

Kitzhaber

continued from page 1

talked about a couple of ways that I want my budgetary policies to intervene on the front end. Secondly I think we need to – I’m planning to ask for the resignation of all agency directors and program directors and then I will rehire them. And we will seek a large pool of people so that we can begin to have state government reflect the demographics of the population. So I guess then part of my challenge back is that I think it’s very important to help feed the pool of individuals from which we can draw.

TSN: In fact that was one of our questions -- we have in this area one of the largest public works project in state history going right through our neighborhood, the Columbia River Crossing. We’re concerned about the history of state agencies such as ODOT not awarding construction contracts to Black-owned businesses already existing in areas where construction takes place. So we’re pleased to hear that you plan on shaking up the agency leadership.

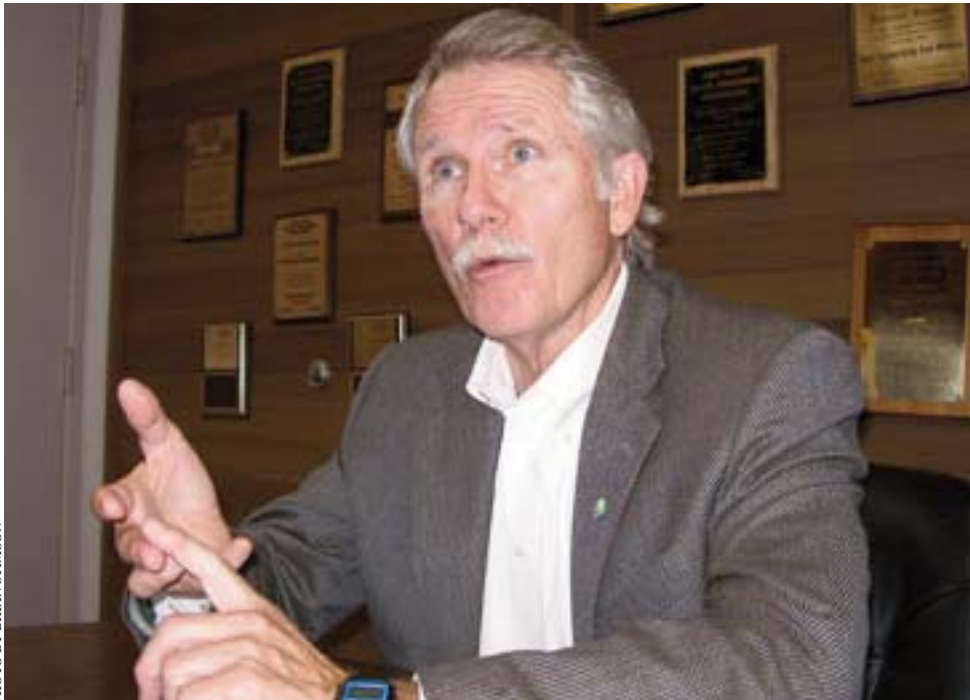
Kitzhaber: Let me address that because I think it is very important and I’ve raised this a couple times at the Urban League meeting the other night. I think we need strong community workforce agreements particularly with projects that the state is funding, to make sure that we have a high percentage of minority and woman owned community businesses involved and also that historically disadvantaged and underrepresented populations are represented in that workforce and that these jobs be connected with education and training to create career paths. So an example of that would be one of the low-hanging fruit for economic development or job creation is large weatherization, energy-efficiency projects starting with our public schools. There are public schools in every community in Oregon. There’s the opportunity by bonding against anticipated savings to put people back to work retrofitting those

schools for energy efficiency, and there’s an example where strong community workforce agreement is absolutely necessary to ensure that people within the community actually are part of that newly-created workforce.

TSN: I wanted to follow up on that because the Willamette Week is nagging about the weatherization plan, they’re saying that it’s not a tested funding method, and they want people to nag at you about it. Are you sure that it would actually be enacted, and is there any evidence that you could actually make it happen if you are elected?

Kitzhaber: Yes. The answer’s yes. First of all this is something that goes on in the private sector right now. There are companies that are called Energy Service Companies, ESCO’s. Johnson Control would be one example; Makinstry in Portland is another example. And they do what’s called a performance bond. They basically are going to get paid by the energy efficiencies that are produced by the weatherization. So a real life example is Mt Hood Community College, where Johnson Controls came in, has retrofitted most of the campus, they’ve replaced the boilers, they’ve put solar arrays on the roof, and they are going to get paid by the projected reduction in cost for Mt Hood Community College.

What we’re talking about is essentially taking – we have about 100 million square feet of school buildings in Oregon, and on average it costs about \$1.10 square foot for energy, and about \$8 per square foot for maintenance and operations. A 15 percent savings – which is a very conservative estimate of savings by retrofitting these buildings – is about \$143 million a year. So it’s not like a general obligation bond where the treasurer last week said we have to make sure we don’t overextend our bonding capacity. These are -- you can actually find



John Kitzhaber speaks with The Skanner editorial board.

certified energy efficiencies that are in the same biennium so you’re going to actually reduce the cost of operating the school system by 15 percent.

And that’s what pays off the bond – it’s more like a revenue bond. Washington State passed something very similar to this last year. But they actually brought a little bit of new money in with a tax on bottled water. Montana has actually done it straight up – they have essentially passed a bill that has a certified energy savings set aside part of their general fund based on the energy savings so there’s a revenue stream to funds this much like a revenue bond.

We’ve been working with David Chen, with Mark Edlund at Gerding Edlund and several others on this financing mechanism. It’s not new technology. And by the way these are private sector jobs, these are good trades jobs and we do as I said have to have a community workforce agreement as a part of this, but to me this is a no brainer.

TSN: So we’ve just talked about your ideas on a school weatherization program – but what are your plans on school funding? Will you reverse Gov. Kulongoski’s decision not to participate in President Obama’s Race to the Top school funding initiative? Do you have a position on whether that’s a useful thing to pursue?

Kitzhaber: Number one, funding for schools. I think we have to recognize that we are not going to have as much money as we’d like in the next two years. Schools are essentially flat-funded for the next biennium, we have just a little more going forward than we had last time so the question is how we take those dollars and spend them in a way that creates a foundation in 2011 to begin to reinvest in our schools as the private sector economy comes back.

What I have proposed on the funding side

Read the rest of this story online at www.theskanner.com



New Mammogram Study Stirs Debate for Women

Marilynn Marchione
AP Medical Writer

A new study from Sweden is stirring fresh debate over whether women in their 40s should get mammograms. It suggests that the breast cancer screening test can lower the risk of dying of the disease by 26 percent or more in this age group.

That's a bigger benefit than was found by earlier studies, which a year ago led an influential panel of U.S. science advisers to recommend against routine screening before age 50. The panel said the benefits were so small and potential problems from screening so great that the decision should be left to each woman and her doctor.

That advice set off cries of outrage from many cancer screening advocates and even from members of Congress. But since then, there have been other studies supporting the task force's stance. And just

last week, another study in Norway found that the benefit of mammograms even for women 50 and older is less than has been believed.

The new study has major limitations, and cannot account for possibly big differences in the groups of women it compares. Nor does it consider the harm — such as unnecessary stress, unwarranted biopsies and overtreatment — of screening women in their 40s. Breast cancer is less common in that age group, so mammograms can raise many false alarms.

However, the new Swedish study appears to be the largest of this age group — about 1 million women. And "it captures the real-world experience" they have from regular mammograms, said Dr. Jennifer Obel, a spokeswoman for the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

The Swedish researchers esti-

mate that 1,252 women in their 40s would have to be offered screening every other year for 10 years to save one life.

Results of the new study were reported in a teleconference on Wednesday and will be presented at a cancer conference in Washington later this week. They also were published online by the journal Cancer.

Advocates of mammograms for younger women praised the study.

"It's just one piece of evidence supporting the fact that screening women in their 40s does save lives," said the American Cancer Society's chief medical officer, Dr. Otis Brawley. "We believe that women in their 40s should be screened, but we also believe that women should be informed of the limitations of mammography."

About 5,100 of the roughly 40,000 breast cancer deaths each year in the U.S. are in women

under age 50, but many women who die at older ages were diagnosed at younger ages, according to the cancer society.

"If we screened all 22 million American women who are aged 40 to 49 this year, this study suggests it would translate to 2,000 to 2,200 lives saved," Brawley said.

Dr. Daniel Kopans, a radiology professor at Harvard Medical School and an American College of Radiology spokesman, said the study "should end any debate and end the use of age 50 as a threshold for screening."

But others were unconvinced and stood by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. That panel last fall recommended against routine screening for women in their 40s.

"Everybody is confused, but in my opinion, the strength of evidence is robust" for following the panel's advice, said Dr. Ranit

Mishori, a family medicine specialist at Georgetown University.

Dr. Jeanne Mandelblatt, a Georgetown doctor who headed six research teams for the government panel, said the new study "does not balance the benefits against the harms," as the panel sought to do.

The new study looked at Sweden's mammography program. Since 1986, the country has required that screening be offered to women over 50 but left it up to each county to decide whether to offer it to younger women. About half of counties did, and researchers compared breast cancer death rates in areas where it was and wasn't offered.

They counted breast cancer deaths of women who had been diagnosed in their 40s and died within 16 years of followup.

Carter

continued from page 1

n't address Payton's death directly, instead focusing on getting the most out of education, finding ideas to create a more cohesive student body and encouraging students to think beyond the moment.

"I want you to be so educated you make me look like a ninth grader," said Carter, encouraging students to become a "receptacle for knowledge." Throughout her remarks with the students, Carter's sugges-

tions were met with massive applause and cheers of agreement.

She told students that they need to be more aware of their social networks and to keep in mind the power that the information age has provided.

"The bullying and cyber bullying must stop," she said to massive applause. "You need to assume responsibility for what you write on blogs."

She put it to the students themselves to solve some of the most basic problems of violence:

How do those who are untouched by violence get in and help stop violence committed by others?

How do you dissolve the cliques and social walls that separate students?

How do you begin thinking more about the future than you do the moment?

But she also admitted something that many students might be thinking: adults in charge don't often live up to their own lofty ideals.

"When a state gives more money to (criminal) justice than education, that is a problem," she said