

Port Orford News

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FROM THE... SCRATCH PAD

by Paul Peterson



Volunteer firemen will be offering the feedbag to all-comers this Saturday, Jan. 31, when they hold their annual fund-raising big crab feed at the fire hall. Proceeds from the feed, featuring a whole cracked crab for adults (half for children under 12) plus cole slaw, garlic bread and coffee or Kool Aid, will be applied to finish repairs and painting the department's water tanker. The event will start at noon and last until either the crab or customers runs out. They'll also be giving away some home fire extinguishers as door prizes.

—P—

Another fund-raiser coming up will be the community carnival on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, at Battle Rock gym. Proceeds will go to the community center building fund. All local clubs and organizations are invited to participate by sponsoring a booth. Guy to contact about it is Lawrence Means, who is coordinating the carnival for the sponsoring Rotary Club. There'll be a lot of fun things to do so plan on being there.

The chamber of commerce has agreed to construct booth panels of plywood and 2x2's that can be used, disassembled, stored, and used again for other events... such as the Jubilee. So that ought to take a load off the minds of them who might be interested except for the work involved in building a booth.

You can find out all you need to know about the carnival by attending a meeting next Monday (Feb. 1) at noon at the Rainbow Cafe. Be there and give the benefit a big helping hand. You'll probably even wind up having a good time!

—P—

Sen Bob. Packwood (R-Ore) said this week that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has agreed to postpone action against the State of Oregon for not having a motor vehicle inspection program... until at least mid-year. Packwood, who is working on a related program, said, "The cost of having a periodic motor vehicle inspection in Oregon would far outweigh its benefits. If Oregon were to comply with the wishes of the federal government, it would cost Oregonians \$22 million annually but would only reduce traffic accidents by about 1.8 percent."

On the other hand, if NHTSA had decided to pursue the sanction proceedings against Oregon... it could have cost the state's highway program 10 percent of its funds... or about \$15 million annually.

—P—

Curry county qualifies for flood and mudslide insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program, according to Western Insurance Information Service. On top of that, Gold Beach qualifies. So does Brookings, as a matter of fact. Port Orford doesn't... which is also a fact.

—P—

A new chairman for the Port Orford Citizen's Involvement Group will be elected when they meet next Wednesday night (Feb. 4) at 7:30 p.m. in the city hall. The public is invited.

—P—

In observance of the bicentennial, and dedicated to Oregon's planners and grant writers, the following is the result of a nightmare visited upon Ed Schwartz, president of the Institute for the Study of Civic Values, after a bout of grant writing:

July 20, 1776

Mr. Thomas Jefferson
 Continental Congress
 Independence Hall
 Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Jefferson:

We have read your "Declaration of Independence" with great interest. Certainly, it represents a considerable undertaking, and many of your statements do merit serious consideration. Unfortunately, the Declaration as a whole fails to meet recently adopted specifications for proposals to the Crown, so we must return the document to you for further refinement. The questions which follow might assist you in your process of revision.

1. In your opening paragraph you use the phrase "the Laws of Nature and Nature's God." What are



Salem Scene

by Jack Zimmerman

TAX REFORM STUDIES REVEAL VOTERS' WARY

As if heeding Gov. Bob Straub's creaky dinosaur reference to the six percent budget limitation, attention is focusing on that constitutional provision in a search to solve the local government revenue dilemma.

At least a dozen proposals involving initiative action or legislative referral currently are under study by lawmakers, various education interests and city and county governments. Each involves the six percent limitation. But perhaps more to the point, each also provides for creation of a higher, more realistic tax base on which local governmental budgets could be anchored.

Despite Gov. Straub's high profile on the subject due to his prehistoric mammal metaphor, the Executive Department doesn't appear to be providing impetus for the movement. More appropriately perhaps, the push for reforming property tax procedure comes from the Legislature and those who depend on it most—the schools.

The six percent limitation is involved because that provision is the damper that prevents local governments from raising additional property tax revenue without prior approval by the people. Revenue approved above and beyond the six percent limit in any given year is not automatically included when the following year's budget is determined.

The revenue crunch revolves around the fact local government expenditures have been exceeding the six percent increase for many years and few, if any local governments, have what could be called realistic tax bases. Some have none at all.

All local governments share this problem. But it is particularly apparent in the state's 334 public school districts. School people point out the lack of realistic tax bases is the reason it took 469 elections last year before voters approved budgets for 319 of those districts. Only 15 school districts were able to operate on budgets within the

these laws? In what way are they the criteria on which you base your central arguments? Please document with citations from the recent literature.

2. In the same paragraph you refer to the "opinions of mankind." Whose polling data are you using? Without specific evidence, it seems to us, the "opinions of mankind" are a matter of opinion.

3. You hold certain truths to be "self-evident." Could you please elaborate. If they are as evident as you claim, then it should not be difficult for you to locate the appropriate supporting statistics.

4. "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" seems to be the goals of your proposal. These are not measurable goals. If you were to say that "among these is the ability to sustain an average life expectancy in six of the 13 colonies of at least 55 years, and to enable all newspapers in the colonies to print news without outside interference, and to raise the average income of the colonists by 10 percent in the next 10 years," these would be measurable goals. Please clarify.

5. You state that "whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government..." Have you weighed this assertion against all the alternatives? Or is it predicated solely on the baser instincts?

6. Your description of the existing situation is quite extensive. Such a long list of grievances should precede the statement of goals, not follow it.

7. Your strategy for achieving your goal is not developed at all. You state that the colonies "ought to be Free and Independent States," and that they are "Absolved from All Allegiance to the British Crown." Who or what must change to achieve this objective? In what way must they change? What resistance must you overcome to achieve the change? What specific steps will you take to overcome the resistance? How long will it take? We have found that a little foresight in these areas helps to prevent careless errors later on.

8. Who among the list of signatures will be responsible for implementing your strategy? Who conceived it? Who provided the theoretical research? Who will constitute the advisory committee? Please submit an organizational chart.

9. You must include an evaluation design. We have been requiring this since Queen Anne's War.

10. What impact will your program have? Your failure to include any assessment of this inspires little confidence in the long-range prospects of your undertaking.

11. Please submit a PERT diagram, an activity chart, and an itemized budget.

We hope that these comments prove useful in revising your "Declaration of Independence."

Best Wishes,
 LORD NORTH

(I borrowed it from the Law Enforcement Council bulletin.)

constitutional limitation.

Historically, the Legislature has taken the lead in finding solutions to such problems. During the McCall years however, the Governor embraced a series of so-called plans aimed at the illusive target. Each suffered ignominious defeat when submitted to voters and Gov. Straub appears determined to avoid personal entanglement.

Recent criticism of his six percent dinosaur comparison is perhaps unwarranted in this respect. Especially in light of the fact Straub's initial remarks went on to label realistic tax bases as the real key to the problem.

The Legislature's school finance subcommittee of the Interim Revenue Committee already has come up with five proposals that could be submitted during the biennial session a year from now. Sen. Frank Roberts (D-Portland) has a plan and Sen. Pres. Jason Boe (D-Reedsport) and Sen. Fred Heard (D-Klamath Falls) have offered yet another.

The State Board of Education, with three proposals of its own, currently is in the limelight after drawing together many interested parties to analyze each proposal in hopes of achieving a consensus plan that could be presented to voters next November.

Involved in this informal group are various education interests, business, labor, local governments, agriculture and the Legislative and Executive Branches of state government. So far the group appears unified only in recognition of the problem and is widely divergent as far as solutions are concerned.

Influencing all is the potential reaction of voters, who in the end, will make the final decision.

Discussions reflect painfully fresh memories of annual school budget defeats and resounding objections to previous statewide tax reform proposals.

A statewide Bardsley poll shows voters aligned 52 percent against repeal of the six percent limitation, 39 percent favoring repeal and 9 percent



TO THE EDITOR:

The Board of Directors of the Oregon Lung Association would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support during our 1975 Christmas Seal campaign. At this point, though our fiscal year does not close until the end of March, we are considerably ahead in Christmas Seal contributions. Much of that is due to the staunch and loyal support of the Oregon media. The results of your efforts, in our behalf, will help us greatly with our program to prevent and control lung disease.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM H. GREGG
 President

TO THE EDITOR:

The Posse Comitatus meeting held in Harbor Jan. 21 drew a large crowd. The Curry Chapter adopted the state by-laws of the Posse Comitatus.

The group listened to several speakers. Mr. Hoover, accountant from Brookings and Coquille, Mr. Everett Thoren and Mr. Sam Porter, legal consultants for the Posse, and Mr. Mike Fitzgerald, possible candidate for County Commissioner.

The next meeting of the Posse Comitatus will again be held at the Bob Allenby home Feb. 18. The meeting will be devoted to studying rights given to Americans by the Constitution, Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence. For further information phone 469-2301. This meeting will be for members only.

R. P. GUDGER
 Brookings

undecided.

The poll did reveal considerable support in favor of new tax bases for schools with opinions for and against separated by only a narrow margin. Those favoring new bases however, were not nearly as firm in their convictions as those opposed.

Those polled also made it clear voters want to retain their right to sanction school budgets and assuming new bases are established believe cost of living, rising enrollments and inflation are factors on which those bases might continue to increase. Those polled tend to favor new tax bases if education were threatened, if schools had to close early and if basics could be taught better. But the poll failed to reflect a favorable attitude toward an increase prompted by a district's inability to meet teacher salary demands.

A selective Parent-Teacher Association telephone survey also revealed interest in establishing new tax bases for schools—generally based on current operating costs, plus the six percent limitation. It too revealed Oregonians want to retain present voting power and strongly support limits on numbers of budget elections.

So far results of neither poll appear to provide enthusiastic encouragement to planners and some segments of those involved appear determined to follow a course best suited to a solution that would satisfy their vested interests.

And though the six percent limitation and realistic tax bases will continue to be subjects of study and debate in coming months, it's still anybody's guess whether the local government revenue problem will be solved by changing the state Constitution in the near future.

Talking Over Great Issues Is Program

What is Oregon Great Decisions?

An annual study-discussion program on key foreign policy topics. Great Decisions, now in its 22nd year, is offered nationally by the non-partisan Foreign Policy Association and locally by a wide variety of organizations.

A nationwide program involving thousands of Americans, who meet informally in "Great Decisions" discussion groups in cities, towns and

WEAVER

REPORTS TO
THE DISTRICT

CONGRESSMAN JIM WEAVER



TOWN MEETINGS: BRINGING GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO PEOPLE

One man told how his social security check was insufficient to live on; a man sitting next to him wanted to cut the federal budget.

They were typical of the people who came to day-long, no-holds-barred Town Meetings I held in Roseburg, Medford, Lebanon and North Bend during the Congressional recess.

There tends to be a lot more plain talk when you meet face to face with people and listen to them have their say. These Town Meetings helped bring government closer to the people. People came to make their case. There was give and take. My staff was available to help with problems dealing with the federal government. I answered questions, listened and I learned more than I could have learned in endless hours behind my desk in Washington, D.C.

Often I learn about problems I'm able to take immediate action on. Servicemen from Coos Bay brought my attention to the cut in health care insurance for U.S. military dependents. This was one of the important things I learned at my Town Meetings in North Bend. In Congress I voted against spending. But those votes were against unnecessary weaponry. That day I was convinced the insurance cuts were wrong and I said I would take action when I returned to Washington.

Everywhere seniors were saying they wanted to work and contribute to their communities. After listening to them I resolved to write the House Manpower Subcommittee and urge them to help in fruitful jobs for the elderly.

People expect me to be on the job in Washington, D.C. Believe me, I am. But I must spend time in the district as well. By holding these Town Meetings I can meet with hundreds of Oregonians and learn their points of view and problems. Back in Washington there are only the organized interest groups with the money to keep people here. I don't represent them. I represent you.

rural communities to study the issues and make up their own minds about them.

A unique chance to be part of an open and constructive discussion on the great issues facing our nation, according to the Curry county extension office.

•Get the facts about current foreign policy issues.

•Talk over these facts, in the traditional American way, with their own friends and neighbors, at times and places of their own selection.

•Develop your own opinions on United States foreign policy and send these opinions in for tabulation and distribution to our Washington, D.C. policy makers.

Participants meet once a week in the neighborhood to discuss these different topics:

1. Arabs vs. Israelis: What Price Lasting Peace in the Middle East?
2. Our Mediterranean Commitments: What Priorities? What Prospects?
3. Latin America and the U.S.: A New Relationship to Fit New Realities?
4. Asia After the Vietnam War: What Role for the U.S.?
5. The American Dream Among Nations: What Impact? What Future?
6. The U.S. in the World Economy: Toward Cooperation or Conflict?
7. India: Can Poverty Be Overcome and Democracy Revive?
8. Rethinking U.S. Foreign Policy: How Should Our Power Be Used?

"Great Decisions 1976" groups are still forming in the community. For more information, call 247-7011, ext. 226.

Error Noted In Tax Table

About 8 percent of the persons filing Oregon income tax returns may be affected by an error in the Form 40-S tax tables, advises the administrator of Research and Special Services Division of the Oregon Department of Revenue, George Weber.

Weber said that the error could slightly overstate the tax in some cases but affects only a small portion of those who use the short form. Persons who use the long form are not affected.

The error is confined primarily to taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes between \$8,000 and \$13,850. Some persons within this grouping are not affected. Maximum effect of the error for an individual is about \$24. In most cases the effect is less.

He added that those who have already filed using the incorrect tables have no cause for concern. In processing the return, the correction will be made automatically. The corrected refund will be mailed to the taxpayer with an explanation on the check stub.

If the tax table error is the only problem with the return, there will be no delay in receiving the refund; neither will there be penalty or interest charges on money due the department, advises Weber.

The error occurred when the

filed in the state, a maximum of about 80,000 returns are estimated to be affected. About 350,000 persons use the short form.

Weber, acting in the absence of Director John Lobdell (in Pendleton attending an assessors conference), outlined three alternatives for persons who have not yet filed. 1) File Form 40-S using the tax tables and the department will automatically make any necessary correction; 2) File Form 40-S but do not enter the tax. The department will calculate the tax and send any refund due; 3) File on the Form 40.

SHOP PORT ORFORD

Challenge to be Free



HE BECAME A LEGEND
 YOU'LL NEVER FORGET...
 Coming
 FEB. 10 ONLY
 Sorry No Passes
 COLONIAL THEATRE

Timber Harvest Reports Due...

FEB. 3, 1976

The 1975 legislature amended ORS 321.955 to require all reports of Timber (includes Christmas trees) cut in the previous year to be submitted by Feb. 3rd of each year.

Penalty: \$5 a calendar week
 \$10 a calendar week after
 May 10, 1976. \$100 maximum.

Assistance may be obtained at the
 Assessors Office.

THANK YOU.

CHARLES L. FITZHUGH
 CURRY COUNTY ASSESSOR

CRAB FEED!

Sponsored By
 Volunteer Fire Department

Crab—Cole Slaw—Garlic Bread
 Coffee—Kool Aid

SAT., JAN 31

NOON TO WHENEVER



Port Orford
 FIRE
 HALL

DOOR PRIZES!

Adults \$2.75 • Under 12 \$1.75

Proceeds for completing repairs
 on the department's water tanker