

Oregon briefs

Teacher salaries

SALEM (AP) — The average Oregon teacher salary exceeded \$30,000 for the first time in 1989 last school year, the state Education Department says.

Acting marshal

SALEM (AP) — Susan Browning has been appointed acting state fire marshal, according to the state Executive Department.

Getting grant

SALEM (AP) — The city of Madras will receive \$70,000 in lottery funds for expanded industrial park utility work, the state Economic Development Department says.

Giving credit

PORTLAND (AP) — The Bonneville Power Administration has launched a new conservation program that offers billing credits to customers who conserve BPA-produced power or develop new energy resources.

Foul play?

ALBANY (AP) — Linn County authorities fear that a 13-year-old girl, missing from her home in the Cascade for more than a week, is likely the victim of foul play.

Spill in Rogue

GRANTS PASS (AP) — The city of Grants Pass discovered Tuesday that 70,000 gallons of treated sewage sludge spilled into the Rogue River.

Composting test

ALBANY (AP) — An experiment in composting grass straw has taught farmers and the grass seed industry that the practice will never replace field burning.

For terminal cancer Teacher pleads for treatment

PORTLAND (AP) — A schoolteacher whose breast cancer has spread to her spine and pelvic bones has begged insurance company officials to pay for a bone marrow transplant she says is her only chance for survival.

Without the treatment, her doctor says she has about a year to live. "I'm not done with my life yet and I'm hoping there's some immediate action to this whole unbelievable thing," she said outside Blue Cross.

Although federal health officials also regard the procedure as experimental, one major insurer to report the procedure as experimental.

By state CSD Boy placed with convicted abuser

SALEM (AP) — The state Children's Services Division has advised that it allowed a 14-year-old boy to continue living with a foster parent even after learning the man had a prior conviction for child sex abuse.

Now, the Portland man has been convicted and charged with a felony. The CSD spokesman said the boy was placed in the foster home because of a placement problem.

Asked whether any of the alleged abuse occurred after Smith's conviction became known to CSD officials, Paks said:

"It's quite possible, but I don't know. I don't have any accurate information about when this child was placed in the foster home."

Ethics members have no plans for quitting

SALEM (AP) — Five members of the Oregon Ethics Commission say they won't have to pressure from critics and resign over ethics violations.

The executive director of the commission, Betty Shephard, said last week that her resignation has been raised by the criticism and she's looking for another job.

Prices going up sharply

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices, led by sharp increases in food and gasoline costs, shot up 2.5 percent in June, more than double the rate of the past two months, the government said today.

Through the first six months of the year, consumer prices have been rising at an annual rate of 3.9 percent, well above the 4.1 percent for all of 1989.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, meanwhile, sent a strong signal today that the central bank will act to cool the economy out of a recession by lowering interest rates and policy-making regulators are trying to come up with such a package, but have made little progress.

To the White House

This petition of 76 signatures asking for President George Bush to become more involved in the fight for timber jobs goes to the Oval Office, according to Darrell Holland of Powers, Holland said.

The White House asked for the effective date of 1990, rather than 1989 as originally proposed by Reps. Charles Stenholm, D-Texas, and Larry Craig, R-Idaho, the chief sponsor.

The so-called balanced budget amendment is the amendment for the truly religious because the balance to which it refers occurs only in the hereafter," said Rep. David G. Bonior.

But supporters said it was their best hope of restoring the government to fiscal balance.

"I don't like the constitutional amendment," he said. "But we must figure out how to have the courage to raise the revenues or cut the expenditures or expand the already unacceptably large debt burden on the next generation."



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The petition calls for Bush to "give a boost" about Oregon jobs and timber. "The drastic effects that will have the economy grow much deeper than timber," says the petition, "it effects housing, paper products, jobs, education, and our children's future in all 50 states."

Law to balance budget fails by just seven votes

WASHINGTON (AP) — A balanced budget constitutional amendment came within seven votes of passing the House as lawmakers showed frustration over Congress' inability to strike a deficit-reduction deal with the White House.

Democrats were sure to deliver the message that they need more leadership from Bush, especially in selling to the public the prospect of pocketbook-painful decisions on taxes and programs too.

The government's debt topped \$1 trillion this year and would reach \$2 trillion before the amendment took effect.

The amendment starting in 1990 would prohibit government spending from exceeding revenues, or any increase in government borrowing, unless the requirements are waived for a limited period.

Rep. Wayne Owens, D-Utah, said he had opposed a balanced budget amendment all his political life, but he voted for it Tuesday.

Boy placed with convicted abuser

and a person, I grieve that a child in our care and custody was injured." The 14-year-old boy is living in state care for delinquent youths in Multnomah County and is undergoing psychological evaluation to determine what treatment he needs.

The CSD spokesman said the boy whom he declined to identify withheld Smith's name and asked that he be placed in Smith's home.

"This is a child who had significant placement problems, a placement placement was arranged," he said.

Smith, who is divorced, said during initial interviews with CSD that he had a prior criminal record. The boy was placed in his home in May 1989, Paks said.

Some time after that, the CSD received information that raised some questions about Smith and began looking more closely at his background, Paks said.

"In November, Smith revealed that he had been found guilty of a misdemeanor sex offense in New York state," Paks said, adding that he wasn't aware of the exact nature of the offense.

"That should have raised 'red flags' about Smith, but a CSD caseworker nevertheless decided not to order the boy removed from Smith's home, a decision that was supported by several supervisors, Paks said.

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Commissioner Robert Ingalls of Corvallis, in Monday's meeting with the Statedem Journal, said he was angered by the Senate Republican leader's call for members of the panel to resign.

"I will resign if I'm actually doing something wrong," Commission Chairman Christopher Fryer of Eugene said Monday.

Much of the criticism of the panel

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