

# Top industry organization opposes Sizemore tax cut initiative

The AOI Board of Directors, representing the state's largest business group, voted in June to oppose the income tax cut measure known as the Sizemore Initiative. The vote, which came during the Board's regularly scheduled quarterly meeting, makes AOI the first business organization to oppose the measure.

Although Sizemore has not yet submitted sufficient signatures to qualify the measure for the ballot, the Board strongly believed it needed to take an

early position. "The Board feels that as Oregon's leading business association, AOI has a responsibility to oppose fiscal irresponsibility," said AOI President Richard M. Butrick.

The Sizemore Initiative eliminates the federal income tax limit taxpayers may deduct before applying Oregon's tax rate. The serious flaw in the measure is its retroactive effect back to Jan. 1, 2000. That requirement would create cuts of 30 percent in state-funded programs, including local schools,

next winter and spring.

The current \$3,000 limit now provides more than 10 percent of total income tax revenue for the State's General Fund, or approximately \$1.5 billion. "The elimination of those dollars will destabilize the state and cut deeply into the ability to educate our children," said Butrick.

AOI introduced a similar but

more moderate bill in the 1999 Legislative Session. The AOI bill would have raised the federal income tax limit from \$3,000 to \$10,000. The Legislature opted for an increase to \$5,000 and referred the bill to the November ballot.

It was the 1973 Oregon Legislature that implemented the first limit on deductibility of fed-

eral taxes paid in calculating Oregon's personal income taxes. In doing so, they created what is essentially a tax on a tax.

"We believe that the tax policy changes need to be fiscally responsible," said AOI Executive Vice President and tax specialist Gary Carlson. "This proposal, while appealing, simply goes too far."

## SWCD seeks people for Master Watershed course

The Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District continues to work at several levels on the county's conservation front. It is currently collecting names of people interested in participating in OSU's Master Watershed course, a series of eight classes which will be offered in St. Helens beginning January 2001.

The SWCD also continues to work with Columbia County's three watershed councils - Scappoose Bay, Lower Columbia River, and Upper Nehalem, each of which is building an impressive track record. Margaret Magruder, coordinator of Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, accepted an invitation from the Governor's Conserva-

tion Task Force to represent the state's watershed councils during 2000-01. Scappoose Bay is gearing up for a culvert study, and the Upper Nehalem is in the process of getting ready for another year of streamside tree planting projects.

The Lower Columbia River Watershed Council is also working with the District and Oregon State University Sea Grant Program on Oregon Watershed Week 2000 - coordi-

nated statewide festivities - by planning a community conservation event in mid-October. The afternoon picnic, complete with fiddle music, will be held in the Clatskanie City Park next to the Clatskanie River Demonstration Project, where family fun and education will be offered.

For additional information, contact Jean Johnson at the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District Office 397-4555, ext. 104.

## Growth a big factor in PCC budget

The Portland Community College Board of Directors formally adopted the college's general fund fiscal year budget during its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 22, at the Sylvania campus conference room. By a unanimous vote, the seven-member board adopted a general fund budget of \$102,935,569 which includes opening expenditures for the 2000-01 fiscal year. The levy to property owners will be \$.2828 per thousand of assessed value.

The breakdown by campus is: Sylvania, \$28,784,555; Rock Creek, \$13,376,638; and Cascade, \$10,865,306, plus \$5,616,500 for adult and continuing education programs, and \$4,660,861 for PCC's busi-

ness and government services.

The PCC general fund is the college's primary operating fund for all major instructional programs, instructional support and services. The main sources of revenue are property taxes, tuition and community college funding from the State of Oregon.

PCC will ask district voters to approve a bond measure on the November 2000 ballot to provide financing for much-needed additions and improvements to facilities. The approved budget does not include provisions for the bond measure. A separate budget will be presented for construction projects if voters approve the bond measure in November.

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|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| VERNONIA                        |                             |                               | MIST-BIRKENFELD         |                   |                              | BANKS                      |                        |                             | COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.) |                   |                               |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Al-Anon                         | Mondays                     | 6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.   | M-BRFPD Board           | 2nd & 4th Tuesday | 7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station | Alcoholics Anonymous       | Fridays                | 8:00 p.m., Methodist Church | Board of Commissioners   | Wednesdays        | 10 a.m., Courthouse           |
| Alcoholics Anonymous            | Mondays                     | 6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.   | M-B Ambulance Assoc.    | 1st & 2nd Thurs.  | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Banks City Council         | 2nd Tuesday            | 7:30 p.m., City Hall        | Citizens for Senior Justice                                      | 2nd Tuesday       | 7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church |
| Alcoholics Anonymous            | Saturdays                   | 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.   | M-B Firefighters Assoc. | 1st & 2nd Wed.    | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Banks Planning Commission  | Last Tuesday           | 7:00 p.m., City Hall        | COLCO Transportation   | 2nd Friday        | 10:30 a.m., Courthouse        |
| Arts & Crafts Society           | 2nd Thursday                | 1:00 p.m., New Hong Kong      | M-B Rescue              | 3rd Wednesday     | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Banks School Board         | 2nd Monday             | 7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library | County Council of Seniors  | 2nd Friday        | 1:00 p.m., Courthouse         |
| Boosters                        | 2nd Wednesday               | 7:30 p.m., VHS Library        | M-B Helping Circle      | 2nd Wednesday     | 10:00 am, 755-2346 for info. | Banks Youth Group          | Sundays, Wednesdays    | 7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.  | County Fair Board  | 2nd & 4th Mondays | 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds        |
| Boy Scout Troop 201             | Tuesdays                    | 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.   | Natal Grange            | 2nd Wednesday     | 7:30 p.m., Grange Hall       | Chamber of Commerce        | 1st Thursday           | 12:30 p.m., Brown Derby     | County Parks Commission  | 3rd Thursday      | 6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.    |
| Boy Scout Troop 860             | Wednesdays                  | 7:00 p.m., LDS Church         |                         |                   |                              | Citizen Participation Org. | 3rd Monday, odd months | 7:15 p.m., City Hall        | Emergency Comm. Dist. (9-1-1)                                    | 3rd Tuesday       | 7:00 p.m., Courthouse         |
| Cemetery Beautification Comm.   | 2nd Thursday                | 7:00 p.m., City Library       |                         |                   |                              | Friends of the Library     | 1st Saturday           | 10:00 a.m., City Library    | Historical Society   | 4th Wednesday     | Noon, location call 429-3713  |
| Chamber of Commerce             | No meetings July and August | 1:00 p.m., Senior Center      |                         |                   |                              | Lions Club                 | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays   | 7:00 p.m., Methodist Church | Traffic Safety Commission  | 1st Wednesday     | 7:00 a.m., Village Inn        |
| Doll Club                       | 4th Tuesday                 | 6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church |                         |                   |                              | Sunset Park Assoc.         | 3rd Wednesday          | 8:00 p.m., Gun Club         |  |                   |                               |
| Girl Scouts                     | Thursdays                   | For location call 429-7193    |                         |                   |                              | TOPS                       | Wednesdays             | 7:00 p.m., Jr. High Library |  |                   |                               |
| Izaak Walton League             | 3rd Thursday                | 6:30 p.m., Lew's Place        |                         |                   |                              | Tri-City RFPD Board        | 2nd Wednesday          | 7:00 p.m., Station 13       |  |                   |                               |
| Lions Club                      | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays          | 6:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.   |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Narcotics Anonymous             | Thursdays                   | For Info Call 429-4074        |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Nehalem Valley Car Club         |                             | 10:30 a.m., City Library      |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Preschool Story Hour            | Mondays                     | For location call 429-2401    |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Upr Nehalem Watershed Council   | 4th Thursday                | 7:00 p.m., City Library       |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Airport Committee      | 3rd Wednesday               | For location call 429-1414    |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Cares Directors        | 1st Thursday                | 6:30 p.m., City Hall          |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia City Council           | 1st & 3rd Mondays           | 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.   |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Comm. Dev. Corp.       | 2nd Monday                  | 7:00 p.m., Grange Hall        |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Grange                 | 2nd Friday                  | 6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.     |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Health Center          | 2nd Thursday                | 7:00 p.m., City Hall          |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Planning Comm.         | 1st Thursday                | For Info Call, 429-1204       |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Pride                  |                             | 7:00 p.m., City Library       |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Ridge Riders           | Last Thursday               | 7:00 p.m., Fire Station       |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia RFPD Board             | 2nd Tuesday                 | 8:00 p.m., District Office    |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia School Board           | 2nd Thursday                | 1:00 p.m., Senior Center      |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Sr. Center Board       | 1st Friday                  | 7:00 p.m., Fire Station       |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters | 2nd Monday                  | 7:00 p.m., WOEC               |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |
| WOEC Directors                  | 3rd Tuesday                 |                               |                         |                   |                              |                            |                        |                             |  |                   |                               |

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410