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Governor candidate Dudley says Oregon needs more taxpayers, not more taxes

Ex-Trail Blazer visits Heppner in run for governor

By David Sykes

Oregon governor candidate and ex Portland Trailblazer basketball player Chris Dudley paid a visit to Heppner last week on his quest to become the Republican candidate for governor in next November's general election.

Oregon Governor Candidate Chris Dudley talks to a crowd at Heppner city hall last Friday. Dudley played 16 years in the NBA, including six years with the Portland Trail Blazers. "How tall are you?" someone asked. "Six foot ten and a half," he said. *–Photo by David Sykes*

Dudley gave a talk to the gathered crowd at Heppner city hall last Friday and then took questions from the audience.

He focused mainly on economic issues and the loss of jobs and business opportunity in Oregon. "I am frustrated with the direction our state is going," he said. "We are not living up to our potential. We have to change our direction." He said Oregon is blessed with great natural resources, hard working people and many other assets, but we are not using them to create jobs for the citizens of the state. He likened it to a card game where the state has four aces and throws two away.

Dudley says in the last year the state has lost about 120,000 jobs, and our elected officials are making the situation worse. "There are fewer private sector jobs in Oregon than there were 10 years ago. We need to promote and protect our businesses. We need to appoint people to government positions that have some business sense." He said especially since the passage of measures 66 & 67 (both tax increases which he opposed) businesses are talking about moving out of Oregon. He said the state is in a "death spiral". The less money Salem receives the more they tax the businesses. The more businesses are taxed the less they produce and hire workers, causing even less tax money going to Salem, he says. "We don't need more taxes, we need more taxpayers," he said.

Dudley says state government is not being starved as some would have you believe, and in his printed material he showed that in the past 10 years state spending has gone from around $29 billion a biennium, to close to $56 billion, a 48 percent increase in real dollar terms.

Dudley says that in his travels around the state he is finding that people do not trust their government. "They feel their voices are not being heard," he says. As an example he says during the last regular session of the legislature the Democrat Governor would

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Blanket Hugs for Haiti's Orphans

By Autumn Morgan

After the earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, Union College in Lincoln, NB began sending groups of students to help with the relief efforts. These students were part of the international rescue and relief degree program at the school.

Mindy Wenberg, daughter of Ken and Bonnie Wenberg of Heppner, became one of the students who would be traveling to and from Haiti with the disaster relief teams. She began sending pictures of the devastation to her mother. After seeing the pictures, Bonnie knew she wanted to help but was not sure how. One day at her bank, Bonnie saw a poster listing items needed in Haiti. At the bottom of that list were blankets.

Bonnie began working on a plan to make blankets and send them with the groups from her daughter's college traveling to Haiti. She received some donations from the Heppner community but donated much of the fabric herself. Bonnie, along with a few others in the community, began working on the blankets. The first batch they sent contained 82 blankets. The project was called Blanket Hugs for Haiti's Orphans.

The blankets were sent to the students who would then take the blankets to Haiti and pass them out in person. This procedure ensured that the blankets would reach the people in need. Pictures are taken of the recipients, along with their blankets, and sent to Bonnie, who, in turn, displays them at Artisan Village. "It is very rewarding (to see the pictures)," said Bonnie. "The look on their faces is enough to keep sewing. The need is so great."

Pictured is a young Haitian child who received one of the blankets made in Heppner for the Blanket Hugs for Haiti's Orphans project. *-Contributed Photo*

While she continued to make blankets in Heppner, Bonnie put the Blanket Hugs for Haiti's Orphans information on the internet. Other quilting shops have seen the information and have also begun making blankets to send. The shops that have responded are small shops like Artisan Village.

The blankets being made are lightweight with two pieces of flat cotton and no batting in the middle because of the heat in the Haiti. "(I am) making them out of bright, colorful fabrics because their lives are so drab right now."

Bonnie plans on continuing to send blankets, at least through the summer. Along with the international rescue and relief students that are traveling to Haiti, another group of students not affiliated with the degree program are planning a six-week trip to the country this summer.\

A total of 234 blankets have been made in Heppner and sent to the Haitian people. Blankets are the fewest of all items that have been donated.

Anyone interested in making a blanket can pick up a simple pattern at Artisan Village. For more information or to donate fabric or money for shipping, call 541-676-8282. If sewing is not your forte, you can also donate to the Red Cross or other relief organizations. More information about Blanket Hugs for Haiti's Orphans can be found at www.quiltersroundup.com.

Candidates to talk issues at Sunday's forum

Governor, Representative, DA, County Judge and Justice of Peace candidates to participate

The public is invited to a candidates' forum Sunday, April 11, starting at 2 p.m. at the Heppner High School cafeteria.

Candidates running for Governor, State Representative, District Attorney, Justice of the Peace, Morrow County Judge and County Commissioner will be on hand to answer questions from the public.

As of Tuesday the following candidates had indicated they would be there: Governor candidate Rex Watkins and a representative for Allen Alley, #57 Rep. Coleen McLeod, County Judge Terry Tallman and Dean Kegler, DA candidates Justin Nelson and Tom Cutsforth, and Justice of the Peace Terry Felda, Ann Spicer and Earl Wood. County Commissioner Ken Grieb will also be there, however, he is running unopposed.

The forum will be moderated by local attorney Bill Kuhn, and is sponsored by the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots. Members of the audience will be able to submit questions to the candidates to be answered.

Easter Rabbit arrives by limo

Top Photo: The Easter Bunny showed up in style Saturday at the annual Elks Easter Egg Hunt. A limousine delivered Mr. Rabbit to the city park where he visited with children before the hunt.
Bottom Photo: The Easter Bunny spends some time with Hailee Peck, 2½ years old, Saturday at the Elks Easter Egg Hunt. *-Photos by David Sykes*

NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged slightly warmer than normal during the month of March.

The average temperature was 44.6 degrees which was 0.6 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 56.8 degrees, which was 2.5 degrees above normal. The highest was 73 degrees on the 17th. Low temperatures averaged 32.4 degrees, which was 1.2 degrees below normal. The lowest was 25 degrees, on the 18th.

There were 16 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.89 inches during March, which was 0.71 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 6 days with the heaviest, 0.48 inches reported on the 13th.

Precipitation this year has reached 3.31 inches, which is 0.98 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 6.45 inches, which is 1.63 inches below normal.

The outlook for April from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for below normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during April are 61.3 degrees and normal lows are 37.1 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.40 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

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