

STATE BUDGET SAVINGS

-Continued from Page ONE

state could save \$100 million, and then \$17.2 million per biennium, by privatizing liquor distribution and sales in Oregon, and \$53 million by doing the same with motor vehicle registration and inspections.

In other areas she says if the state eliminated the Business Energy Tax Credit it could save \$287 million, the healthy kids connect program for \$154 million, bring corrections costs in line with national average and privatize the Oregon Youth Authority it could save \$350 million.

The biggest cost savings however would come with reform of public employee compensation, which she says, according to studies done by her organization, The Cascade Policy Institute, is out of line with private sector compensation. Edwards says that requiring public employees to contribute to their own retirement and health care plans, and aligning state compensation with the private sector, this alone could save the state \$1.019 billion a biennium.

Edwards also said the state should sell or lease the Elliott Sate Forest near Florence for revenue of \$70 million per biennium, and reduce or eliminate Oregon's capital gains tax, which at 11 percent, is tied with Hawaii for the highest in the country. The state should also repeal measures 66 & 67 which raised taxes on individuals and businesses, all of which is causing loss of business, jobs and tax revenue for Oregon. She urged getting rid of prevailing wage laws, which are causing unneeded cost increases to government construction projects.

When asked about the loss of local control over schools, which has occurred over the past decade, Edwards says at this time there is no effort she knows of to return more control locally.

She does favor charter schools and school choice. "We should let poor students get scholarships to choose which school they want to attend," she says. On the subject of school consolidation Edwards says legislators from the urban areas says it cost more to educate rural students. "But when you take out transportation it doesn't cost more to educate a rural student," says Edwards. "Our biggest assets in rural schools are the volunteers who help out

at the schools."

Wolves in Oregon

"Officially they say there are two breeding wolf packs in Oregon," Edwards says of the plan to reintroduce wolves into Oregon. "But we think there is a third pack." She said Cascade Policy Institute is looking for funding to do a more complete study of the economic impact of the wolves on rural Oregon.

She said there is some preliminary evidence of loss of weight gain and lower reproduction rates on cattle in the areas where wolves are located. Wolves killed two pregnant cows Feb. 15 on a ranch five miles east of Joseph, and one of the cows carried twin calves. The wolves took down the two cows and reportedly dug out the fetuses. One cow is valued at about \$850, but because both cows were carrying calves, the loss was around \$1,300 per cow. In the past year Fish and Wildlife has investigated 26 suspected wolf kills and concluded 13 were from wolves.

Edwards says there is more economic impact on cattle than just the kills. "It is more difficult to move cows into an area where wolves have been," she said, pointing out that the presence of the wolves disrupts the cattle's breeding and weight gain.

The Cascade Policy Institute, which receives no government money or government grants for its research, she says has been trying to get the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to donate some money for a wolf study. She said some areas of Idaho with a high wolf population are reporting devastating losses among the elk herds. "There is no replacement calf birth," she said. In one valley in Idaho there are officially 24 breeding pairs of wolves.

The wolves being transplanted are not even the original breed. "These are Canadian wolves, and not even the original ones that were here," she points out.

She said there is currently a bill in the legislature to create a wolf degradation trust fund to pay cattlemen for losses, and another that would limit the number of breeding pairs to four. "The environmental community keeps wanting to move the bar higher (allow more pairs) and we want to cap it at four pair and written into law." Another bill would allow a person to kill a wolf if

their life is threatened and allow one to be taken if it is within 500 feet of a home or livestock.

She said other efforts are underway to get the wolves removed from the federal endangered species list, but no such effort is underway to remove them from the state list.

Edwards said the entire Endangered Species Act (ESA) needs to be revised as it is "not benefiting either species or people." "The ESA is not benefiting the Spotted Owl," she points out. There is evidence the Barred Owl is moving into the old growth timber that was preserved to protect the Spotted Owl, a move that shut down the logging industry in most of the National Forest and cost Oregonians thousands of jobs.

One procedure suggested was nullification, which local government can use to force the federal government to review the endangered status of species every five years. "The Washington Cattlemen's Association (which Edwards was a lobbyist for several years ago) sued the Fish and Wildlife department for not reviewing certain species to see if they need protecting. "We need to keep the Fish and Wildlife's feet to the fire," Edwards said.

Forest planning rules also need to be overhauled, Edwards says. "Why is the planning rule so important? Because you are in perpetual planning mode and no action mode. The environmentalist community has continually held up logging over one species. We need to soften that and have a balance of the ecosystem. We need to change the best available science rule to the most practical available science (when making decision on

forest use)," she says.

Edwards suggested more control at the local Forest Service level. "If you do not have a lot of economic activity in your forest then you do not get a lot of money." She used the example that forests that have more logging or grazing, and thus more income, should receive more money in their budget. She also suggested that if the city of Portland, for instance, gets its water from the federally owned Bull Run water shed, then the city should be required to pay for that use of keeping that forest pristine and isolated from other uses. "This is important to you and your economy," she said of rural areas. She added that efforts are underway to designate certain areas as wild lands, which is a way to get around needing congressional approval for wilderness areas. "This is already affecting grazing," Edwards said. Fifty-three percent of the land in Oregon is owned by the federal government, and since passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964 congress has added 2.4 million acres of forest to wilderness designation.

On what to do about the concentration of voting power in the metropolitan area of Portland, to the detriment of rural Oregon, Edwards said she has spent a lot of time of the issue. "I have spent long hours and headed down many dead end alleys looking for that answer," she said. She urged citizens to write letters about rural issues not only to their state representative, but also representatives from other rural districts. "A personal letter to a legislator is very good, very effective," she concluded.

The speaker was part of a program sponsored by the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots.

Remembrance Walk/5k Run planned for Saturday

Friends Helping Friends Social Hour/Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday at All Saints Episcopal Church fellowship hall.

You need not walk nor run to join in the morning fun. Committee members will serve drinks and homemade treats.

The Remembrance Walk/5K Run is a fundraiser to Pioneer Memorial Hospital. A Pot of Gold and

various door prizes will be given away to various pre-registered number holders.

With a \$5 donation, per name to be memorialized, participants will receive a pink Remembrance Walk/5K Run wristband. The walk one mile, the run three, and children accompanied by an adult are free. Watch for the green shamrocks with pink hearts along the route.

Ione Community School hosts science fair



The top winners of the fifth annual Ione Community School Science Fair received microscope sets sponsored by the Ione Education Foundation. Pictured (L-R) back row: Emily Holland, Lauren Garrett, Emily Rea, Morgan Orem and Julianne Carlson. (L-R) front row: Emma Rietmann, Matt Orem, Jake Heideman and Madison Orem. -Contributed Photo

Ione Community School hosted its science fair for grades kindergarten through high school student that boasted over 200 people present and seventy entries. Student were accountable for developing a project, creating a report complete with objective, hypothesis, materials, procedure, data, conclusion and bibliography in addition to a display board.

Each project was unique and different and catered to the individual interest of students. "I was really proud of these kids," said science teacher, Erin Heideman. "Their projects were wonderful and they did a tremendous job at the fair. This is the fifth year for the science fair and it keeps getting better. We outgrew the cafeteria and moved into the gym."

Elementary judges were Jim Swanson and Jerry Archer, middle school judges were Paul Neiffer and Della Heideman and high school judges were Dale Holland and Dick Allen. The winners of each category listed below received science medals and ribbons, judges picked an overall fair exhibit and those students each received microscope kits sponsored by the Ione Education Foundation. People who attended the science fair voted for a 'people's choice' award in each category; grade, middle or high school and those students each received Ione Cardinal t-shirts sponsored by Ione Community School.

Grade school winners were: Austin Morter, 5th grade (1st Biology: Microbiology); Morgan Orem, 5th grade (Overall Judges Pick, 1st Biology: Botany); Anthony Rietmann, Seth Thompson, and Andrew Ames, 5th grade (1st Physical Science: Machines); Dayshawn Neal and Roman Rodriguez-Sheena, 5th grade (1st Physical Science: Physics); Maggie Flynn, 5th grade (1st Physical Science: Chemistry); Katilin Garrett, 5th grade (1st Physical Science: Chemistry); Grace Ogden, 1st grade (1st Biology: Animal Physiology); Jake Heideman, 3rd grade (Overall Judges Pick, 1st Physical Science: Physics); Emma Rietmann, 3rd grade (Overall Judges Pick, 1st Biology: Animal Science); Matt Orem, 3rd grade (Overall Judges Pick, 1st Earth Science: Volcanoes); Payton Miller, 4th place (People's Choice Award, 1st Paleontology); Madison Orem, kindergarten (Overall Judges Pick, 1st Biology: Botany); and Calvin Rietmann, kindergarten (1st Physical Science).

Middle school winners were: Emily Rea and Lauren Garrett, 8th grade (Overall Judges Pick, 1st Biology: Botany: Physiology); TJ Patton and Brendan Thompson, 7th/8th grade (1st Biology: Physiology);

Hannah Padberg and Yaner Cavillo, 6th grade (1st Biology: Botany: Behavior); Ally Haguewood, Matty Camp, and Katelyn Bass, 6th grade (1st Biology: Microbiology); Karina Rios and Rita McElligott, 8th grade (1st Physical Science: Chemistry); Joe Doherty, Oskar Peterson, and Daniel Holz, 8th grade (People's Choice Award, 1st Physical Science: Machines); Babali Peterson and Amanda Rea, 6th grade (1st Physical Science: Other); Austin Carter and Hector Aguilar, 6th grade (Physical Science: Electricity); Ann Rietmann and Rachel Holland, 7th grade (1st Earth Science: Geology: Minerals); Hailey Jones and Brianna Snyder, 7th/8th grade (1st Earth: Geology: Volcanology); and Jared Snyder and Colton Hollis, 6th grade (1st Astronomy).

High school winners were: Julianne Carlson, 10th grade (Overall Judges Pick, People's Choice Award, 1st Biology: Psychology); Dustin Lutz, 10th grade (1st Biology: Ecology); Ty Barnett, 10th grade (Biology: Microbiology); Evan Rietmann, 10th grade (1st Biology: Botany: Physiology); Emily Holland, 9th grade (Overall Judges Pick, 1st Biology: Botany: Anatomy); Stacey Halvorsen, 10th grade (1st Physical Science: Chemistry); Tanner Bass, 10th grade (1st Physical Science: Physics: Machines); and Jaqueline Juarez, 10th grade (1st Earth Science: Geology: Meteorology).

People's Choice awards, voted upon by the parents who attended, in the elementary was given to fourth grader, Payton Miller. In the middle school, People's Choice was awarded to eighth graders Daniel Holtz, Oskar Peterson and Joe Doherty and in the high school, Julianne Carlson. Overall judges pick for the grade school was awarded to third grader Emma Rietmann for her experiment titled "Can you tell if dogs are color blind?" and fifth grader, Morgan Orem for her wheat trials. Other overall judge's pick in the elementary went to kindergarten, Madi Orem and third graders Jake Heideman and Matt Orem. Middle school overall winner went to eighth graders, Lauren Garrett and Emily Rea for their work with moisture levels of fruits. Overall pick for high school went to sophomore, Julianne Carlson, for the physiological testing of people and lying and freshman, Emily Holland for her work in osmosis and capillary action. "I would really like to extend my deep thanks to our education foundation for sponsoring the microscope kits, ribbons and metals awarded to students for their efforts," said Heideman, "and to the judges who volunteered their time and talents."

**Our Friendly Staff
In Heppner
Would Like To Thank
Our Customers
And Invite
Prospective Customers
To Come See Us Today!**



Amy Kollman
Branch Manager



John Hays
Commercial/Agricultural
Loan Officer

**Community
BANK**

Local Money Working For Local People

Heppner
127 N Main St
541-676-5745

www.communitybanknet.com

Member FDIC

HAPPY BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE FOR BOB JONES



Please join us to celebrate the 80th birthday of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather & friend.
April 2nd from 1-4 pm
60111 Stock Drive Rd.
Heppner OR 97836
No gifts please

St. Patrick's Pit Ham Dinner

Where finicky Leprechauns eat!



Saturday, March 19 from 4 - 7 p.m.

Serving: Pit Ham, Irish Potato Casserole,
Green Salad, Veggie, Roll & Homemade Pie!

Adults - \$9 / Children under 12 - \$5
Wee ones - free

St. Patrick's Church Parish Hall
525 Gale Street (one block off Main Street)