should act accordingly.

"There is no doubt that the fair board is dealing with a crisis," Raffenburg said. "Hopefully, they will get it resolved before the money stops."

To the Root:

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Illinois River Acupuncture
592-5041 Mon., Wed., Fri.
Jo Anne Stone, M.S., L.Ac.



A PICKUP TRUCK vs. bicycle accident was reported at 2:28 p.m. Saturday, March 17 at 294 Thompson Creek Road, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office. A young girl suffered a foot and ankle injury, and was taken for medical care by her mother. Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) and American Medical Response responded. Other information was unavailable. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.)



Lorna Byrne cites honor roll students

Lorna Byrne Middle School has announced the Second Quarter Honor Roll for students attaining a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 or better, based on individual student performance in all classes.

4.0 and Above

*Sixth-grade: Taleesun Baker, Anthony Trey Dille, Artesia Hubbard, Ellie Jantz, Andrew Keith, Alexandria Manninen, Kia Parrish-Haim, Miranda Stiles, Catherine Vawter, Kayla Young.

*Seventh-grade: Thea Barker-Cortrecht, Myana Dhenin, Anastasia Greenberg, Angelina Heath, Sierra Heikka, Zachary Kay, Xenia Velasco.

*Eighth-grade: Ryan Andrews, Jeremiah Berger, Gregory Crombie-Fujita, Winona Gallegos, Marissa Litak, Audrey Mechling, Kieran Rose, Cassandra Thurman.

3.5-3.99

*Sixth-grade: Bruce Arnett, Tracy Arnold, Morgan Barnes, Clarabelle Compton, Taylor Guion, Hannah Kanig, Michael Rathburn, Jovany Sanchez,

Kevin Scott, Krysten Siver, Jordan Sussman, Daniel Vega.

*Seventh-grade: Tyler Bryant, Jazmyn Danko, Joshua Free, Daniel Gomez, Jullian Hanson, Christopher Heise, Fred Hults, Danielle LaVassaur, Andrew McLaughlin, Rachel Miller, Benjamin Milner, Jonathan Nichols, Travis Robbins, Mason Smith, Jamie Sowell, Levi Vasquez, Kristen Vidales, Brandi Wollerton.

*Eighth-grade: Jesse Bethke, James Buck, Matthew Coultas, Tyler Delaney, Nicholas Dowd, Taylor Harris, Roger Hults, Kayla Johnson, Cynthia Moore, Brittany Mosely, Hailee Parker, Curtis Paulson, Rhiannon Quall, Casey Robertson, Sabrina Van Tassel, Geneva Vasquez, Ashley Webb.

3.0-3.49

*Sixth-grade: Kelly Armijo, Mathew Brock, Gregorio Duarte, Montee Gallegos, Seth Hammer-smith, Taysha Hodge, Elizabeth Jenkins, Mason LaFlamme, Mariah Oneto, Brandon Parker, Ariana Ray, Keven Smith Jr.,

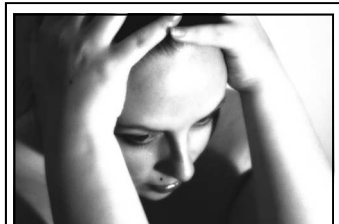
Natane Stewart.

*Seventh-grade:

Stephanie Agee, Joshua Badgett, Ashley Barto, Georgia Bricker, Myiha Giles, Briana Grabarz, Makayla Gunn, Meghan Householder, CeCe Imerti, Carly Jensen, Krista Joines, Caitlyn Jones, Robert Lowden, Amanda Mastro, Greyland Miller, Alexandria Pipkin, Felisha Ripley, Jessie Rollins, Brandi Rough, Kaitlyn Skiles, Rose Summers, Chase Weir, Destiny Yoshiwara.

*Eighth-grade: Zachary

Anderson, Lindsey Aria, Cody Baker, Burt Barker, Bryan Biggs, Cody Chiverton, Brooke Crocker, Ericka Dean, Taylor Degiulio, Karley Deters, Augustine Duarte, Aleesia Hennings, Alexander Hess, Ashley Kreiser, Bradley Loyd, Celilo Nortal, Meghan Poore, Ralph Reyna, Mason Roberts, Dylan Skidmore, Breanne Smith, Statia Snyder, Laurissa Tausaga.



Pregnant and Feeling Overwhelmed?

Free, confidential help is available.

Pregnancy Center
592-6058

www.pregnancycenteriv.org

I OWE YOU!

That's right, Uncle Sam could owe you money. If you paid federal excise tax on long-distance phone service during the last three years, you may be eligible for a telephone tax refund. The standard refund is \$30 to \$60 and for some people, who had large phone bills, it could be even more. Go to IRS.gov for details. Or dial 1-800-829-4477 and select recorded tax topic #611.

Internal Revenue Service