

tion of American Christian leaders traveled to Iran and for the first time in 28 years had dialogue with Iranian leaders. Upon returning they urged the U.S. and Iranian governments immediately to engage in direct, face-to-face talks; cease using language that defines the other using "enemy" images; and promote more people-to-people exchanges, including religious leaders, members of Parliament/Congress and civil society.

As people around the world celebrate this Easter, let us remember the Lord's Prayer that teaches us to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us."

*Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain*

RECALLS A WASTE

Efforts to cripple Lane County government by launching multiple recall campaigns are needlessly divisive and a huge waste of hard-earned taxpayer dollars!

The recent county income-tax repeal referendum effort was legitimate and achieved the immediate result of the county commissioners deciding to place the tax proposal on the May ballot for us all to decide. For these same referendum folks to now personalize this complex issue, demonize our hard working county commissioners and initiate partisan recall witch hunts is disappointing, highly destructive and vindictive!

I have seen no mention by the media that the three repeal effort petitioners, all partisan Republican employees of Morse Brothers concrete and construction company, have been bankrolled, according to official state reports, by radical forces outside of Lane County, including strident antigovernment crusader Don McIntyre and his Tigard-based "Taxpayers Association of Oregon" (\$2,000) and by Salem based attorney Nathan Reitman (\$500). Two of the three petitioners are listed as Morse Brothers executives working in Harrisburg (Linn County) — General Manager Loren Later and Trucking Manager Bob Hooker (www.morsebrosprestress.com). Campaign activities at Morse Brothers Harrisburg facilities have been locally televised yet unreported as corporate "in-kind" donations.

Each recall campaign could cost taxpay-

ers \$40,000-\$50,000 — a combined total of nearly \$150,000 — with an additional \$150,000 for campaigns to fill the vacancies; that's \$300,000 of county funds that could go to arresting criminals, treating kids' drug addictions and Veterans' services.

Enough's enough!

*Diana Robertson
Eugene*

RECALLS NECESSARY

The Lane County Commissioners and other tax supporters are painting a false picture of the financial condition of Lane County. These beneficiaries of county money are crying around over \$47 million. They are threatening to let violent prisoners out of our jails and close our parks.

Sure, \$47 million is a big chunk of money, but when you compare it to the 2006-2007 Lane County budget of \$492.8 million, it's less than 10 percent of the total. I encourage everyone to read the budget and see how these doomsayers are trying to unjustifiably scare us into supporting another tax.

If you look at page E-10 of the budget, you will see that the county has currently set aside reserves of \$102.5 million and typically passes an additional \$15 to \$20 million into this slush fund each year. The county is not bankrupt.

We need county commissioners who are not entrenched in the county system. We need to start by clearing the board of Bobby Green, Faye Stewart and Bill Dwyer. These commissioners are unwilling to make the tough decisions necessary. Please support all recall efforts.

*Paul Cauthorn
Eugene*

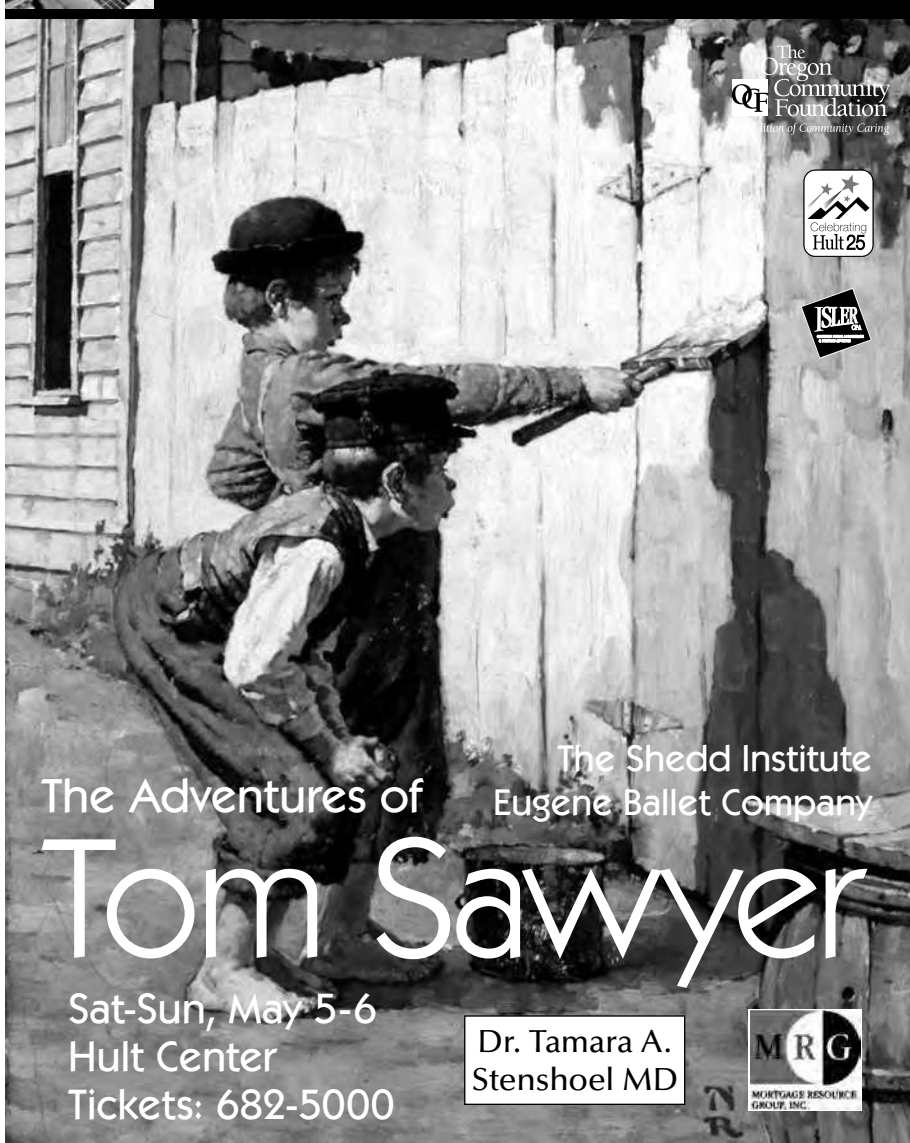
REUSE BEFORE RECYCLE

Woo-wee. That was a mighty nice article about our nonprofit's fantastic volunteers and staff! I appreciate Sarah Mazze's work to explore the impact of obsolete electronics on our environment and how NextStep Recycling has worked to educate our community about the importance of passing electronics on to those who do not have access to technology.

There is a bill in the Oregon House that

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