

ices to the elderly and disabled and community health centers. But at a recent Lane County Commissioner's meeting, \$21,000 was allocated to produce commemorative coins and prints of the county's covered bridges.

Part of the county budget comes from the Transient Room Tax (TRT), a tax on hotel rooms and RV parking. Funds from this tax are earmarked specifically for state tourism marketing.

The county hopes to sell the commemorative coins and prints of covered bridge paintings to raise funds to maintain the three covered bridges not funded by road funds, thus promoting tourism.

TRT funds have also been used to fund the Lane County Fairgrounds. According to county documents, the fairgrounds received \$250,000 in 2004/05 and \$350,000 of TRT in 2005/06. A discussion of using excess TRT funds for capital improvements at the fairgrounds was pushed back to May 9.

At the same meeting, copies of the proposed 2007-08 budget prioritization lists were handed out. One budget list showed what would be funded if county funding continued as usual. The other, featuring a bright red line, showed the budget without federal funds replacing former timber funds (the Secure Rural Schools Act).

Above the red line on the budget were the items that would continue to receive funding, including revenue generating, neutral or cost avoiding departments such as concealed handgun licensing and emergency management.

Also above the red line were service priorities including the sheriff's department, rural law enforcement and portions of the jail.

Below the red line were the agencies whose funding would be cut completely. These included mandated treatment for sex offenders, supervision of domestic violence offenders, funding for animal control and health and nutrition services for thousands of women, infants and children.

After allocating another \$14,000 of TRT money for updated tourism maps showing parks closed due to budget cuts, Commissioner Pete Sorenson remarked on the irony of allocating money for tourism in view of the budget situation.

According to Chapter 818 of Oregon law, 80 percent of the TRT goes to promoting tourism. Tourism in Oregon is defined by law as "that which makes money from tourists." A tourist is a person who, "for business, pleasure, recreation or participation in events related to the arts, heritage or culture, travels from the community in which that person is a resident to a different community that is separate, distinct from and unrelated to the person's community of residence, and that trip."

Commissioners didn't discuss the effects on tourism if the budget cuts go through.

— Camilla Mortensen

PEACE BENEFIT

The Eugene Middle East Peace Group will hold a benefit for itself and a Bethlehem charity on Sunday, April 22.

The benefit, from 6 pm to 9 pm at the LCC main campus cafeteria, will include a peace talk, Middle Eastern food, music and dance. The cost is \$15; it's free for children 12 and under.

UO Professor Diane Baxter, who has done research in the West Bank, and Eugene Middle East Peace Group President Ibrahim Hamide will discuss current events affecting the peace process and how to sustain peace work.

Entertainment includes Americanistan, Bhangra dancers, Native American drummers and songs by Beth Rose. There will be food from Café Soriah and a children's art area.

The Middle East Peace Group was founded by Israelis and Palestinians and seeks to model cross-cultural friendships while engaging in dialogue on current events. Money is also being raised for the Nasaem Arrahma Charitable Society in Bethlehem. The charity provides food, health care, education and other assistance to needy widows and orphans. Call 343-7970 for more information.



Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

DOE TABOR

The daughter of a bartender who was the the only single mom among 2000 residents of Red Lodge, Montana, Doe Tabor got married at 14 to a Vietnam vet with post-traumatic stress disorder. "I called him Buck and he called me Doe," says Tabor, born Dorene O. Ewing. At 16 she got a divorce and ran off with their baby daughter to the wilds of Wyoming. "He was serious about killing us," she says. "He killed himself 14 years later." Tabor studied vet tech in Demopolis, Wyoming, then worked in animal health for 16 years, mostly in Eugene after her arrival in 1977. A novel-writing class at LCC in 1995 led to the publication of *Do Drums Beat There*, the story of a Lakota girl, a psychedelic journey and the occupation of Alcatraz, nominated for an Oregon Book Award in 2001.

Energized by literary success and the Bush election, Tabor has leapt into activism, from Truth in Voting in '01 to the Code Pink occupation of Hilary Clinton's office early this year. She is also writing her second novel, *Tug of War*. "It's about Buck and me," she says. "It's about how war ripples through society when soldiers come home."



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