

TRANSIT,

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"Salem has a critical need, with no weekend or evening bus service," he said. "There's no mobility between 9 p.m. Friday and 6 a.m. Monday. There are a lot of new jobs being created now that are close to minimum wage. With transit, that opens up an opportunity for people to get to work. Right now we project the image that we are a small town because we don't have transit service like Portland, Eugene and even many smaller areas."

Rich Duncan, owner of Rich Duncan Construction, took issue with Krebs' payroll example.

"You're playing a number's game," Duncan said. "Nobody pays a \$500 payroll. It's a shadow game. Businesses that are going to get hurt are paying far more than \$500 in payroll."

City Councilor Amy Ryan, speaking as a business owner, questioned why she should have to pay again for a service she doesn't use.

"This is technically a third tax," Ryan said. "We're paying on the property tax and now

a business tax. Most of us here don't use it."

Krebs responded people pay for the fire district but don't use it.

"We use it," Ryan said. "If we need the fire district, it's there."

"It's the same with this," Krebs said of transit. "You can use transit."

Zielinski worried about the transit district being able to increase the tax in the future without further votes.

"This is the tail wagging the dog," he said. "If you want to be an empire builder, that's awesome. But build it with your own money. That's what those of us in small business have to do. Anything we want to do is either with increased sales or we have to save the money. I'm not scared about the .21 percent as much as neighborhood systems with a 7 percent tax. Given time, you will take advantage of every opportunity."

Krebs estimated it would take at least 30 years to get a tax level that high locally.

"Give it time," Zielinski responded. "It will get there."

Rob Miller asked if fares could be increased or advertising sold on buses to bring in revenue instead of the payroll

tax. "We did ads before," Krebs said. "Ads were bringing in less than \$100,000 but cost more than that. It didn't raise that kind of money. We haven't found anyone willing to take on that project. I would like to look at it, but it would cost a lot. As far as fares, we would have to raise them so high, no one would use the buses. We would lose ridership."

Duncan expressed concern the money used to pay for the new tax would be the money currently given as charity for local non-profit organizations.

"Every dollar is absolutely critical," Duncan said. "I look at how I'm going to give back to the community. You're going to take my money away so I can't."

The payroll tax was scheduled to be discussed during the Oct. 8 West Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting and again at the Oct. 15 Greater Gubser Neighborhood Association meeting at Gubser Elementary School. The topic will also be debated at the Oct. 16 Salem City Club luncheon. The Salem City Club meets at the Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill, located at 1313 Mill Street SE. The program starts at noon.

BURR,

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"I feel singularly blessed that I had the opportunity to live in the Pacific Northwest, had a job I liked, a wonderful wife and kids that have survived most of the challenges in life," Burr wrote. "Happiness with my own good fortune is tempered by the knowledge that not everyone is so lucky. Opportunities in life are not evenly distributed. God should have done a better job."

Burr even had suggestions on gifts after his passing.

"During the last few years, when my body would no longer permit me to do many of the things I liked to do in the past, I was able to find solace in being a volunteer at the Keizer Community Library and for Meals-on-Wheels," he wrote. "If you are considering a memory gift, please think of these fine institutions (see www.keizerlibrary.org and www.nwsds.org for more information)."

Burr was born in Seattle in 1928, graduating from the University of Washington in 1952. Upon graduation, he took a job in Salem with the Bureau of Land Management, starting



Submitted
Art Burr, circa 1951.

as an assistant timber appraiser and ending as an area manager. He worked there for 35 years.

During that time, Burr met wife Phyllis. The two married on July 31, 1954 and were married for 61 years.

Phyllis said the two met when she worked for the county extension agent across the hall from Burr's office.

"Someone said there is a person interested in you," Phyllis recalled this week. "We dated for five months and got married. I turned 20 three weeks before we got married."

Exactly 10 months later, the couple's first child, Linda, was born. Leslie and Eric were born later.

The Burrs joined the Chemeketas in 1976, do-

ing activities like biking, cross country skiing and backpacking. Burr was a trip leader and later served as membership secretary, transferring information from cards to the computer.

"He just loved the challenge of getting things organized," Phyllis said.

Once he retired from his BLM job in 1987, the couple moved from the country into town. Burr got active with volunteering as a driver for Meals-on-Wheels. He also served as treasurer at First Congregational Church for a while.

"He always wanted to have a job," Phyllis said. "He couldn't imagine being without a job. He wanted to make a difference. Once he did that, he would want to do something else. He loved serving others."

Over the years, Burr was also active in the U.S. Naval Reserve, the Society of American Foresters and Food Share.

Two days before his passing, Phyllis said her husband sent out an e-mail that he would no longer be able to keep the library's website up-to-date on new books. He worked with son Eric to make sure final arrangements were in place and sold his car.

"He had no more work to do," Phyllis said.

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Rob Robertson, Owner

Businesses, especially small, owner-operated ones, are not banks and generally can not afford to carry account balances for long periods of time. Commerce works best when customers pay their bills. Sometimes, after trying to collect debts, businesses must turn to professionals to help collect money owed to them.

That's when they can turn to Cascade Collections, Inc. Since March 1970 Cascade Collections, Inc. has represented businesses in the collection of past due accounts including resolution of disputes and payment negotiations. Owner Rob Robertson and his professional staff gather information, follow up on investigations and, when necessary, use legal means to ensure repayment.

"We offer our clients help in establishing a billing and collection procedure time schedule to help increase the best rate of return for them," says Robertson.

Cascade Collections offers a letter writing service prior to a past due account being assigned for collection. "This is a notice sent on our own letterhead giving the consumer a final 30 days to remedy their debt and deal directly with our client," Robertson explains.

There is a small cost to our client, however, 100 percent of the money collected during the initial 30-day period goes directly to the client; there is no commission owed during this period.

Cascade Collections is a full-service collection agency, dedicated to the success of their clients through the highest level of professional and ethical collections procedure providing their customers the best rate of recovery on their past due accounts.

"Our mission is to maintain a positive reputation of our industry and add to the health of our economy. We represent our clients with integrity and treat our customers with respect," Robertson says.

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