Lawmaker Backs Schools in Budget Fight

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Supporting schools is the priority for a northeast Portland lawmaker who will soon go back to Salem to fix a state budget

Rep. Jackie Dingfelder said schools already require more than 50 percent of the state's general fund and it won't be easy to cut budgets without hurting kids. She said important health and human services and public safety programs make up much of the other expenses of state government.

The Oregon Legislature has been called into special session in the new year to make up a \$700 million budget shortfall.

Dingfelder, a Democrat, received her introduction in the Legislature last spring, when she was appointed to her post upon the resignation of former State Rep. JoAnn Bowman.

She feels her priorities match those of Bowman, a popular a voice for minorities and people who are under-represented in state government.

Dingfelder says she will look at compromises when it comes to budget solutions.

She doesn't want to eliminate programs that help schools, kids and crime prevention because they save money in the long run.

She said she would consider raising taxes on a temporary basis to help balance the budget.



Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, northeast Portland's newest lawmaker, wants to make sure schools don't come up short when the Legislature meets in special session in the new year.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kafoury Files For Re-Election

Northeast legislator focuses on economy and helping families

Saying that she hoped to remain north and northeast Portland's voice in the legislature, Rep. Deborah Kafoury, filed Friday to run for a third term in the Oregon House of Representatives.

"I am proud of the work that I accomplished during the past two legislative sessions, including additional support for domestic violence prevention, restoring funding for Rep. Deborah Kafoury Oregon Project Indepen-

dence, making a college education more affordable for working families and providing an additional six months of unemployment benefits to certain workers dislocated by the economy," Kafoury said.

The Democrat said lawmakers must turn their attention to expanding the state's struggling economy by expand-



elected as the House Democratic Leader. She will lead the legislative and political efforts of 28 House Democrats over the 18-month legislative

"I plan to focus on

helping businesses avoid

further layoffs, helping

communities by creating

more jobs and helping

families who are strug-

gling under unemploy-

In July, Kafoury was

ment," she said.

Kafoury is currently serving her second term representing North and Northeast Portland in the state legislature. She represents the newly-formed House District 43, which was House District 18 before the Secretary of State shifted legislative district boundaries to reflect population changes.

ing jobs.

Making Joy for Kids



little helper when the 8-year-old organized a toy drive for every child at Emanuel Children's Hospital.

Tara's selfless act of kindness was taken to heart by family, friends and members of the Highland United Church of Christ in northeast Portland, under the leadership of Rev. W.

Danielle Brigs delivers presents to Dawne Duncan of Emanuel Children's Hospital. The northeast Portland girl was able to start a toy drive at her church that resulted in enough presents for every child at the hospital.

Eight-year-old Tara

рното Ву MARK WASHINGTON/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

(6)

She accomplished her goal of 160 toy donations by making phone calls and sending emails urging support.

When asked, "why do you need 160 toys?" Her reply was that this hospital has 155 beds and she wanted to make sure than every child received a gift. Congratulations, Tara!

Ride Free on **Tri-Met This** New Year's Eve

Tri-Met is making it easy and safe to get to and from New Year's Eve festivities by offering free rides after 6 p.m. and adding extra MAX and bus service.

The MAX light rail will run every 10 minutes until 2 a.m. and every 15 minutes until the last trains leave downtown at 3

Added buses will run on 11 lines New Year's Eve, including the 4-Fessenden, 5-Interstate, 8-NE 15th, 9-Powell, 12-Barbur Bouelvard, 14-Hawthorne, 15-NW 23rd, 15-Belmont, 33-McLoughlin, 40-Tacoma, and 54-Beaverton-Hillsdale,

Tri-Met is also encouraging people to use public transportation to the celebration at Pioneer Courthouse Square on New Year's Eve.

If the celebration becomes too large for Pioneer Square, MAX trains will stop running through downtownthe downdown core, but shuttle buses will carry riders between closed stations.

For help planning your trip, you're encouraged to call Tri-Met's online trip plannerat www.tri-met.org or call 503-238-RIDE weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



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