

Taxes

Continued from A7

"I've never heard from so many of our members on a single subject," said Paloma Sparks, vice president of government relations for Oregon Business & Industry, the state's largest business organization.

"These layoffs were caused by government action, not because businesses were making decisions about market forces," Sparks said. "We would like the state to step up and not put this burden on businesses."

Just 20% of Oregon employers, primarily those that cut jobs during last year's closures, will have to cover nearly the entire \$183 million increase in unemployment taxes this year. And unless lawmakers act, their costs will continue rising through 2023 because the formula allocates the tax burden over a three-year period.

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Last fall, the employment department repeatedly warned against changes that could reduce the trust fund. The department noted that just months into the pandemic, many other states were already borrowing from the federal government to cover their unemployment benefits — money that must eventually be paid back through higher business taxes.

On Thursday, though, Gerstenfeld acknowledged that Oregon's trust fund has lots of money and so the state can consider temporary reductions

— and maybe even long-term changes. He made three proposals:

Spread out the burden of the pending payroll tax increases among all employers, rather than just those that cut jobs in 2020. That would leave the unemployment tax increases in place but reduce the burden on hardest-hit employers by sharing the costs.

Roll back prospective payroll tax increases in 2022, recognizing the trust fund has enough money to remain solvent without the added funds. That sounds like a simple fix,

but it wouldn't help everyone — Gerstenfeld said federal law requires that some employers pay a top tax rate.

Oregon's tax formula for unemployment insurance is established in state law, so any changes require action by the Legislature. And it doesn't appear new legislation would affect the tax increases that took effect in 2021.

However, the employment department says it will allow businesses to defer a third of this year's payments until June 2022 without interest or penalties.

At Thursday's hearing, committee Chairman Sen. Chuck Riley, D-Hillsboro, said COVID-19 has created an unusual situation for employers that needs to be addressed.

"Businesses go out of businesses all the time," Riley said, "but this is an entirely different animal."

Greenhouse

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"Somebody who is really focused on growing could get a lot of production out of this greenhouse," Moore said.

The greenhouse measures 30-by-80-feet and stands more than 21 feet tall. GK Machine, a manufacturer in nearby Donald, made the frame. It is covered with Adapt8's Solexx panels.

Solexx offers several advantages, Moore said. First, the material is dense and translucent, helping to diffuse light evenly around the entire space.

"What you don't get are zones inside the greenhouse," Moore said. "You can see, there's not a single shadow."

That, in turn, allows light to reach more of the plants' surface area, enabling 25% more



George Plaven/Capital Press

Adapt8's test greenhouse measures 30 feet by 80 feet and stands more than 21 feet tall. It is big enough to fit three semitrailers inside.

growth versus direct light from traditional panels, Moore explained. The panels also provide insulation, boosting energy and water efficiency.

"(The greenhouse) will be very efficient to run," she said.

Along with the \$50,000 grant, Adapt8 matched more

than \$264,000 toward completing the project. Moore said she would like to see 10% of what's grown inside the greenhouse donated to area food banks.

Company employees established a community supported agriculture program last year, donating 1,000 pounds of fresh

produce to the Marion Polk Food Share, including radishes, tomatoes, green onions, beets, kale, garlic and potatoes.

Moore said the new test greenhouse will offer more space to turbocharge production, while simultaneously allowing Adapt8 to research new products and invite the public to learn about how their food is grown.

Recently, Adapt8 used the greenhouse to teach elementary school children about hydroponics, and held a clinic demonstrating cutting propagation with tomato plants. Moore said outreach classes will continue as COVID-19 restrictions allow.

"We want to bring our customers in. We want to bring the community in," she said. "We want to test new ways of doing things in here."

Leases

Continued from A7

The order also applies to coal mining and blocks the approval of new mining plans. Land sales or exchanges and the hiring of senior-level staff at the agency also were suspended.

The order includes an exception that gives a small number of senior Interior officials authority to approve actions that are otherwise suspended. Those officials include the agency secretary, deputy secretary, solicitor and several assis-

tant secretaries.

Biden's move could be the first step in an eventual goal to drill on federal land. Mineral leasing laws state that federal lands are for many uses, including extracting oil and gas, but the Democrat could set out to rewrite those laws, said Kevin Book, managing director at Clearview Energy Partners.

The administration's announcement drew a quick backlash from Republicans and oil industry trade groups. They said limiting access to publicly owned energy re-

sources would mean more foreign oil imports, lost jobs and fewer tax revenues.

Republican Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming said the administration was "off to a divisive and disastrous start." He added that the government is legally obliged to act on all drilling permit applications it receives and that "staff memos" can't override the law.

"Impeding American energy will only serve to hurt local communities and hamper America's economic recovery," American Petroleum Institute President Mike Sommers said

in a statement.

National Wildlife Federation Vice President Tracy Stone-Manning welcomed the move and said she expected Biden to make good on his campaign promise to end leasing altogether, or at least impose a long-term moratorium on any new issuances.

"The Biden administration has made a commitment to driving down carbon emissions. It makes sense starting with the land that we all own," she said. "We have 24 million acres already under lease. That should get us through."

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: I'm responding to the letter from "Open-and-Shut Case in Virginia" (Oct. 20), who complained her son-in-law was "disrespectful" because he didn't close cupboard doors, cereal boxes, etc. My guess is that "Kirk" is displaying classic symptoms of Adult Attention Deficit Disorder (AADD). Multistep tasks may be difficult for him to complete because he is easily distracted.

My husband has this. (It was not diagnosed until he was in his 50s, and I had nearly torn all my hair out.) He still occasionally leaves cabinet doors and drawers open. I tease him that he can't remember to walk from one side of the room to another if he forgets to take his medication.

I strongly recommend that Kirk be evaluated by a behavioral psychologist for AADD. Treatment may save the relationship between Kirk and his in-laws.

— *Wife of a Man with A.A.D.D.*

Dear Wife: Thank you for your letter. I received a deluge of responses about the letter from "Open-and-Shut Case in Virginia," and the vast majority of the writers mentioned ADD, ADHD and AADD. Many of them recommended patience on the part of the in-laws and volunteered that Kirk may be able to manage the disorder if he is diagnosed.

Dear Abby: I am a 73-year-old retired woman who still maintains contact with a number of old and new friends for movies, dinner, museum visits,

etc. Until the COVID virus, we did things often. Now, not so much.

Someone in this group told me that on a couple of occasions, a few of them were not very nice when my name came up. ("Why doesn't she see her grandkids more often?" "She goes out more than most, yet doesn't want to eat in certain restaurants.") My husband and I have a good marriage, but many of these ladies are widowed or divorced. How do you handle backstabbing at this age?

— *Mystified in New York*

Dear Mystified: Try not to take it personally. Obviously, these gossips have less to occupy their minds than one

would hope. You might also consider seeing these particular individuals even less often than you already do in the age of COVID. If you do, it may give them less ammunition concerning what you do (or don't do) with your time.

Dear Abby: I began using a wheelchair two years ago. Since then a dear friend of roughly 30 years has become fixated on my disability. While we once shared a deep, close "BFF" relationship, she now speaks to me in baby talk and only shows an interest in my physical limitations. I feel objectified, hurt and disappointed.

I have mentioned to her that I prefer to focus on other things in life, and she responds with platitudes like, "The body is just a shell," and "All that matters is the heart," but her actions tell me otherwise. I hate to end this friendship,

but I am at the end of my rope. Any advice?

— *Patronized in Arizona*

Dear Patronized: If you haven't done it already, tell this person that you no longer wish to discuss your disability and you prefer she stop raising the subject and treating you differently. Period. If she continues to pursue the subject after that, make your visits less frequent, if they happen at all.

DEATH NOTICES

Travis Eugene Underwood of Redmond, OR
March 7, 1937 - Jan 17, 2021
Arrangements:
Baird Funeral Home of Bend is honored to serve the Underwood family. Please visit our website www.bairdfh.com to share condolences and sign our online guestbook. 541-382-0903
Contributions may be made to:
<https://www.gohospice.com/blog>

James M. Foster of Bend, OR
Feb 2, 1934 - Jan 15, 2021
Arrangements:
Autumn Funerals, Bend 541-318-0842 www.autumnfunerals.net
Services:
Family services will be held at a later date

OBITUARY DEADLINE
Call to ask about our deadlines
541-385-5809
Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm
No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays.
Email:
obits@bendbulletin.com

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 22, 2021: Charged, expressive and exciting, you exude a magnetism that is hard to resist. Controlling your impulsiveness allows you to finish a long-term project that is extremely successful this year. If single, you experience strong feelings and attractions. This year, you find your mate. If attached, you are transformed by love. With patience and insight to match your depth of feeling, you can make this last forever. **CANCER** sticks to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Bargains are found today. A friend's assistance is a key factor in generating a windfall. An exchange of ideas in a brainstorming session generates new perspectives. Your enthusiasm remains, bringing fun and excitement. Tonight: The good times roll on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your energy and enthusiasm are at a peak. A creative project captivates you. Your charisma level and charm rise throughout the day. Both business and personal situations are promising. You will find much to feel grateful for. Tonight: Feeling the gratitude.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today you will feel more introspective. Listen to the small, still voice within you as you meditate by candlelight. A charm or picture featuring a snowflake design reminds you to cherish your individuality. You will embrace nonconformity. Tonight: A long, healing herbal soak.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You will want to right wrongs and share knowledge. You inspire others. This favors any legal issues you have pending. It's also supportive of relationships. You will bask in the joyful accomplishments of someone who is near and dear. Tonight: Exhausted, you sink into bed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ The winter has a solemn quality. You feel dedicated to high profile projects that are a challenge but also have the potential to bring great rewards. Commit to yours and work on it today as you can. Tonight: Celebrating a job well done. Bravo.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Today accents your social circle and generates refreshing new goals. Helpful, supportive people offer encouragement. Meetings are exceptionally productive. Unexpected events are pending, perhaps an upcoming move or job change. Tonight: Write down a list of your priorities and examine them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Mysteries are resolved today. A lost item is found unexpectedly. You'll be attracted to faraway places. Overseas travel is especially appealing. However, organization is essential in order to keep up with many projects requiring your attention at work. Tonight: Relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You will be able to extricate yourself from persons or situations that have been draining your energy and resources. Focus on what you would like to release. Reclaim your freedom in the peaceful darkness of winter's long night. Tonight: Feeling calm and at peace.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Today generates an abundance of nervous energy. Pace exercise sessions today. Don't overdo it with really strenuous activity all at once. A beloved animal companion facilitates improved health and emotional well-being. Tonight: You feel your well-being improving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today generates a very sociable mood. Others will be attracted to you. Sincerity, a love of music and stability are qualities that you would seek in a romantic partner. Today the celestial patterns favor love. Tonight: You have the perfect backdrop for pursuing true love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Consider redecorating or making household repairs. Place a bouquet on a table to bless your residence. Include snowdrops and other tiny white flowers, which represent hope. The needs of family members assume top importance. Tonight: Early beddie-byes with a restful sleep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Today generates solutions to complex situations. Helpful information arrives. Examine past patterns. They reveal what to expect for the future. Concentrate in order to follow through with projects and promises. Tonight: You will be juggling a variety of activities.

DWANE MILLER

June 1, 1937 - January 4, 2021

Dwane Miller, sportsman, teacher, coach, and beloved friend and family man passed away on January 4, 2021 in Bend, Oregon. He was 83.

Dwane was born in Grants Pass, Oregon and grew up in nearby Glendale. A proud Oregonian, he found great joy in the outdoors and the profound beauty of our state. As an avid bird hunter, fly fisherman, skier, and golfer, he built lifelong friendships and had many tales of adventure he passed along to his children and grandchildren - "Gramps" was always full of wonderful stories.

At Glendale High School he was a four-sport letterman. His exploits on the baseball diamond as a fierce, hard-throwing pitcher earned him a scholarship to Linfield College in McMinnville. A natural leader who took immense pleasure in the success of others, he gravitated toward the teaching profession. He earned a Master's Degree, and went on to teach junior high, high school, and community college students in Eugene.

At Sheldon High School he combined teaching with his love of competitive sports to become the head baseball coach and athletic director later he became the head baseball coach at Lane Community College.

Dwane was both creative and industrious. He built his own fly rods and tied flies, and built a drift boat to fish the McKenzie, Rogue, and Umpqua Rivers in. He was an accomplished woodworker, restored a vintage Airstream trailer and, with one of his sons, built a hot rod that he drove until his final days. As with everything he did in life, he pursued his hobbies with vigor, enthusiasm, and integrity.

Dwane is survived by his wife of 38 years, Susan W. Miller, five children, and four grandchildren. He leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter, of students, ballplayers, buddies, and family who were enriched by his friendship and loving care. He will be deeply missed.