

# SPRD to reduce after-school fees

The board of directors of the Sisters Park & Recreation District announced this week that the cost of the after-school program would be cut from \$8 per day to \$4 per day beginning this fall.

“As we promised the voters when we asked for their support in passing the local option tax levy, the board is reducing the cost of our after-school program by half,” said Board President Jeff Tryens. “SPRD’s predecessor, SOAR, was founded on the premise that every young child should have a safe place to go between when school ends and when mom or dad gets off work. Combined with a more robust scholarship program thanks to the local option levy, every parent, regardless of income, will be able to take advantage of this option.”

Fee reductions and scholarships, combined, constitute approximately \$40,000 of the \$203,000 that will be generated thanks to the newly voter approved levy. The board estimates that \$15,000 will go to reduced fees for after-school plus an

undetermined amount for after-school scholarships. The remaining \$25,000 devoted to reducing program costs will be invested in a combination of fee reductions and costs associated with starting up new programs.

The SPRD budget committee also approved: 1) \$35,000 to be spent on staffing needs including pay increases and benefits; 2) \$64,000 for a combination of building/grounds maintenance and capital improvements; and 3) \$63,000 to augment the district’s depleted carryover fund.

Tryens stated that the board will announce more specifics in the weeks to come regarding how the levy funds would be spent.

“As a Rotary member reminded me last week, ‘I voted to support the levy because the board said the funds would go to A, B, and C. I do not want to find out that they are going to D, E, and F instead,’” Tryens said. “My response: The board hears you loud and clear.”

# Officer mistakenly named in court

PORTLAND (AP) — A state police officer accidentally revealed in court Tuesday, July 31, the name of one of the officers who fatally shot a militia leader who participated in the armed takeover of an Oregon wildlife refuge.

The officer’s name slipped out this week during the trial of indicted FBI agent W. Joseph Astarita, who is accused of lying about firing shots toward Robert “LaVoy” Finicum’s truck, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

Astarita has pleaded not guilty.

Authorities have concealed names of the officers involved in the shooting for more than two years citing concerns about threats from militias.

Oregon law enforcement

officials ruled the shooting justified.

During the trial, the officers involved were being identified as “Officer 1” and “Officer 2.”

State police SWAT officer Bob Olson accidentally identified Officer 1 by his last name and rank on Tuesday.

People who were involved in or supported the occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge began circulating the officer’s name and photo online that night. Several threats toward the officer followed.

Finicum’s widow, Jeanette, and Ammon Bundy have spoken out against these actions.

Bundy, the occupation’s lead organizer, told supporters to consider that the officer was following orders

and had been told by federal officials that their group was dangerous.

“I pray for him and hope he can see what he is doing,” Bundy wrote. “He is a brainwashed man who has been fed lies his entire adult life about what it really is to defend freedom.”

The occupiers seized the refuge in 2016 to protest the imprisonment of two Oregon ranchers.

Astarita’s trial is expected to last several weeks.

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### CORRECTION

Auctioneer Ramona Hulick from Turmon Auction Services donated her time and expertise to the Sisters Rotary Hoedown. That was not made clear in last week’s article on the event.

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