

EDITORIALS

Tight times ahead

Oregon voters were clear: No new taxes for C-corporations on Oregon sales exceeding \$25 million annually. Measure 97 lost by large margins, 59 to 40 statewide, and with an even firmer "no" in Polk County — 64 to 35. Proponents for the measure said it would help pay for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education, improve senior services, and access to health care.

We think it was a last-ditch effort to save the state from its retiring employees.

Oregon's Public Employee Retirement System is due to take a large jump up as far as employer contributions go. That means local governments — cities, counties, schools, fire districts — will have to put more away for those who are retired or plan to retire.

And that means less money to spend on services, teachers, police, and programs.

With the failure of Measure 97, it will force everyone in the state — from newly elected Gov. Kate Brown, to the Legislature, to city councils, the county commissioners and school boards — to buckle down and take a serious look at what programs and agencies will get cut the most.

Sen. Brian Boquist said the state budget will take a \$2 billion hit because of it.

That's billion, with a B. We're not saying the voters should have passed Measure 97, but now that they haven't, everyone needs to be prepared for hard times to come.



PUBLIC AGENDA

Public Agenda is a listing of upcoming meetings for governmental and nongovernmental agencies in Polk County. To submit a meeting, send it at least two weeks before the actual meeting date to the *Itemizer-ObsERVER* via email (ionews@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

- **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

THURSDAY, NOV. 17

- **Monmouth Independence Networks Board of Directors** — 7:30 a.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.
- **Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Independence Parks and Recreation Board** — 6 p.m., Independence Civic Center, third floor, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Polk County Fair Board** — 8 a.m., Polk County Fairgrounds and Event Center, Main Building, Meeting Room No. 2, 520 S. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall. 503-623-3048.

MONDAY, NOV. 21

- **Independence Tourism and Events Commission** — 6:30 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Dallas City Council** — 7 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

TUESDAY, NOV. 22

- **Independence City Council** — 7:30 a.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Senior Advisory Board** — 1 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

I'll stand before the Lord of song with nothing on my tongue but

Hallelujah

—Leonard Cohen
1934 - 2016
Singer, songwriter, poet.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voter vents over election calls, ads

Please get a clue. To all political parties and all special interest groups, I have a message. Send information in the mail about what is important to you, I will read it.

Spend millions on TV ads, I will watch it way too many times. Call me once, OK. Call me twice, you are getting annoying. Call me three times, you are done.

I will not vote for your candidate, measure, party, whatever. I keep a list, three times you are out.

Robocalls are especially bad, there is no one to yell at.

Oh, Mike Nearman deserves a special mention for being the worst violator of annoying, stupid phone calls.

Get a clue, folks, calling me dozens of times isn't going to make me like you more.

Mark Scott
Rickreall

First Glow Run smashing success

I would like to thank the City of Dallas for putting on the outstanding Glow Run 5K event held on Saturday evening, Oct. 29.

It was extremely well or-

ganized, and the weather was perfect.

Hundreds of people wearing orange shirts showed up with their bright smiles and very creative, glowing accessories to run and walk for Christmas Cheer.

Thanks also to the sponsors and the many volunteers who guided and cheered us along the route from start to finish.

We look forward to this event again next year.

Bev Shein
Jamie and Drew Stevenson,
Kelley Clark and Carol Dalton
Dallas

Brighten a family's Christmas season

The Dallas Adopt-A-Family, in partnership with the Salvation Army, serves Dallas and Perrydale families with Christmas toys and a meal for the holidays.

Businesses, churches, clubs, families and individuals adopt a family in need.

The committee is actively seeking groups that would be willing to help make sure that families in need have a meal, and the children have a gift to open on Christmas morning.

Families in need of help for Christmas can apply at the Academy Building, Suite 220 on Saturday from

2 to 4 p.m.

Maybe you belong to a golf group, coffee group, card group, bunco group that would like to adopt a family?

You can choose to adopt a small, medium or large family.

Donors get to shop for specific children, wrap the gifts, gather items for a Christmas dinner and bring them to us on Dec. 13.

Families pick up the items on Dec. 14.

We have 85 families adopted so far, but we anticipate a minimum of 240 families needing to be adopted.

Can you help? Please call Melissa Baurer for more information 503-798-4876.

Please consider reaching out to give a special Christmas for a family in need. Our group also accepts donations of toys, teen gifts and money.

We have always found Dallas to be a very giving and caring community. Thanks for considering the Adopt-A-Family project, which has been helping families for Christmas for nearly 20 years.

Thank you.

Vickie and Richard Boer
Dallas Adopt-A-Family
Committee
Dallas

WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period.

Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed. Attacks by name on businesses or individuals will not be printed.

Letters to the editor that are obvious promotions for a business, products or services will not be printed.

The *Itemizer-ObsERVER* does not guarantee the accuracy of facts presented by letter writers; dissenters are welcome to respond. Letter writers who

disagree with other published letter writers should maintain a civil discourse and address the subject, not the author.

Letters, like all editorial material submitted to the newspaper, are edited for length, grammar and content.

Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number. This includes letters submitted via the *I-O's* website. Names and cities of residence are published; street addresses and telephone numbers are used for verification purposes only.

Letters must be submitted from individuals, not organiza-

tions, and must be original submissions to the *I-O*, not copies of letters sent to other media.

Letters of thanks to businesses, individuals and organizations are limited to 10 names.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

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