



Farmer Scottie Pippen needs your Tax \$\$\$

Portland Trailblazer nets \$131,000 tax farm subsidy!!!!



Under the new federal crop subsidies, some of America's richest will get increased government pay-outs to not farm. This includes Portland Trail Blazer Scottie Pippen for his farm in Arkansas, at a cost to taxpayers of \$131,575. Some of the other farmers whom taxpayers subsidize and pay not to farm include billionaire David Rockefeller (\$352,187), CNN founder Ted Turner (\$176,077), ABC anchor Sam Donaldson, and of course, a dozen members of Congress who helped craft the bill.

Washington Times, 5/21/02

\$10,000 in travel for school board meeting

State tries to tax volunteers in Mason Cemetery case
The Reynolds School District is spending \$10,000 to send six board members to the National School Board Association Conference in New Orleans. Registration alone is \$695 per person. Other school districts chose not send representatives this year.

The Oregonian 4-5-02

State wants volunteers to pay business taxes

For more than a decade the Central Point Masons have been volunteering to clean and maintain an abandoned historical cemetery. The state wants to charge them fees for the business name of the cemetery and background checks for all volunteers. The Masons reply that they are not running a business, and the cemetery is no longer active.

Mail Tribune June 10, 2002

\$4.5 million in uncollected debt:
Portland's city building code enforcement office has \$4.5 million in uncollected fines.

Willamette Week

Police chiefs gone bad

The King City Police chief, Jim Brooks, has resigned after it was discovered that he has a 30-year history of arrests and firings. The city said it never did a fingerprint or background check, and him hired without even knowing his home address. Brooks had been arrested in three states and has been fired from three law enforcement jobs.

The Pendleton Police Chief is under investigation for having intercourse with a city employee on city property. Since the incident, the Police Chief has been on medical leave by request of his doctor.

The Oregonian 4/29/02 & 6-11-02



Government Idea:

Let's Tax Volunteers!

State tries to tax volunteers in Mason cemetery Case

Animal owner" label deemed harmful to animals

Eugene animal activists are pressuring the city council to change the city code reference of "animal owner" to "animal guardian". The Animal Welfare Network of Lane County claims that animals are not property, and changing the name

would help people stop abusing animals.

Register Guard 5-8-02

School technician sells school software on eBay

The Centennial School District computer technician, Michael Richards, resigned and is under investigation for selling school software on the internet via eBay. Richards contends that he retrieved the software out of the garbage can and sold it.

The Oregonian 5-7-02

Does Happy Valley really need a \$10 million swimming pool?

Happy Valley is considering a \$10 million bond to build a community center to include swimming, weight room and conference rooms. Happy Valley has 4,000 residents and is about \$2,500 per person.

Urban renewal funds

● The White City Urban Renewal agency has granted \$101,000 of taxpayer dollars for a skatepark.

● In Wilsonville, the new city hall is running over cost projection by \$2 million, and the city is planning to use urban renewal funds to help make up the difference.

Medford Mail Tribune 3-25-02

Thought Light rail was expensive? Just look at where it stops.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer is working on a \$3.5 million plan to build a covered light rail station that features businesses.

No raise too high in a recession

Superintendent Yvonne Katz demanded an \$87,000 raise, to make \$241,000 despite proposed cutbacks in teacher health plans in her district and a looming recession. She later resigned to go to Texas where a higher salary was offered.

Welcome to the Taxpayers' Hotel

Clackamas River Water District is losing money on a house that they own and are renting to one of their employees for \$200 a month. The agency is considering tearing the house down (despite recently spending \$4,200 in improvements). The district manager notes that rent has just increased to \$300.

The Oregonian 4-11-02

Only .03% taxpayers return kicker checks

Kicker returns prove media was wrong

Only .03% of Oregon taxpayers checked the box on their tax return to dedicate their kicker to schools. Some of those taxpayers received thank-you notes from the state, even though they did not check the box. Taxpayers keeping their kicker check go against the media that has called returning the kicker checks to taxpayers in a recession "a cruel joke".

Bend Bulletin 4-17-02

Stop terrorist with welfare?

Former Sen. George McGovern linked terrorism to poverty while he was in Oregon to dedicate the new Oregon Food Bank Warehouse. McGovern called on president Bush to route Homeland Security funds towards ending hunger in third world countries. The terrorism link to poverty was made despite the fact that many of Sept. 11th high-jackers came from affluent families.

Keep it in the family

The Hillsboro School District ignores the competitive bidding process to the food distribution department in which one of the supervisors is married to their vendor. Cindy Longway, one of the food service supervisors is married to Phil Ongway who is part owner of Chehalem Fruit and Vegetable Co. District food contracts can be as much as \$750,000 for four months.

The Oregonian 6-17-02

An Oregon Dept. of Transportation official, Jerry Baggett, is under investigation for renting equipment from a businesses connected to his son and daughter-in-law. Bagget rented from two separate companies, Alpine Equipment and Jubera Rents, in which both list his son's home address as the primary place of business, even though his son does not own either.

The Oregonian 6-3-02

Sample of Oregon's pork barrel projects, from the 2002 Congressional Pig Book



- \$1,250,000 - Portland wet weather demonstration project
- \$1,000,000 - Salem Transit for natural gas buses
- \$500,000 - Oregon Renewable Energy Center
- \$300,000 - OMSI for their juvenile delinquency programs
- \$240,000 - Shellfish genetics research Oregon Ag.
- \$125,000 - Drop-out prevention program, OR Dept. of Ed.

*Citizens Against Government Waste
Pig Book 2002*

\$150,000 for Mayor Katz drivers:

Two full-time drivers and police officers help make themselves available to Portland Mayor Vera 24-hours a day, including shopping. Part of the cost includes \$21,000 in overtime. The Mayor is making good on her commitment to public transportation

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Government Success Stories

Prison changes saves \$25 million

Fred Monem, who works in food distribution, helped save taxpayers \$4.5 million in the cost of prison meals by bargain hunting and cost savings. His efforts are a great benefit to taxpayers. During the second special session, legislators were able to find over \$20 million in prison cost savings primarily through bond refinancing.

Private funds raise \$50,000 for art

While other towns use taxpayer funds to pay for their art projects, Reedsport has used private funds for theirs. The local Coastal Arts and Business Alliance has raised \$50,000 for a new sculpture/fountain to be featured off Highway 101. Many residents hope the fountain will be an attraction and help shape the character of the town. *Register Guard 6-10-02*

Public Figure handles questionable trip like true statesman

The Executive Director of the School Boards Association was told that his trip to the Winter Olympic Games, paid by a vendor, was inappropriate, even though it was legal. The director didn't justify his actions or hire lawyers and drag the ordeal out through court. He instead paid for the trip with his own money, and sent apology letters to all members. The director helped put the integrity of his office before his personal privileges