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GROUND RULES

Corban baseball player honors his fallen brother

SPORTS 1B



THE TIME IS NOW

'Smartwatches' are growing more and more popular, and big-name companies are noticing.

OREGON LIFE 1D

Statesman Journal

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013

StatesmanJournal.com

A GANNETT COMPANY

Bill factors teacher competency in cuts

Legislation would require experience, qualifications to be considered in layoffs

By Hannah Hoffman
Statesman Journal

Under current law, a school district facing the decision to lay off teachers has only one mandatory factor to consider: seniority.

The district can lose every science teacher and move English teachers into the chemistry classrooms, but all they have to consider is who has been teaching the longest, according to Oregon law.

That would change if the

Legislature passes House Bill 2692, which would require districts to consider both seniority and teacher competency when they cut positions or transfer teachers to other schools. Competency refers to a teacher's experience and qualifications teaching a grade level or subject; currently, competency is only a voluntary consideration for districts facing layoffs.

The bill is not universally popular among educators, although most support the principle behind it.

Some districts already take competency into account.

Salem-Keizer School District Superintendent Sandy Husk said her administration started its 2011 round of layoffs

See COMPETENCY, Page 2A

TO FOLLOW HB 2692:

The bill will have its first public hearing at 8 a.m. today before the House Committee on Business and Labor in Hearing Room E. To follow the bill online, visit the Oregon Politics Watch bill tracker, at StatesmanJournal.com/politics.



FINDERS KEEPERS

FREE ART FRIDAY ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED

A glass painting is hanging in a tree at a public park; catching the sunlight, catching your eye, catching your interest.

The design is a bouquet of lavender daffodils set against a lemon-yellow background, and it shimmers among the leafless branches.

You look over your shoulders; no one is watching. It would be perfect above your kitchen table. It would be perfect for your wife, your mother, your sister.

You see a tag attached. It says: "Help yourself, finders keepers." Do you take it?

Free Art Friday

Free Art Friday is one part global



Cara Pallone
INSIDE STORIES

Travis Derting (top photo) hangs a piece of glass art on the door at IKE Box. THOMAS PATTERSON / STATESMAN JOURNAL

art movement, one part social experiment.

Each Friday, artists across the world leave their works on the street or in public places — propped on a bench, dangling from a doorknob — for people to enjoy. There are no rules. There is no commitment. It's free for anyone to take home and enjoy.

The creative effort is gaining traction in Salem, thanks to a local nonprofit creative reuse organization called DIY Studio that two Salem friends formed.

Co-founder Jessica Ramey said she watched a video about Free Art Friday and suggested it as a project DIY Studio should sponsor.

"It was just something I felt needed to

See ART, Page 6A

Legislature to tackle economy, education and taxes

Panels to discuss legislation this week

By Peter Wong
Statesman Journal

The economy, education, the environment and taxes will be among the issues in front of Oregon lawmakers this week, but firearms restrictions apparently will have to wait for another day.

Committees will hear legislation on these subjects:

» **Education:** Public testimony on the state school fund, the largest single chunk of the combined tax-supported general fund and lottery proceeds, a test to determine teacher competency as a factor in determining staff layoffs, and bills affecting students attending school outside their home districts.

» **Environment:** Energy-efficiency standards for specified products, reporting of government use of pesticides, and a tax on carbon fuels.

» **Economy:** Development of large industrial sites, renewal and expansion of a tax credit for low-income working families, and conversion of the Oregon Investment Council into a public corporation.

» **Taxes:** Proposed ballot measures to require only simple majorities in the Legislature to raise revenue or reduce or eliminate tax breaks, a \$1-per-pack increase in cigarette taxes, and a repeal of a ban on county tobacco taxes, in addition to the proposed tax on carbon fuels.

The Senate Judiciary Committee had planned hearings on four bills on gun control Thursday. But the committee, without explanation, removed the hearings from the schedule.

Senate Bill 347, whose chief sponsor is Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, would bar firearms from school grounds unless districts decided otherwise. Senate Bill 796, sponsored by Chairman Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene,

See LEGISLATURE, Page 2A

INSIDESJ TODAY

MID-VALLEY

Discovering Oregon's agricultural heritage

GeerCrest Farm hosts monthly open houses to offer a glimpse of farm life. **Page 1C**



WEATHER

Partly cloudy today. **Full report, 6C**

61°
45°

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SPORTS

Beavers, Ducks baseball teams victorious

Oregon State completes a home sweep of Texas State; Oregon gives Vanderbilt its second loss. **Page 1B**

WORLD

Rome trying to prepare for massive crowd

Officials expect hundreds of thousands to swarm the area for the conclave Tuesday. **Page 2A**

MID-VALLEY

Salem City Council to discuss footbridge

The council tonight will look into grants for link between Minto-Brown Island and Riverfront Park. **Page 1C**

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Art

Continued from Page 1A

happen,” Ramey said.

The two began leaving art on the streets in early January, some of it their own, some of it donated by friends. They launched a “Free Art Friday Salem” Facebook page and encouraged artists and art seekers to engage with each other. Free Art Friday is somewhat a scavenger hunt; artists post clues by taking photos of their art in a well-known spot in town and those who follow the Facebook page head out to find it.

Ramey said the weekly event promotes local artists, attracts people to downtown Salem and provides residents with the opportunity to own original artwork at no cost.

Perhaps the most interesting element of the project, however, is the public’s reaction to the free, found art.

Find a painting, pick it up

A group of children and adults met Friday with intentions of peppering the city with artwork.

Each person came bearing pieces they had created themselves or had collected from friends or coworkers for the weekly event. Deanne Beausoleil, instructor of art history at Chemeketa Community College, had two pieces with her.

“I started to teach art because I think art should be available to everybody,” she said.

Wendy Derting and her 9-year-old son, Travis Derting, showed up with a bag full of hand-painted wooden eggs. Ramey was there with her two children and an assortment of items.

And Cindy Lacey showed up with several pieces, including the framed glass painting of the daffodil bouquet.

The group set off, leaving a print of a pumpkin field in a divot outside the YMCA. They placed a handmade turquoise bracelet gingerly on a utility pipe. They left a glass ornament on a fence in Willson Park.

They hid the wooden eggs throughout the Capitol Mall, as though Easter had come early. And at a fork in the sidewalk, where it most certainly wouldn’t be missed, they hung Lacey’s glass painting in a leafless tree. “It’s going to end up where it

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Artists: Artists of every level and ability can participate in Free Art Friday. Free, printable tags that say “Free Art Friday” are available online at www.diystudio.net. Take a picture of your artwork in the place you leave it and upload the image to the “Free Art Friday Salem” Facebook page at www.facebook.com/freetartfridaysalem to offer art hunters a clue.

Hunters: Clues about where the art has been left can be found on the “Free Art Friday Salem” Facebook page each week.

belongs,” Lacey said. “Hopefully with someone who needs their day brightened up.”

The point of Free Art Friday is not to hide in the bushes and surprise the person who collects the art. But just for fun, this one time, the group decided to stick around to see who would claim the glass daffodil painting.

The courage to take

It hung there for an hour or longer as dozens of people passed it by. People on cell-phones, people on bikes, people alone or with friends. No one

ONLINE

See my Inside Stories blog at StatesmanJournal.com/insidestories for a behind-the-scenes glimpse of reporting this story.

stopped to pluck the painting from the tree.

Could it be that passersby simply weren’t connecting with the painting?

“It might be that people have a hard time imagining there can really be no strings attached,” Ramey suggested.

The group decided to experiment and placed a painted wooden egg in the middle of the sidewalk. Several people stepped around it or over it. Finally, two women stopped. One of them nudged it with the toe of her shoe before hesitantly picking it up.

“One wonders if Salem is actually ready for this,” Wendy said.

Eventually, the group decided to move on, leaving Lacey’s painting in the park.

The connection

Midday Friday, Gabrielle James was walking through the Capitol Mall on her way to lunch

when a shimmer caught her eye.

James, who works at Willamette University, had heard about Free Art Friday, but it wasn’t on her mind when she saw a glass painting hanging in a tree at a fork in the sidewalk.

“I was so excited. It’s lovely,” she said. “It’s a gorgeous little piece; really sweet and really well-made. And on such a beautiful day, it just seemed fitting.”

For now, the painting is in her office with the tag still on it because it reminds her it was handmade and is a part of Salem. She has future plans to move it into a window so it can catch the sunlight.

Later that day, James logged onto Facebook and found the “Free Art Friday Salem” page. She found the photo Lacey had posted earlier after hanging the painting in the tree.

“I got it! And I LOVEEEEE it!” James wrote. “You do gorgeous work and utterly made my day!”

Cara Pallone is a storyteller reporter. Reach her at (503) 399-6744 or cpallone@salem.gannett.com. See her blog at StatesmanJournal.com/insidestories.

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