

Education issues maintain low profile in Oregon legislature this year

By Rep. Bill Bellamy-District 55

Competency testing and state funding for education were major issues in the 1977 State Legislature, but this session's education issues have maintained a low profile. Although these issues have not been making headlines, my work on the House Education committee has given me numerous opportunities to support changes in the system which would benefit small, rural schools.

Some major structural changes in the system have been proposed recently in the Senate. That State Board of Education would be elected and the Superintendent of Public Instruction would be appointed under proposals approved recently by the Oregon Senate. Currently, the superintendent is elected and the seven-member board is appointed. The Senate approved a bill (SB 452) which

would require an election of the board and reduce the membership on the board to five members.

(SJR 12) which proposes a constitutional amendment to remove the election requirement for the superintendent also was approved.

A third measure (SB 450) which would give the governor power to appoint the superintendent from nominees submitted by the board was returned to the Senate Education Committee pending removal of a residency requirement.

In the area of state spending for education, I support maintaining 40 per cent state support of basic education. This year's basic school support will cost \$341 million.

Senate President Jason Boe pointed out that the state

cannot continue to fund basic school support without knowing how the money is spent. I support the view that the state should set limits on what it considers basic education and pay 40 per cent of that amount.

Serving on the House Education Committee, I have been very interested in how many programs affect small, rural schools. I have always believed that the basic decisions affecting education should be made at the local level. For the education system of Oregon to be effective, there must be local responsibility supported by state guidelines.

I would welcome any input from the people of District 55 on Oregon's education program as strengths and weaknesses. My address is: Rep. Bill Bellamy, H371, State Capitol, Salem, Oregon 97310.

Public invited to Elementary spelling bee

Elementary and secondary students in Morrow County schools will participate in a district-wide spelling contest at Heppner Elementary School Monday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

The contest is divided into three divisions with the top speller of each division qualifying for state level competition at the Oregon State Fair next September.

School-level contest winners who will take part in the district wide competition are the following: Division 1, Elementary to Grade 6, A.C. Houghton, No. 1, Eric Lindsay, second, Stacy Eads, third, Maureen Lencke, Ione School, Donny Doherty, second, Eric Pointer, third, Mike Rietmann; Heppner, Renee Struthers, second, Chris McLaughlin, third, Trina Palm-

er; Division Two, Riverside, Robin Haws, Betti Slocumb, third, Amber Thompson; Ione, Chris Rietmann, second, Cathy Cheney, third, Denny

Starr, Heppner, Kathy Smith, Suzie Jacobs, third is Robert Bier; Third Division, Grades 10-12, Riverside, Tammy Collingwood, Carol Smith, third, Kathy Farlow, Ione, Teena Lindstrom, Carol Cheney, Lisa Meyers and Heppner, Scott McEwen, Alice Abrams, third, Nancy Miller.

Readers for the contest will be Mrs. Lucille Peck, Mr. Cliff Williams and Mrs. LaVerne Partlow. The contestants and spectators will report to the Elementary School multi-purpose room for starting instructions. Refreshments will be served at the end of the contest while the results are being determined.

BMCC summer term expanded; registration set

Summer term at Blue Mountain Community College has been expanded to include a wide variety of college courses.

"It's the biggest summer school program we have ever offered," according to Pat Loughary, dean of students at BMCC.

Classes will begin June 18 and most will continue for a six week session. Day and evening classes have been incorporated into the schedule for students who work.

Courses to be offered include: First Aid, Personal Health, Physical Education—Racquetball, English Composition, Introduction to Literature, Principles of Accounting, History of World War II, Psychology, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Business Math, Biology and Elementary Microbiology.

The philosophy behind the

expanded summer program was outlined by Loughary. He said, "A student at BMCC should be able to be here and be a full-time student all year long if he or she wishes."

Registration for all summer classes will start on May 21 and continue through June 12. Cost of the courses varies depending on the number of credit hours assigned to that particular class. Tuition is figured on a \$9 per credit hour basis.

High school students planning on attending a four-year institution this fall will find that they can pick up many of the basic mathematics, p.e., social science, and science courses that they will need.

"The interest level in summer school has been high so far," Loughary noted. "If it goes well, we will plan on expanding the program even more next year."

Senate proposes \$60-million for roads by limiting use of highway taxes

By Sen. Ken Jernstedt-District 28

The Legislature is floundering over the question of tax relief, but it is making progress in efforts to meet our road and highway needs.

The Senate has approved and sent to the House a proposed constitutional amendment to limit the use of highway taxes to road and highway purposes only.

The measure, SJR 7, will be voted on by the people at the next statewide election. If approved, it will mean an additional \$60 million to meet repair, maintenance and construction costs.

The \$60 million is only a drop in the bucket—but it's a start in the right direction. Most importantly, it will be achieved without any new

taxes or increases in existing taxes.

The amendment requires that non-highway programs such as state police, parks, Willamette greenway and bike

paths, be funded from the income tax rather than from gas taxes.

If the people endorse this philosophy, it will put an end to further raids on the highway fund. In addition, the Governor is taking action to put our highways back in shape. He has already earmarked \$17 million in general fund money to be pumped into the highway program.

It's the first time in many years that a Governor has recommended that general fund dollars augment the

highway fund. Also, the Governor has named former State Sen. Anthony Yturri of Ontario as the new chairman of the State Transportation Commission. Yturri's appointment is good news for all Oregonians, and is especially good news for my constituents. Senate district 28 is largely non-urban, and Tony Yturri, an eastern Oregonian, has a practical and realistic understanding of our particular problems in regard to roads and highways. He is the right man, in the right place, at the right time.

With his firm hand on the rudder, and with the commitment of the Governor and the legislative leadership, we are well on our way to meeting one of the top priorities of the 1979 session.

Oregon Beef Council says 'Cut a little, save a lot'

The Oregon Beef Council is making an effort to help consumers with their food budget in a statewide advertising and public relations campaign entitled "Cut a Little, Save a Lot."

The promotional program is

designed to show consumers how to save up to 30 per cent on retail beef purchases by buying large, economical beef cuts and following in home

meat-cutting techniques. The Beef Council is offering a free

six page booklet on cost savings.

The pamphlet may be obtained free by writing or calling the Oregon Beef Council, 400 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205.

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<p>SAVE</p> <p>CABBAGE</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">19¢</p> <p>LB.</p>	<p>SAVE</p> <p>TOMATOES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">49¢</p> <p>LB.</p>	<p>SAVE</p> <p>APPLES</p> <p>RED DELICIOUS</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">3 LBS. \$1.00</p>

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