

Business Notes

Negatives of tobacco enticing investors to change their choices

When socially responsible financial investors became concerned about investing in tobacco companies, it was time for the financial industry to gather more data about the question.

For this purpose, a study was conducted by the Social Investment Forum, a national

non-profit membership association that promotes the concept and practice of socially and environmentally responsible investing.

Results of the study will help provide institutional investors with information and options concerning tobacco divestment, according to

Fishhawk Lake broker Troy Horton, who assists local investors interested in responsible investments as a representative of First Affirmative Financial Network (FAFN), a financial firm specializing in responsible investing.

"People who apply value-based investing have realized

they can still meet their financial goals. Recent successes, such as the free elections in South Africa, have let responsible investors see how their investments are also creating positive changes in the world," Horton observed.

In the past, tobacco stocks have been chosen by mutual fund companies and financial professionals because they were profitable, which fulfilled their duty to clients. Now the climate around tobacco is so negative, that may no longer be the case, according to Craig Van Hulzen, director of

research at FAFN.

Many of the top mutual funds own stock in the tobacco companies, so millions of people who try to stay as far away as possible from tobacco, probably get a pretty good whiff of nicotine in their nest egg. Nevertheless, it is possible to cleanse a portfolio of tobacco. According to a recent study by the Social Investment Forum, a national non-profit association, over \$110 billion in personal, religious, mutual fund and pension portfolios are managed to avoid exposure to tobacco.

Regional economic director selected

Jeffrey King, formerly director of Regional Economic Development for the State of Massachusetts, has been hired as executive director of Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District Inc., a non-profit organization established to diversify and expand the economic base of Columbia, Tillamook and Western Washington Counties.

"We believe that Jeffrey's experience and training will help make the Columbia-Pacific Economic Development

District an important catalyst in promoting economic development in the northwest region," said Michael Sykes, president of the District.

King, who has ten years of experience in grant-writing, economic and community development, said he was looking forward to providing project support and assistance to create new jobs in the area.

"I believe that this region has a lot of strengths, including a good quality of life, available land, lower costs, a

labor force with a strong work ethic and supportive public and private leaders," he said.

King's initial tasks will include the administration of a federal Economic Development Administration planning grant, preparing and coordinating regional plans, improving access to capital and financing for business, and providing technical assistance to communities in implementing high priority economic development and infrastructure projects.

The Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District of Oregon, Inc., was formally created in 1994. Its goals are to advocate the economic development interests of the three county region, promote coordination, communication and cooperation among economic development groups and government, to actively support existing businesses and promote new business development. The District will have offices in St. Helens, Tillamook and Forest Grove.

Furse schedules local field offices

Ann Richardson, a district representative for Rep. Elizabeth Furse, will be available at the following Columbia and Clatsop County locations. To make an appointment in advance, call the Portland office, 1-800-422-4003. Constituents may also drop by at the scheduled times.

Vernonia: January 9 and February 13, 1997, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Vernonia Public Library, 919 Bridge St.

Scappoose: January 8 and February 12, 1997, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Public Service Building (City Hall), 33568 E. Columbia Ave.

St. Helens: January 8 and February 12, 1997, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Columbia Center, Armstrong Room, 375 S 18th.

Clatskanie: January 8 and

February 12, 1997, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. City Hall, Council Chambers, 95 S. Nehalem.

Rainier: January 8 and February 12, 1997, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. City Hall, 106 West B Street.

Seaside: January 9 and February 13, 1997, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Seaside Public Library, Discovery Room, 60 Roosevelt.

Astoria: January 8 and February 12, 1997, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Astoria Public Library, 450 - 10th Street; January 9 and February 13, 1997, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Port of Astoria, 1 Portway.

Cannon Beach: January 9 and February 13, 1997, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower.

Season's Greetings

COLUMBIA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

Columbia County is developing a plan to address transportation systems (highways, roads, bicycle & pedestrian access and mass transit) for the next 20 years. This is your chance to share your suggestions on how you would like to see the transportation system work in the future.

Join Columbia County and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in a public workshop and open house for the Columbia County Transportation System Plan (TSP).

Thursday, January 16

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Columbia River P.U.D. building
(64001 Columbia River Highway in
Deer Island)

TSP presentation begins at 7:30 p.m.
ADA Accessible

County, consultant and ODOT staff will be on hand before and after the presentation to answer questions and gather public suggestions.

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