

## Gordly's economic development package

Senator Avel Gordly (D-Portland) introduced the first bills of her economic development and equal opportunity package this week in Salem.

"With Oregon's booming economy, we need to make sure that all Oregonians have the opportunity to share in the state's growth and prosperity. We don't have to leave anyone behind," explained Senator Gordly. "My economic development package attempts to address specific needs, so all Oregonians share in the state's economy and prosperity," she added.

SB 326 allows a low income tax credit. SB 330 exempts savings accounts specifically used for educational and home purchasing expenditures for persons receiving public assistance. Senator Gordly's proposals work with the agency efforts to help people toward self sufficiency.

SB 327 requires record keeping and operator training to address pesticide exposure of agricultural workers. "We all contribute to this economy and should all be safe in our workplaces, and able to earn a living wage," asserted Senator Gordly. As one of the Chief Petitioners for the successful initiative campaign to raise the minimum wage in Oregon, Senator Gordly will resist any attempts to roll back or exempt certain workers from the minimum wage increase.

SB 328 provides permanent employee status benefits to temporary workers of temporary labor providers after 90 days of employment. Senator Gordly is concerned with the continuing trend toward use of temporary workers in the labor force and their lack of benefit coverage. The majority of the people without benefit coverage above the Federal Poverty Level are working Oregonians, and many are families with children, according to the office of the Health Plan Administrator.

Senator Gordly is working to develop a community development bank fund similar to the federal fund that would include small town, locally owned banks in the state who carry high rates of community redevelopment. She is also exploring trade opportunities beyond the Pacific Rim such as South America.

Senator Gordly's committee assignments this session include Senate Trade and Economic Development, Crime and Corrections, and Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety.

## SPORTS

### NBA celebrates Black History Month

Lewis Latimer isn't often included in the same sentence as Thomas Edison, but when the subject is the light bulb, he should be. Edison, of course, invented the light bulb, but Latimer, and African-American inventor, was the man responsible for the carbon filament inside the bulb.

Latimer's contribution to history is the subject of an illuminating NBA PS celebrating Black History Month. The 30-second spot, featuring Dallas Mavericks guard Jimmy Jackson, debuted on Sunday, February 2, during the Chicago at Seattle game on NBC. The PSA will continue to air during NBA games and programming on NBC, TNT and TBS throughout February.

The spot continues the NBA tradition of helping increase awareness about the accomplishments of African-Americans through television and radio PSAs. Previous PSAs have highlighted the achievements of author Langston Hughes, activist Rosa Parks, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, inventor Garrett Morgan and surgeon Daniel Hale Williams.

# Business

## \$800,000 grant for dislocated workers

The U.S. Department of Labor announced today that it is providing a grant of up to \$812,182 to assist approximately 200 workers being dislocated as a result of the Simpson Paper Co. paper mill in West Linn, Ore.

The grant, authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act, will provide a number of services including assessment, job search assistance, remedial education, vocational classroom training, and supportive services such as day care assistance, transportation assistance, and emergency health care.

Targeted occupations for retraining include: computer-related occu-

pations, building trades, construction, accounting, corrections, human resources, truck driving, and health-related occupations.

The project will be operated by Employment, Training and Business Services in Clackamas County, the Title III substate grantee.

The dislocated worker program is a comprehensive retraining approach to assist workers who have been, or are about to be laid off for reasons such as technological change, foreign competition or government actions. Generally such workers are eligible if they are unlikely to return to their previous industry or occupation.

**February is Black History Month**  
Call now to reserve advertising space, and receive special display ad rates: (503) 288-0033.

## Business-Education Summit seen as National Model

When the Fourth Business-Education Summit is held on January 31, the rest of the country will be taking notes. Several school districts involved in a national effort to increase school/career opportunities will be represented by Mary Ellen Bavaro from Jobs for the Future.

More than 300 education, business and community leaders will gather at the fourth Business Sum-

mit planned for Friday, January 31 at New Hope Church. (The location was changed recently to better accommodate the expected turnout).

North Clackamas was the only district west of the Mississippi selected by Jobs for the Future as a School to Work community. Four other districts are also working in a cooperative effort to improve students performance and raise aca-

BY DAN GLICKMAN

Recent complaints about discrimination and lack of service to minorities in USDA farm loan programs have been made repeatedly over the past 50 years. Clearly, there's a problem. Now is the time for solutions.

Martin Luther King, Jr. He had a dream that his children "would one day live in a nation where they would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." I, too, have a dream—that USDA customers and employees are not judged by the color of their skin, but treated with fairness and efficiency, dignity and respect.

Most of our employees are fully committed to King's dream. Some are not. Where we have found discrimination, there have been consequences—including dismissals. But we need to do better. My New Year's resolution is that we will do better.

## 'USDA Has a Dream'

USDA is a huge, decentralized bureaucracy. Many decisions that affect farmers are made at the local level, in hundreds of county offices throughout the country. Many of the staff actually work for the state or county, and don't answer to USDA directly. These offices are important because they help us stay close to our customers and put a human face on the federal government.

FDR set it up that way because he recognized the benefits of a local presence. For his New Deal programs to succeed, his national policies needed to be tailored to fit local circumstances.

But I fear that one downside to local control may be that some county officials have used the flexibility of USDA's delivery systems not to account for local variations, but to preserve unacceptable ways.

The history of civil rights shows that certain decisions, particularly those protecting the basic rights of

our citizens, should be made according to one strict national standard. That's why we have federal civil rights laws that override local prejudices.

Last year, Congress reevaluated our 60-year-old farm programs, forcing us to rethink our delivery system with an eye toward the financial bottom line. Now we have to look at that same delivery system to see how it treats people. We cannot simply say, "We've always done it that way." That was the original argument against civil rights.

That is sad irony in the fact that USDA, a federal agency committed to helping the socially disadvantaged, discriminated against some of the very people we were meant to help.

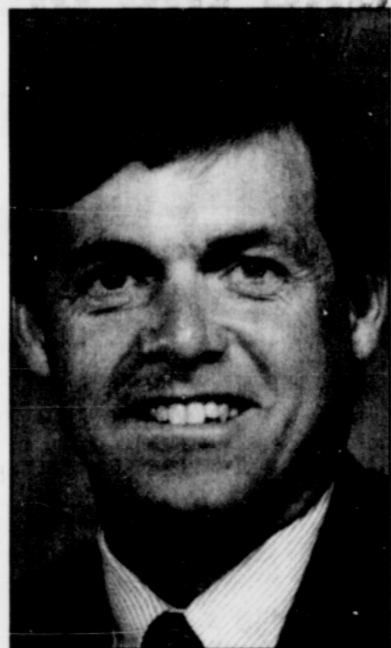
The department responsible for food stamps and improving conditions for the rural poor should be held to the highest standard.

## Portland Agency Announces 1997 Dividend Payout

More than \$22,800,000 million in dividends will be paid this year to area Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company policy owners, according to Kent S. Beebe, head of Northwestern Mutual's Portland office.

"Strong investment performance, lower expenses and favorable mortality experience have all contributed to this year's record-high dividend payout," said Beebe. "We are pleased to provide such an excellent return on investment to our local policy owners."

The Kent S. Beebe Agency serves clients in the State of Oregon & Southwestern Washington with 98 exclusive agency representatives. With more than \$4,949,376,281 billion of life and disability income insurance and annuity coverage in



Kent S. Beebe, Ga

force, the agency offers specialized assistance to its clients in the areas of personal, estate, retirement, small business and benefit planning.

Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance is the nation's largest provider of ordinary life and disability insurance for individuals and their businesses. The company's assets exceed \$60 billion and annual revenue totals more than \$10 billion. Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance is owned by 2.5 million policy owners and has 7,200 agents in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information contact: The Kent S. Beebe Agency, 1221 S.W. Yamhill, Ste. 400, Portland, OR, 97205 or call 503 223-7335 or visit Northwestern on the Internet: <http://www.northwesternmutual.com>.

## Is Your Tax Practitioner Qualified?

Almost half of all taxpayers seek professional help to prepare their income tax return, but in every state except Oregon, there are no guarantees that the "professional" knows anything at all about taxes. Oregon is the only state with consumer protection laws that set competency and ethics standards and require licensing of individuals who prepare personal income tax returns for a fee.

State Board of Tax Examiner administrator Joyce Thorbeck explains that the board licenses Tax Consultants, who are expert-level tax professionals, and Tax Preparers, who are apprentice-level practitioners. Certified Public Accountants and Public Accountants licensed by the State Board of Accountancy and Oregon attorneys are also qualified and authorized to prepare tax returns.

According to Thorbeck, a professional license is evidence that a tax practitioner has met education requirements and been tested for competency. A license also means the licensee must operate according to ethics laws and rules that are designed to protect taxpayers from unscrupulous practices by a tax professional.

Consumers seeking a professional to prepare their tax returns should be

certain to check the credentials of the person they choose, Thorbeck says, and they should avoid practitioners who engage in or advocate questionable actions.

"For example," Thorbeck advises, "don't do business with a tax practitioner who refuses to sign a tax return in the 'paid preparer' space. That's a pretty good sign the person isn't qualified or licensed to do the work." By law, tax practitioners must acknowledge responsibility for preparing a return by signing as a paid preparer.

Other advice for taxpayers from Thorbeck: Steer clear of offers to prepare returns where the amount of the fee is based on the amount of refund claimed.

Be very suspicious if a practitioner encourages you to claim deductions you know you aren't entitled to take. Ethics codes for licensed operators prohibit these practices, but unlicensed practitioners have been known to encourage questionable deductions to build up their business or their fee.

Keep in mind that the Internal Revenue Service will the taxpayer responsible for a tax return. If improper deductions are disallowed, the IRS will bill the taxpayer not only for the additional taxes due, but also

for interest on the taxes and probably for penalties, as well.

Another common problem with unlicensed tax preparers, according to Thorbeck, is their tendency to close up shop and disappear after tax season. This is especially troublesome when, as often happens, the taxpayer's source information disappears along with the practitioner. Taxpayers can avoid the difficult job of reconstructing accounting records if they deal only with licensed, reputable professionals.

Consumers should also be wary of any tax practitioner who arranges to have a client's personal tax refund sent to the practitioner. Tax Consultants risk losing their license if they engage in this practice. But unscrupulous individuals have redirected mailing of their client's tax refund to themselves and held the check "hostage" until sometimes exorbitant preparation fees are paid.

Thorbeck encourages taxpayers to contact the Tax Board office if they have a complaint about personal income tax return preparation and to check tax practitioner licenses records. Inquires can be directed to the board at 3218 Pringle Rd. SE, #120, Salem, OR 97305 (telephone 503-378-4034).

desired results from the education process.

Futurist Thomas G. Jones, Ph.D. will keynote the event with a look at the future and how to prepare students for that future.

An instructor with the Clackamas Community College Small Business Development Center, Jones is the winner of the Leavey Award as one of the top 15 innovative business

educators in America. A detailed look at the skills and attitudes necessary for success will be presented by Graham Slater of the State Employment Division.

The event is co-sponsored by the N. Clackamas School Districts.

Community members, parents, business leaders and educators are all welcome to attend, please contact the chamber at 654-7777.

## Xpressions Hair Salon

The first annual NW Hair Salon competition was held at the Airport Sheraton Hotel, December 1, 1996 in Portland, OR and attended by the most prestigious hair salons in the industry. The Northwest's Xpressions Hair Salon, located at 2300 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. won first place honors. Owners Denise Booker and Angela Carter are continually seeking to their fast growing customer base. The competition hosted some eight hair salons ranging geographically from Seattle, WA to Portland, OR. The NW Hair Salon competition is scheduled to take place in 1997 during the month of October.

Xpressions Hair Salon has distanced itself from other salons in the industry by centering on Total Quality Management and Customer Satisfaction as well as creative expression. Xpressions is also part of the Network of African American Professionals, an organization founded by Leon McCoy to promote the channeling of economic resources within African American communities locally, statewide, interstate and worldwide.

You may contact the Xpressions Hair Salon at 503/280-7977.

For more information regarding this year's NW Hair Salon competition, contact Donta' Warren.

## Enter to Win \$1,000 and other great prizes!

Play MEGABUCKS DOUGH Second-Chance Drawing! Just send in four consecutive nonwinning MEGABUCKS tickets for drawings dated Nov. 13, 1996, through June 14, 1997, for a chance to win great prizes each month!

### Our First Winners

From the December 20, 1996, drawing

1st prize - \$1,000 plus jacket

Phil Garey, Grants Pass

2nd prize - \$500 plus jacket

Daniel Kalgaard, Silverton

3rd prize - \$100 plus jacket

Sue Brock, Eugene

Lee Bensing, Stayton

Fred Singleton, Klamath Falls

Arthur Sullivan, Cottage Grove

Margaret Scarlett, Klamath Falls

4th prize - MEGABUCKS DOUGH

denim baseball jacket

Byron Mann, Portland

Dianne Pitner, Sandy

Andrew Hoskot, Blue River

Elen Cannon, Coos Bay

Darlene Ploore, Klamath Falls

LeRoy Mann, Johnson City

Dennis Myers, Eagle Point

Max Montgomery, Redmond

Ben Duckwiler, Scotts Mill

Carlos Turpeinen, Portland

Alice Sears, Salem

Morris Womack, Rockaway Beach

Robert Mazany, Beaverton

Wally Fisher, Beaverton

Darrell R. Priestner, Lincoln City

Elaine M. Anderson, Vale

Mary L. Ingram, Portland

Ronald T. Cross Jr., Sutherlin

Nila Campanella, Boring

Oralee Winkler, Portland

Bob Taylor, Dallas

Lester M. Baker Jr., Boring

William Pelley, Salem

Gloria Reber, Coos Bay

Wayne R. Erickson, St. Helens



## MEGABUCKS DOUGH Second-Chance Drawing

Send four consecutive nonwinning MEGABUCKS tickets for drawings dated November 13, 1996, through June 14, 1997, with this entry for a chance to win! Enter as many times as you like. This entry is good for one drawing only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name & location of store where you bought your ticket(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Send entry in a plain white envelope no larger than 4 1/2" x 9 1/2" to: MEGABUCKS DOUGH Second-Chance Drawing, PO Box 14280, Salem, OR 97309.

## February is Black History Month

Call now to reserve advertising space, and receive special display ad rates: 503-288-0033.