

# Our work is a better, safer Oregon

Leslie Anderson's job is to make sure our workplaces are safe and to assist employers in making them so.

Anderson is a safety compliance officer at Oregon OSHA.

"My main work is spent inspecting workplaces to identify hazards to employees, assisting employers in eliminating those hazards and helping prevent accidents from occurring in the first place," Anderson said.

"Everytime I go out to an accident it reinforces our main goal which is to prevent human loss and suffering and to assure that everyone can go to work and come home to their families."

Forest Inmate Crew Coordinators **Bob Herington** and **Scott**

**Vessey** also are working for a better Oregon as they, with a crew of prison inmates, clean up and improve Jones Creek Park on the Wilson River in Tillamook County to make it more attractive for use by families.

The Forestry Department continues to do reforestation work, fight forest fires, and plant and prune trees to make "clear" wood that is better for commercial use.

Microbiologists **Paul Peterson** and **Susan Mowery**, who work at the Health Division lab in Portland and others in their particular lab, test the health of newborn babies to make sure that they get the treatment they may need "so that we can have the healthiest babies possible," said Peterson.

Medical Laboratory Technician **Jim Izatt** will prepare blood spots for testing, and **Olivia**



Clockwise from top left: Stephanie Thompson of the Health Lab, OSHA's Leslie Anderson, Forestry's Scott Vessey, left, and Bob Herington, right, and OSCI's Jerry Halfman.



**Cosme**, a clinical laboratory medical technologist, was working at the computer recently, writing a procedural model for hemoglobin testing to assure the accuracy and consistency of the testing.

**Jerry Halfman** is a Correctional Corporal at the Oregon State Correctional Institution in Salem.

In that "medium" security institution, built in 1959 for 476 inmates, officers currently look after an average of 860 inmates convicted of every kind of crime — murderers, drug dealers, drive-by shooters.

A cellblock will have two correctional officers supervising 160-200 inmates and the officers don't carry weapons inside the prison fence.

"We have a whole society of people who can't get along on the street in a confined area," Halfman said. "To be safe, officers must be on their toes."

## 1994's "Son of 5" worse than its parent, 1990's Measure 5

The "Son of Measure 5," the bad seed headed for the November 1994 General Election ballot that also will be called Measure 5 is, by all accounts, if anything, worse than its progenitor.

A wide range of groups and individuals — from public sector labor organizations to the Associated Oregon Industries (AOI) to state Treasurer Jim Hill — agree.

The "new" Measure 5 requires a public vote on all new taxes and fees and changes in the rates — whether up or down — of any existing taxes and fees.

This measure will have a dramatic effect on all governmental agencies regardless of whether they are state and local government and regardless of whether they are General Fund or fee-supported.

And, of course, it will have a dramatically negative impact on our jobs, our pay, our benefits, and the services we provide to the public.

Among the ways "Son of Five" will be "worse" for public employees and the public include:

- Salary and benefit increases for public employees will be literally put out to vote because the measure prohibits passing them through.
- Statewide votes on fee increases will have urban voters passing judgment on livestock disease control programs and rural voters will vote on fees for vehicle emissions testing in the urban areas.
- Economic development will be slowed or stopped in local areas due to public votes on fee increases to support water, sewer, and other infrastructure development necessary to support growth.
- The State Unemployment Trust Fund would be affected due to the requirement for a statewide vote every time the fee structure had to be changed as a result of changes in the rate of unemployment.

The measure applies to all state and local taxes, fees, and charges *except*, among others:

- User fees charged by public utility districts or port districts.
- School college, and university tuition and fees, potentially putting a higher education further out of reach of the average Oregonian.

Increases in the costs of providing a service or product provided solely by the government not otherwise under the government's control — except state or local labor costs. In other words, increases in the costs of paper, desks, asphalt, and other supplies may be passed along. Only increases in the compensation of the public employees who use the paper as they work at their desks or patch the streets or highways could not be passed along to the taxpayer.

By "increase," the measure means:

- A rate increase.
- Elimination or reduction of exemptions, credits, deductions, exclusions, or cost-of-living indexing.
- Any extension of an expiring tax or charge.

## Help wanted: Jobs for political activists

Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a political activist — full-time — for pay — for about four weeks starting now?

OPEU is looking for individuals who would be interested in working on ballot measure campaigns between now and the time signatures must be filed on July 8.

This is work that would be particularly suited for college or university students who are starting their summer vacations.

Applicants must have a drivers' license and access to a car. Work will be in Portland, Eugene, and Salem.

For more information or to be interviewed for the job, contact Rich Peppers at OPEU Headquarters, Salem, at 581-1505; 222-6878 (Portland); or 800-452-2146 (elsewhere).