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Opinion

A7 • Wednesday, February 27, 2019 • Raymond Rendleman, Editor • rrendleman@pamplinmedia.com

New vehicle fee unfair to county residents

It is unfortunate that the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance setting a \$30 per year county-wide vehicle-registration fee.

At least I went and tried to make a difference at a second public hearing Thursday when they decided to pass the ordinance against my objections and the protest of many other county residents.

During the three minutes they allowed me to speak, I told them that I thought the proposal is ridiculous. They're just tacking it onto the current DMV registration fees, which are already way higher than they should be.

I believe they should make people who buy new cars get renewed every

two years, just like cars bought more than three years ago. Currently, if your car is older than three years, you have to get it renewed every two years. If your car is two years old or newer you don't have to get it renewed for three to four years. If they make everyone equal and slightly raise the price, I think it would grant them just as much money, if not more.

What about vehicles that drive in the county, but don't get their tags here? Cargo vehicles, delivery companies (FedEx, UPS, etc.) and people who live outside the county don't go through our DEQ stations, but they should somehow give Clackamas County fees too for driving on our roads. Maybe it should be a statewide fee that gives money

to the county and a fee for DMV inside the county? Or maybe there should be a tax on items purchased online only, which goes directly to the counties the items are delivered to?

I think a gas tax would also be a more reasonable option. With a vehicle-registration fee, only residents of Clackamas County are paying for maintenance of our roads. If we really do need to impose a fee to get caught up on road maintenance (I'm not convinced they can't find another way out of their more than \$1 billion county budget), a fuel tax would impose the fee on everyone using the county's roadways and purchasing gas within Clackamas County. If I go to Multnomah or Washington counties and I

need gas, I pay their fuel tax. Why shouldn't Clackamas County require out-of-county residents to help in maintaining our roads? Many of them use our roads to travel to Mt. Hood, among the many other popular tourist destinations we have. I oppose the vehicle-registration fee, and would rather opt for a fuel tax for this reason.

It seems like there could be a lot of different ways this could be resolved to be more beneficial to our roads and fairer to our residents. Why does it have to be a heavy dollar amount added just to those who get their vehicle tags in Clackamas County, when the amount we are already charged is expensive? This will just hurt those families living in Clackamas County who are in the middle- to low-income brackets.

Tiffany Turgetto is a resident of unincorporated Happy Valley.



COMMUNITY
SOAPBOX
TIFFANY
TURGETTO

Arithmetical trivia for Bob Moore's 90th birthday

Feb. 15 marked the 90th birthday of Bob Moore, the founder and pioneer of Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods in Milwaukie. Bob is a true visionary in producing high-quality nutritional whole grain foods and the natural food business he founded in 1978 is an Oregon success story that will be an inspiration for generations to come.

I had the opportunity to meet Bob personally at Bob's Red Mill Whole Grain Store in Milwaukie and recognized him to be a humble man who truly cares about others. In his honor, I constructed the following number trivia as a birthday gift for him:

■ The product of the digits of Bob's 90th birthday, expressed as 2/15/19, equals 90.

■ Further, 3 times the product of 2 and 15, the month and day numbers of

Bob's birthday, also yields 90.

■ Moreover, the difference and the sum of 2 and 15 are 13 and 17 respectively and interestingly, 3 times the sum of 13 and 17 equals 90 too.

■ The product of 13 and 17 equals 221, the reverse of 221 is 122, the 122nd prime number is 673, and 3 times 673 equals 2019.

■ Additionally, 13 and 17 are the 6th and 7th prime numbers and 6 square plus 7 square equals 85. Note that if numbers 1 to 26 are assigned to the letters of the English alphabet, the numbers assigned to the letters of Bob Moore also add up to 85.

■ Bob and Moore each contain 3

and 5 letters respectively and note that the difference and the product of 3 and 5 yield 2 and 15, the month and day numbers of Bob's birthday.

■ Bob's birthday, Feb. 15, is embedded in his first name, Bob, and here is how: If numbers are assigned to the letters of Bob as 2/15/2, the leftmost two numbers 2/15 represent February 15 and the rightmost two numbers 15/2 represent 15 February. (Note that Bob's 73rd birthday in 2002 expressed as 02/15/02 represented the letters of Bob in this form.)

■ Bob's birthday coincides with the 46th day of each year (2/15) and interestingly, 46 equals the sum of the numbers assigned to the

letters of one of Bob's favorite words: Mill.

■ Furthermore, the sum of the digits of 2/15 equals 8; 8 square is 64, and the reverse of 64 is 46 too. Note also that Bob Moore consists of 8 letters.

■ Lastly, 64 times 8 is 512 and the reverse of 512 is 215, Bob's birth date, 2/15.

Thank you for your genuine commitment in providing us healthier nutritional food, Bob Moore, and happy 90th birthday!

P.S. Coincidentally, my office number in Donald P. Shiley School of Engineering is 215 representing Bob's birth date, 2/15.

Aziz Inan is chair and professor teaching in the electrical engineering program of Donald P. Shiley School of Engineering at the University of Portland and he can be reached at ainan@up.edu.



COMMUNITY
SOAPBOX
AZIZ INAN

Oregon's working poor need help from Salem

For Oregon families living in poverty, work is the rule, not the exception.

This harsh reality speaks to the need for state lawmakers to enact policies that boost the take-home pay of low-income working families. And one important step the 2019 Oregon Legislature can take in that direction is to significantly increase the state's Earned Income Tax Credit.

Such a move would help some 300,000 families throughout Oregon, including nearly 20,000 families in Clackamas County.

We recently crunched the numbers on the share of families living in poverty despite their work effort. A recent analysis by the Oregon Center for Public Policy revealed that the majority of Oregon families living in poverty have at least one working parent, and often that parent works full time.

In 2017, more than two-thirds of Oregon families living below the federal poverty line had at least one parent who worked. Bear in mind, the federal poverty line is set at an unrealistic

low level — just \$20,420 for a family of three in 2017, for example. The federal poverty line understates the amount of income a family needs to actually get by.

Even with the low threshold that is the federal poverty line, families with a full-time worker often struggle to rise above it. Among all Oregon families living in poverty in 2017, a quarter had at least one parent working full time.

That figure — the share of families in poverty despite having a full-time working parent — was higher in 2017 than in 2010, the year following the end of the Great Recession. This shows that economic growth and the availability of jobs alone are not enough to ensure that working families can cover the costs of housing and other essentials.

Another distressing finding from our analysis is that having a parent who works is the norm for an Oregon

child growing up in poverty. In 2017, about three of every four Oregon children growing up in poverty had at least one parent who worked.

That bodes ill for these children and for our state. Decades of research have shown that stress caused by poverty during childhood can impact a child's cognitive development, physical health and earnings as an adult. Certainly, if we want to improve educational outcomes in Oregon — as policymakers in our state hope to do — we need to tackle head on the problem of poverty despite work.

An effective way to help low-income working families make ends meet is by increasing the state's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This Oregon tax credit works just like the federal EITC, widely regarded as one of the most effective antipoverty tools. That proven track-record is one of the reasons why the tax credit has long enjoyed widespread bipartisan support.



COMMUNITY
SOAPBOX
JANET
BAUER

READERS' LETTERS

We can't wait to address climate change

Climate change is happening; it is here, it is real and it is the biggest threat to our planet.

We have all seen the reports; we cannot wait any longer. Drastic action must be taken now. Individually we can all do things in our lives to combat climate change, but we also need to call on our political leaders to lead.

When this nation decides to really do something, we can succeed. The original New Deal was widely dismissed, but very few now would even consider getting rid of Social Security and Medicare. Our government recently passed a massive tax cut costing the nation trillions, which mostly went to the very wealthiest among us, so clearly we can

afford to save the planet.

For our children, our neighbors' children, our community, the wildlands that we all love — for all those we share this planet with — it is time to take action. The Green New Deal does this by creating new good jobs and making our tax structure more fair.

The majority of Americans want serious action on climate

change and supporting the New Green Deal is the best way to make our leaders know we are serious.

Lynn Spitaleri Handlin
Happy Valley

We welcome submissions from readers on local issues for our Opinion page. Please send your thoughts to Raymond Rendleman at editor@clackamasreview.com.

Please keep Letter to the Editor submissions under 400 words; longer submissions will be considered for Community Soapboxes. Submissions may be edited for length, grammar, libel and appropriate taste. Letters must be accompanied by a full name, a telephone number and street address for verification purposes. Readers are also invited to call 971-204-7742 with story ideas and comments.