

Richardson, Kitzhaber share stage in first debate

Jonathan J. Cooper
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Republican state Rep. Dennis Richardson presented himself as the future and Gov. John Kitzhaber as the past as the two gubernatorial candidates met in their first debate Friday.

Seizing his first opportunity to stand on the same stage with the Democratic incumbent, Richardson argued that Kitzhaber has checked out. He pointed to low high school graduation rates, a loss of jobs last month and problems with Cover Oregon — the state's troubled health insurance exchange.

"The governor is not tuned into governing," Richardson said. "He's not paying attention. And his list of failures proves it."

Kitzhaber touted a bipartisan spirit

in Salem that has led to reduced costs for public-employee pensions and prisons, along with a balanced budget despite a massive deficit following the Great Recession. He pointed to timber mills in John Day and Cave Junction that escaped closure and said his changes to the state Medicaid system will save millions.

But he said he needs another four years to continue making progress.

The Salem debate was sponsored by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

On education, Kitzhaber noted his effort to align education policy from preschool through college under the new Oregon Education Investment Board and to realign funding for early-childhood education to reward the most effective programs.

Richardson said he'd oppose the education standards known as the Com-

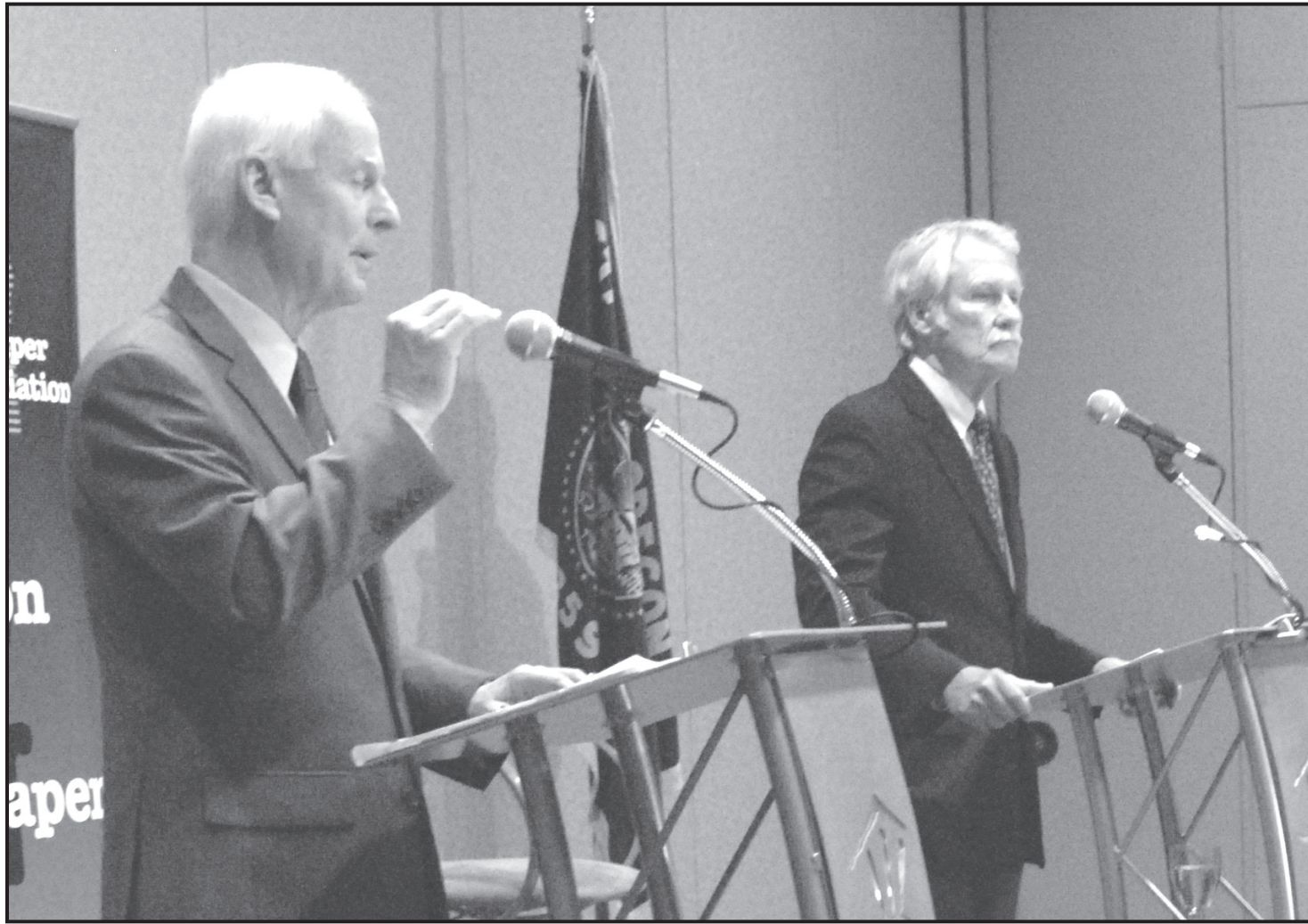
mon Core.

"All we're doing is turning our teachers into class monitors," he said.

There were a few areas of agreement.

Kitzhaber and Richardson both bucked their parties in backing a top-two primary initiative on the November ballot. It would eliminate Oregon's partisan primaries and allow the top two candidates, regardless of party, to advance to the general election.

Both expressed skepticism of a ballot measure that would legalize the recreational use of marijuana, saying Oregon should hold off and learn from the two states that have already taken that step. Kitzhaber said he'd vote against the measure. Richardson said he "would prefer if Oregon would wait a year," but he didn't directly say how he'll vote.



(Photo courtesy of Scott Washburn for The Illinois Valley News)

Gov. John Kitzhaber (right) and Gubernatorial candidate State Rep. Dennis Richardson face off during a debate held July 18 at the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association convention in Salem.

Calling all artists, to the web

All Illinois Valley artists are invited to a free workshop Saturday, July 26 to learn how to get their work displayed on the Internet.

Since an easily found Internet presence is critical to success in any field today, Hyla Lipson and the Southern Oregon Guild (SOG) are partnering to give Illinois Valley artists an easy way to either start or expand their web presence.

Lipson, a dynamic Grants Pass entrepreneur, artist and arts advocate, will conduct two instructional sessions and individual coaching for artists who want to get their work up on the web and become an "Artworks Artist".

Professional photographer Andy Mechling will discuss and demonstrate how to take quality photographs, and assistance with writing a brief biography or artist's statement will also be available.

Workshop goals include assisting artists in completing the process of placing photographs of their work together with an artist's biography or statement on the Artworks website (www.artworksgp.com). Mechling will help take photos of the artwork and individual "bios" can be written and posted on Saturday. Coaching will be available for all that's needed to create an effective presence on the Artworks website.

Lipson and Mechling will make presentations at 10:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m. Individual coaching and help uploading to the Artworks site will be available the rest of the day until 4:00 p.m. Artists are welcome to drop in.

Each artist should bring one to three pieces of work, either two or three dimensional, to be photographed.

Workshop organizer and SOG president Joyce Abrams states, "If you have quality digital photographs of yourself and/or your work and an artist's statement, biography or resume, please bring those as well or you can start from scratch at the workshop. Your social media presence can also be listed in your bio."

The workshop will be held at the Southern Oregon Guild's Gallery & Art Center at the RCC Kerby Campus (Belt Building), 24353 Redwood Highway in Kerby.

Registration is not necessary, but would be greatly appreciated in order to assist in efficiently organizing the workshop. To register for the free workshop, call the Guild at 541-592-5019. For additional information, call Abrams at 541-659-3858.

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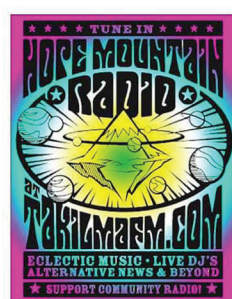
Dedicated to providing some of the finest radio programming available, Takilma FM features a host of great artists usually not heard on most commercial media. Free Spirited and Eclectic! We are an ongoing art project and includes interviews, stories and reporting on controversial and obscure subjects, poetry readings, and excerpts from books as well as some local interest news.

Free Speech Radio!

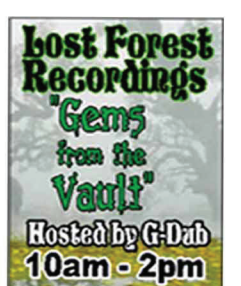


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