

# Central seeks \$26 M facilities bond

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — In November, Central School District will ask for a \$26 million bond to improve facilities, from expanding classroom space to adding gyms.

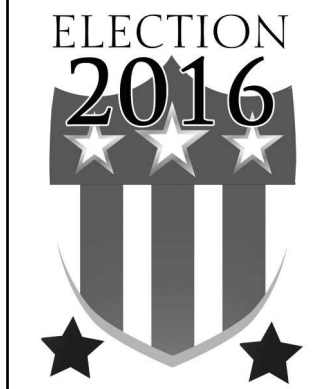
Should voters approve the measure, it should not raise property tax rates, Business Manager Cec Koontz said.

That is because of some refunding the district did earlier this year, the property tax rate that would be assessed is currently estimated to drop in 2016-17.

"If we pass this bond now, and interest rates on bonds remain low when we go to sell them, and assessed property values in the district grow at an average rate of 3 percent over the next 27 years, we estimate that the rate would stay at this year's level long enough to pay off the bond," Koontz said.

The goals for the bond stem from the long-range plan completed in 2012, Superintendent Buzz Brazeau said. Projects include major components of either deferred maintenance or maintenance issues in need of correction.

"Originally, we were talking about some field space over on 16th Street, some work at Independence Elementary School, Monmouth Elementary School and Talmadge Middle School," he said. "Halfway through the



process, we started looking at enrollment numbers, particularly at the middle school."

A bond exploration committee comprised of citizens, school board members and district employees saw that Talmadge is expecting one of the largest sixth-grade classes it's had: 290 students.

"The 2012 plan called for a potential addition of a pod at Talmadge to finish some of their needs," Brazeau said.

After looking at other needs in the district, Brazeau said the committee moved away from field space altogether.

"They identified work they felt we needed to do at IES," he said. "They felt we needed to air condition it."

While 100-degree days are uncommon in Polk County, they do happen, Brazeau said.

"When they are there, it's pretty intrusive," he said.

Other work at IES includes replacing the modular buildings, which are old

## Local seats up for grabs

Candidates have finished collecting signatures and have accepted — or will soon — their nominations for local offices.

In Dallas, Mayor Brian Dalton will run for re-election. The following will run for five seats on city council: LaVonne Wilson (for re-election), Kelly Gabliks (for re-election), Paul Trahan, Marsha Heeter, Ken Woods (for re-election), Jennie Rummell and Terry Crawford.

In Falls City, Mayor Terry Ungricht will run for re-election. The following will run for three seats on city council: Shane Curry, Charlie Flynn, Cliff Lauder, Jim Partridge, and Dennis Sickles (for re-election).

In Independence, Mayor John McArdle will run for re-election. Richard King will run for council position 3, now held by Forrest Peck; Kenneth Day, Michael Hicks and George Neujahr will compete for council position 5, held by Jerry Hoffman; and Kathy Martin-Willis will run for council position 6, held by Nancy Lodge.

In Monmouth, Councilor Steve Milligan will run for mayor. The following will run for four available council seats: Stephen Deptula, David Graham, George Jeffery, Mark Lane, Laurel Shamer, Byron Shinkle, Darin Silbernagel (for re-election), Thomas Steinke and Steven Sundseth. Jesse Schafer and John Oberst did not file for re-election.

The *Itemizer-Observer* will have more on the November general election, including more about local candidates, in future issues.

and in need of replacement, Brazeau said.

"And, of course, we have the requirement ahead of us that I know the Legislature is talking about and aren't going to address until February, and that's the increase in physical education in K-8 grade," he said.

The expected increase in PE requirements combined with the communities' needs for more athletic facilities gave the bond exploration committee members the idea that gymnasiums should be included in the bond, Brazeau said.

"We need to make adjustments in cafeteria spaces for lunch, and gymnasium spaces for physical education," he said.

Right now, elementary schools make use of gyms for lunch time, and many gyms are old without regulation stats — cushioned floors and short baskets.

Originally, the bond exploration committee recommended the school board go forward requesting the bond when the district would receive a \$4 million matching grant from the state.

"We didn't get the money," Brazeau said.

Even without the grant — which the district could still receive if Central voters pass the bond and other districts are not successful in their bond bids — the committee thought the timing was right to go for the money.

In addition to the district's needs at the elementary schools and middle school, the bond, if passed, should have no effect on property tax bills, Brazeau said.

"We can't guarantee anything, but the estimate that is in the current financial environment is that we would not be increasing the (tax) assessment for anyone," he said. "It would go longer; but the assessment wouldn't go up."

### Falls City

The Falls City School District trying again to pass a bond to build a new multi-purpose gym and cafeteria at Falls City Elementary School in November.

The district is seeking a \$2 million bond at the cost of \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value on property taxes over the next 20 years.

If the bond is passed, the state will provide another \$2 million for construction through the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program, which the Oregon Legislature approved during the 2015 session.

The Legislature appropriated \$126.2 million for grants during the 2015-17 biennium for school districts that pass school facility construction bonds. For November's election, six school districts were guaranteed grants if they could pass bonds. Falls City School District was third on the priority list.

The grant comes at no addition cost on property taxes in Falls City.

The bond failed by 11 votes in May's primary.

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Everyone is aware of the catastrophic effects on Europe, Africa and Asia produced by the World Wars... But **how did the World Wars impact Polk County?** What was the war like here at the "Home Front"? This is a part of Polk County history that is little known today, forgotten as the population has aged.

**How did we deal with the local effects of the war:** rationing, labor shortage, black-outs, fear of invasion, the disruptions caused by the establishment of Camp Adair, the concerns for loved ones who were in the Services and the new pressures on women who had to deal with life in the absence of their men gone into the war effort?

**How did Polk County change?**  
These are the topics that we wish to examine. A joint effort of the *Itemizer-Observer* and the Polk County History Museum is soliciting input from anyone who wishes to participate. Are you old enough to remember those times (at least WWII), do you have old letters, newspapers, photos, family history or diaries? We are open to almost anything that could give us an idea of "...how it was..." back then.

I welcome your contributions...I can be contacted at: davidm3123@aol.com.

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Four arrested in Dallas meth bust

DALLAS — Two men and two women were arrested on Thursday after a month-long investigation by the Polk County Inter-Agency Narcotics Team.

John Molina, 46, of Dallas, was arrested and charged with two counts of unlawful delivery of methamphetamine, one count of unlawful manufacture of methamphetamine, three counts of unlawful possession of methamphetamine and one count of unlawful delivery (possession with intent to deliver) of methamphetamine with substantial quantity.

Michael Gravelle, 46, of Dallas was arrested and charged with three counts of unlawful delivery of methamphetamine and one count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Brooke Williamson, 19, of Dallas, was arrested and charged with one count of unlawful delivery of methamphetamine.

Vicki Pastre, 41, of Dallas, was arrested and charged with one count of unlawful delivery of methamphetamine.

Since the beginning of August, several investigations were tied to these persons, who were part of an informal organization that distributed meth throughout the Dallas area, according to a press release from the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

## Orchestra accepts new members

MONMOUTH — The Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra welcomes new players as it begins its third year. This year, the orchestra rehearses on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Monmouth Senior Center.

There are no auditions or try-outs. The orchestra welcomes beginning-to-intermediate musicians, as well as more experienced musicians. At this time, the flute section is full. Flute players may be placed on a waiting list, or try a different instrument.

The orchestra gives two or three public performances. A \$25 monthly fee covers the orchestra's expenses, such as purchasing music.

For more information: Paul Doellinger, 503-838-4884.

## 'Marketplace' sold back to city

INDEPENDENCE — Friday, Family Treasures Marketplace, owned by Jewels Cresser, was sold in a sheriff's auction. The property, 240 Monmouth St., was sold back to the city for \$415,000 as a credit bid. Cresser will have a period of time to make redemption on the building.

"Our plans are to change the locks and secure the building at the soonest opportunity, provide for the return of personal property to the rightful owners and market the property pursuant to council directive," City Manager David Clyne said.

## Dallas DHS building complete

DALLAS — The Oregon Department of Human Services Multi-Service Center is complete.

The 33,000-square-foot building will house a number of resources, including an after-hours child welfare facility featuring an outdoor playground.

The building was completed by White Oak Construction in conjunction with Lenity Architecture.

To read more about the building, see polkio.com, "New DHS offices going up in North Dallas."

## Hill to read from book examining race

DALLAS — The Dallas Public Library will host an author visit by former Oregon State treasurer Jim Hill.

Hill will read from his new book, "The New 'N' Word: The White Middle Class," at the library at 7 p.m. on Sept. 15.

In 1992, Hill became the first person of color to be elected to a statewide office in Oregon. He served two terms as state treasurer. Prior to that, he served as an assistant attorney general at the Oregon Department of Justice, an Oregon state representative and an Oregon state senator.

After the recession of 2008, Hill noticed a change in the status of the white middle class in America. His premise is that discrimination isn't always race based; it is also about power and money.

He will be signing copies of his book after he speaks.

## Free trees to new Arbor Day members

POLK COUNTY — The Arbor Day Foundation is hosting a membership drive. All who join the foundation in September will receive 10 free trees as part of the foundation's Trees for America program.

Trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between Oct. 15 and Dec. 10.

For more information: arborday.org/September.

## Thompson to host town hall on Monday

DALLAS — House District 23 Jim Thompson candidate will host a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday at Pressed Coffee & Wine Bar, 788 Main St., in Dallas.

All are welcome to meet Thompson and talk about issues important to them.

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