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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Senate Approves Oregon, NW Projects

The US Senate has passed a spending bill for the Department of the Interior that includes funding for watershed and ecosystem restoration, community assistance, old growth diversification projects, and dozens of other forest-related programs in the Pacific Northwest.

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On Site Recycling Program For Apartments

Since 1989 the city has set up over 750 multifamily sites with recycling systems, serving more than sixty percent of the multifamily units in Portland.

See related story on Page A 3

New Tax Bill Gives Immediate Refunds To Some Taxpayers

About 30,000 self employed Oregonians may be able to claim a larger 1992 deduction for health insurance premiums. To qualify, they must have a net profit from self-employment or receive wages from an S corporation nursing home.

See related story on Page A 5

Residents' Rights Week

Rights Week provides an opportunity to educate everyone about the ways nursing residents can be assured that their rights will not be denied simply because they reside in long term care facilities.

See related story on Page B 2

Signing Of Interim Peace Treaty

The Oregon Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East have stood together for three basic principles: 1) safe and secure borders for Israel, 2) the need for an independent Palestinian state and 3) an international peace conference.

See related story on Page A 7

Youth Suicide Reaches Record Levels In Oregon

While most attempts of suicide among Oregon minors were by girls, most of the deaths were of boys. Family discord, an argument with a boyfriend or girlfriend and school problems were the most frequently cited reasons for suicide attempts.

See related story on Page B 2

Kaiser Permanente Responds

To President Clinton's Proposed Health Plan

Immunizations, like that being given 4-month-old Marcus Banyan in a Kaiser Permanente medical office in north Portland, have long been a hallmark of health maintenance organizations such as Kaiser Permanente. Under President Bill Clinton's proposed health plan, immunizations and other preventive care services would receive more emphasis. (Photo credit: Carole Archer)

Although President Bill Clinton's health care proposal won't be announced to Congress until Sept. 22, key portions of the plan have become available early. The ability of the President's plan to control national health care spending in the long run depends on the effectiveness of managed care organizations and HMOs like Kaiser Permanente. The nation's largest HMO, Kaiser Permanente has delivered quality health care to millions of Americans for decades, demonstrating that many key characteristics of the Clinton plan can work in well-managed, highly integrated programs.

Kaiser Permanente believes Clinton's plan shows merit and many parts deserve support, including:

• Universal access to health care coverage. Kaiser Permanente has long supported all Americans having the security that comes with access to health coverage.

• Elimination of pre-existing condition clauses. Kaiser Permanente has consistently called for eliminating the practice of denying coverage for pre-existing health problems.

• An emphasis on preventive health care. Covering more people for preventive care is essential if the nation's health is to be improved. Kaiser Permanente members have long enjoyed full coverage for preventive care, such as immunizations, mammograms and well-baby checkups.

• Healthy alliances as purchasing agents for individuals and small groups. Pooling individuals and small groups should help make health coverage more affordable. These alliances should, however, first serve the interest of those with the fewest health plan choices, the highest administrative costs, and the highest proportion of uninsured--small-to mid-sized employer groups, individuals, and part-time employees.

• Community rating. Kaiser Permanente uses community rating and believes it is the best way to ensure that all people have affordable health coverage. Community rating requires health plans to compete on the basis of cost and quality, not by avoiding covering people with poor health risks.

• Creation of consumer "report cards" evaluating the performance of different health plans. Back in January, Kaiser Permanente was one of the signers of a letter from major national employers and health plans to President Clinton which proposed the "report card" concept. Kaiser Permanente is also participating in the development and refinement of a system for measuring quality and access, including patient satisfaction. The system is called the Health Plan employer Data and

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Loaned Executives Raise Money For United Way

Sixty-five people have volunteered this fall to help keep United Way of the Columbia-Willamette's fund-raising costs to a minimum. For the next three months, they will function as loaned executives, working full time to raise money for the local United Way while their employers continue to pay their salaries and expenses.

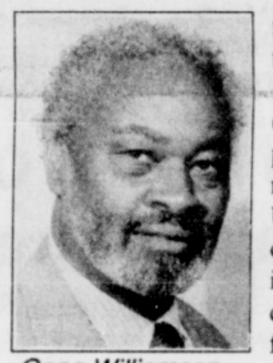
Loaned executives help companies run fund-raising campaigns. They provide employees with information about agency programs and service supported by United Way. Loaned executives share details about human service needs in this community and schedule speakers from agencies who talk about how these needs are being met.

The following volunteers from the African American community are now serving as loaned executives:

Kellie Robinson, Sisters of Providence Health System

Gene Williamson, Tri-Met

Kellie Robinson, Sisters of Providence Health System



Gene Williamson, Tri-Met

In return for their commitment, companies who loan people to United Way get employees who have received training and gained experience in time management, public speaking, and goal-setting skills.

"Loaned executives raise 65 percent of the money collected by United Way. We can't thank these individuals and companies enough for their generosity and commitment," said 1993 Campaign Chairman Benjamin Whiteley, chairman of the board and CEO of Standard Insurance Company. "The money we save through the efforts of the loaned executives goes directly to people in the community who need assistance."

In addition to loaned executives, another African American individual is volunteering for this year's United Way campaign. Mancin Boyd, U.S. Bank, is serving as an account executive who works with specific organizations/companies to develop and improve employee campaigns.

Through the use of volunteers, United Way's fund-raising and overhead costs are kept to 15 percent. Thus, 85 cents for each donated dollar goes back into the community through more than 180 agency programs that receive United Way funds.

Oregon Environmentalists Confront Wyden

With Unified Opposition to NAFTA

Leaders of Oregon's environmental community today expressed their unanimous opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and criticized Rep. Ron Wyden for claiming that the controversial accord will help the environment.

The Oregon Fair Trade Coalition (OFTC) released a letter signed by over thirty Oregon environmental groups which details NAFTA's environmental threats. The letter charges that NAFTA "puts the interests of multinational corporations above those of people, local and state governments, and the democratic process by which protection of the environment and human health can be achieved."

Environmental leaders charged that NAFTA will threaten environmental quality and wildlife, undermine food safety, and remove natural resources from local control. The accord, they said, will also weaken landmark legislation which protects consumers and the environment.

OFTC spokesman Randy Tucker said that Wyden has violated a commitment he made to oppose NAFTA if the recently-completed side agreement did not guarantee adequate protection of the environment and citizens rights. Tucker noted that the "meaningless" side agreements had completely failed to address environmentalist' concerns or even Wyden's own stated reservations. Standing before a banner that read "Ron Wyden Phone Home," Tucker said that "not a single local environmental organization supports NAFTA," and called on Wyden to heed the concerns of environmentalists in his own state.

Nina, Bell, executive director of Northwest Environmental Advocates said that the side agreement merely paid lip service to environmental concerns. She stated that to embrace the overwhelmingly weak so-called solutions embodied in NAFTA and its side agreements is to take a giant step backwards. Lip service does not protect the environment of people, only politicians."

Pamela Peck, environmental advocate for the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) said that NAFTA threatens Oregon's recycling laws, which are the nation's strongest. Peck noted that U.S. newspapers recycled content standards have already been challenged under the U.S.-Canada free trade agreement and "NAFTA will open the floodgates to further challenges of this type."

Mazza emphasized that "NAFTA is a watershed issue for environmentalists, unionists, peace and justice advocates, and the many other concerned citizens who have joined grassroots efforts across this country. If Ron Wyden or any other elected official chooses not to hear the voice of their constituents today, they will without doubt-hear the voice of voters in the polling booth in 1994."

The following are some of the problems with NAFTA which we believe must be addressed:

1) State and local laws impacting trade that enact stricter environmental standards than international dispute resolution standards could be challenged as illegal trade barriers. If held to violate the NAFTA, the U.S. would be required to eliminate such laws. States and localities would have no standing under NAFTA Chapter 20 to defend these challenged laws. We don't believe that the federal government can be relied upon to adequately defend our interests in such disputes.

2) State and local government laws and policies designed to create "green markets" for recycled materials, energy conservation technologies, and other environmentally desirable products and services could be subject to challenge in front of a trade tribunal. Recycling, waste reduction, and energy conservation goals will be much more difficult to meet.

3) The energy provisions of NAFTA protect subsidies for oil and gas, but do not afford comparable treatment to renewable energy sources or energy conservation. Our

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