

PROBLEM WITH PERS

Judges and legislators who decide Oregon's retirement system all belong, says Re

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 lion for the 2013-2015 biennium. Meeting this obligation will cause all other government services to be cut back, he says.

"That means that Oregon's 900+ PERS participating employers will have no choice but to make additional reductions in services. For schools, class sizes will increase and teaching days will decrease, resulting in lower-quality education for Oregon's children," he said.

How this huge liability evolved can be traced back to 1971, when legislators were allowed to join the PERS system, Re says. After legislators were allowed to join PERS, the rest of us not on PERS had no meaningful representation, says Re.

"Now we have a system where the people of Oregon who have to pay, have no independent representation on PERS," he told a crowd of about 40 at the Sept. 30 town hall meeting in Heppner. "The people of Oregon have no authority to change the PERS system because the members control the

whole process."

As an example, he says most of the Senate, 22 out of 30 Oregon senators, will be in the PERS. He says, in addition, PERS laws are passed with an emergency clause which prevents them from being referred to the people for approval.

"What is the emergency of a PERS law?" he asked rhetorically.

After legislators were included in PERS, the legislators more than doubled PERS benefits from 1971 to 1981, says Re. Then, in 1984, the legislators forced Oregon's judges to become PERS members. Thereafter, he says, PERS members in the legislature had 100 percent control over the making of all PERS laws, and they used that control to make PERS funding Oregon's highest financial priority, thus starving other programs of funding.

When PERS laws are challenged in court, guess what, says Re; the judges are all PERS recipients.

"We should have the right of independent judges who do not have a direct financial interest." He says

that if any other lawsuit were to come before a court where the judge had a financial stake in the outcome, the case would be thrown out, or an independent judge would be found.

Re broke the PERS recipients into three categories, or tiers:

-Tier one recipients have the best benefits, with many of them retiring in their 50s at 100 percent of their salary. Twenty-seven percent of the people are tier one.

-Tier two recipients have slightly lower benefits, and 27 percent are at this level.

-Tier three has the lowest benefit, with 43 percent of government employees on this level.

Re said there are presently 350,000 employees in the system.

Re said to begin to correct the system, all PERS laws enacted since 1970 should be invalidated.

"Laws passed after 1970 should be voided," says Re, "because of conflict of interest." He says the eight percent of the population that is on PERS "might have some pain but look what they have done to the other 92 percent.

Look at the pain they have inflicted."

Under the current legislative priority, PERS always gets paid first, says Re.

"When there is not enough money to fully fund PERS and maintain services to the people of Oregon, PERS gets fully funded and services get cut. That is why PERS employer rates are increasing by \$900 million for the 2013-15 biennium and that is why government services will be cut back during that same period to pay for the \$900 million increase in PERS funding," he said.

Re said he has a lawsuit addressing issues of conflict of interest but, once again, all before judges who have a conflict.

"We should have the right of independent judges who do not have a direct financial interest," he said. Re said there was a possibility of a federal lawsuit if he could show Oregonians have been denied due process.

The town hall meeting, held Sunday, Sept. 30, was sponsored by the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots, and was attended by about 40 people.



PERS expert Daniel Re

Obituaries

Loren Elmer Woodside

Loren Elmer Woodside, 82, passed away on September 29, 2012 as a result of an auto accident following a day of hunting. A memorial service was held on Saturday, October 6, at 11 a.m. at Memories at Sunset Event Center, 915 Bypass Highway, Richland, WA.



Loren Elmer Woodside

Loren was born in Spokane, WA on August 19, 1930 to Lyda and Frank Woodside. Frank managed a crew of linemen for the Washington Water Power Co., and they moved several times. As a result, Loren attended grade school in Lind, middle school in Davenport, and high school in Ritzville, all in Washington. He graduated from Ritzville High School in 1949.

Since his dad worked for Washington Water Power, as a kid he had summer jobs that included hoeing weeds around power poles. This gave him lots of experience killing rattlesnakes. The presence of hobos during the depression era was a significant memory from Loren's childhood.

While in high school, he delivered groceries for the local grocery store. As a result, he knew everyone in town. He also attended most of the dances in the county.

He was in the Seabees branch of the Navy during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1954, as part of the supply chain. He was stationed at Subic Bay in the Philippines.

While in the Navy, he received electrical training and, after being discharged, worked for the Rural Electric Association in Othello, WA. In 1954, he married Pat Cline. In 1957, he realized his life-long dream to become a farmer, and began farming in the Lind area, where he and Pat raised their family. They were married for 23 years.

For a few years, Loren raised pigs. His children have memories of chasing the pigs back into the pen during a dust storm. As a child he often asked for a horse, and his father would tell him no, because they had no place to keep one. Loren would respond saying that they could keep it in the garage. His own kids were delighted when one day he showed up riding a

black pony, which was the beginning of the family's adventures with horses.

While living on the farm, he always had a bird dog. The first hunting dog killed off most of the chickens, but Loren wanted the dog far more than chickens, so that was the end of their experience raising chickens.

He was the principle breakfast cook for his family while his kids were growing up. He did not believe in cold cereal; real men ate pancakes. He eventually experimented with sourdough, and his sourdough pancakes became a favorite, even at hunting camp. He also freely gave advice on nutrition that usually included eating raw garlic.

Loren married Sheron Bunch in 1978. They retired from the farm and moved to Lexington in the early 1980s. Their marriage ended in 2004.

His true passions in life were hunting and trapshooting. He took part in trapshoots all across the Northwest, and hunting expeditions as far away as Alaska and Canada. His grandchildren knew him as Grandpa Grizz due to his bear-hunting interests and stories.

He loved to play Santa at Christmastime for his children and grandchildren, and even continued that role in later years for local community events.

He was a mentor to family and friends, and a source of positive encouragement. He enjoyed researching the family history and was a great storyteller.

He is survived by: his three children, Kathryn Woodside, Scott Woodside and Lori Woodside; the love of his life, Sherry Sager; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by: his parents and his sister, Barbara Teske.

Loren was a member of the Masonic Lodge all his adult years. In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that donations be sent to the Shriners Hospital for Children or a charity of choice.

Sign the online condolence book at www.burnsmortuary.com. Burns Mortuary of Pendleton was in charge of arrangements.

VOTE Cody **HIGH** County **COMMISSIONER**

ATTENTION!
Medicare Open Enrollment
 Every Tuesday 3-5 pm
Hermiston Public Library

Trained SHIBA volunteers will answer your medicare questions & assist you with open enrollment strategies & explain Medicare benefits

Medicare Open Enrollment ends Dec. 7th, so use this opportunity to review the Medicare plan that is right for you.

For more information, 541-667-3502



If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available and that help is FREE of charge.

If YOU have a family member who suffers from gambling addiction, YOU can also receive FREE treatment even if the gambler is not receiving treatment. If you are a resident of Morrow County and you wish to take advantage of the services above or desire more information, Please call any of the following numbers to set up a LOCAL appointment or just to talk: Bobby Harris @ 541-676-9925 or 541-256-0175 Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) @ 541-676-9161 OR 1-877-695-4648 (1-888-MYLIMIT)

Driver safety class scheduled

An AARP driver's safety class has been scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 7, at the Morrow County Center of Blue Mountain Community College, located at 300 NE Front Street in Boardman. The class is set to run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a one-hour lunch break.

The AARP Driver's Safety Program is the nation's first course for driver's age 50 and over. Those who take the course will learn defensive driving skills, plus get a refresher on the rules of the road. Topics include safe driving tips, coping with health issues, vehicle maintenance and updates on driving laws. Participants who complete the course may also qualify for a discount

on their personal vehicle insurance.

Cost is \$12 for AARP members, \$14 for non-members. A special Veteran's Day offer allows current or past military personnel and their spouses to take the class at no charge during the month of November. Proof of status will be required on the day of the class.

Pre-registration is required, as the instructors are traveling from out-of-town and must have minimum enrollment to hold the class. Pre-register by contacting Anne Morter of BMCC at 541-481-2099 or amorter@bluecc.edu, or by stopping by BMCC Boardman on Monday or Wednesday from 1-5 p.m.

Youth group plans bake sale

Heppner's ecumenical youth group will hold a bake sale this Friday, Oct. 12, from 8-11 a.m. in front of Heppner Family Foods.

The proceeds will go toward an outreach project to purchase a new air conditioner for Ron and

Beverly Howe for Howe's About Pizza.

Anyone interested in donating baked goods or making a monetary donation can contact Shelli Britt at 676-5478, Robanai Disque at 989-8535 or Vicki Rayburn at 541-240-1427.

NEWS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
Monday at 5 p.m.

Tires LES SCHWAB

Heppner Les Schwab congratulates Heppner Elementary School's Students of the Month.

The character trait for September was self-concept



Top (L-R): Jordan Sweeney, Kenneth Troxell, Brock Hisler, Hunter Nichols, Madelyn Nichols, Jaiden Mahoney and Jacee Currin. Bottom (L-R): Irelynn Kollman, Aubriana Rodriguez, Paul Lindsay, Jack Mathews, Hallee Hisler, Landon Mitchell and McKenna Bray.

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