

LETTERS

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These grant funds are being earmarked in a rush, for projects from a wish-list created by school district insiders. Details of this plan are hard to find. A City "Notice of Land Use Action" flier at the site tipped me off.

The School District seems poised to act first and answer questions later. (Does the tree-cutting incident at the elementary and middle schools ring a bell?)

Maybe a transportation facility is necessary, but surely there is a safer and less intrusive place to locate it. If you are concerned and want more info, contact BreAnne McConkie, the principal city planner at 541-323-5208, or email her at bmconkie@ci.sisters.or.us. The next bond oversight meeting is on December 6 and the next school board meeting is on December 13.

Dixie Eckford



To the Editor:

The proposed bus barn to be built in the existing student parking lot of Sisters High School and Sisters Park & Recreation District could be more aptly named a bus warehouse.

This outsized metal shed will have the same charm and function as the most uninteresting and obtrusive examples of its type. Additionally, it would be plunked right down in the existing high school landscape, thereby reducing the number of parking spaces and necessitating convoluted access routes (think fun-house maze) for users of the high school, the skate park, the new bike park and SPRD. The Bus Warehouse requires severe tree reduction at the southern edge of the lot, as well as significant intrusion on portions of the disc golf course.

And, oh yes, a chain-link fence.

Who authored this remarkable plan; when was it conceived? And how does it happen to be but one step from approval?

I urge any regular visitor to SPRD, the high school, the skate park, the new bike park or the disc golf course to check out the proposed site. Look first at the little forest between the school lot and Highway 242, then imagine that view blocked by a large metal warehouse and fleet of school busses, all surrounded by chain-link fencing. While you're at it, think about driving into the parking lot or trying to walk or bike to the SPRD building or the other play spaces in the complex. The proposed plan seems hostile to walking or biking and current use of the area. It will be a big lot, for big vehicles, user-friendly only for busses.

Let me be clear, I recognize the need for an improved facility, but this design seems to have been conceived in another time, for a different space.

There is no need to get in a fever to spend the bond windfall on an outdated, uncomfortable plan. Our community is filled with smart, creative people. We can put energy into creating a solution that will actually solve the problem as well as respect the site and those of us who use it.

Options for action exist. The comment period is still open. Attend the bond oversight meeting December 6 at 5 p.m. Attend the school board meeting December 13 at 5 p.m. Send comments to BreAnne McConkie, city planner, bmconkie@ci.sisters.or.us.

Linda Hanson



To the Editor:

Once again Sisters High School honored

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Court orders rewrite of term-limits title

By Steven Dubois
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Supreme Court on Thursday ordered a rewrite of the ballot title for an initiative petition that seeks to enact term limits for state lawmakers. Ballot titles are intended to provide a concise, neutral description of a measure. They're regarded as crucial information for voters who haven't done homework on an issue, and the language is frequently challenged in court.

The ballot title certified by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum this summer accurately says the measure would prohibit state legislators from serving more than eight years during any 12-year period.

But Oregon's high court agreed with an opponent of the ballot title that it omits a piece of key information: The measure would apply retroactively, quickly changing the composition of the Legislature.

The opinion written by Justice Martha Walters said there are instances when a measure is complex and some details can't be included in

the brief description. But, she added, the caption must accurately identify the major effects of a measure in terms that won't confuse voters, and the term-limits title fails in that regard.

"Without further information, voters reasonably could think that the measure is prospective only; that is, only legislative service after the effective date of the measure will affect a legislator's continued service."

The initiative petition was filed by former Republican gubernatorial candidate Bud Pierce. To qualify for the November 2018 election, supporters must collect nearly 90,000 signatures from registered voters.

The rewrite was sought by Matt Swanson, executive director of the Oregon chapter of Service Employees International Union.

Voters overwhelmingly approved term limits for state legislators in 1992, but the state Supreme Court reversed their decision a decade later on technical grounds. The governor, state treasurer and secretary of state are subject to limits.

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