

Schools seek budget committee member

The Sisters School Board is seeking a community member to fill a vacant position on the District's budget committee. The person appointed will serve on the committee for three budget terms: 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023. The term will expire June 30, 2022.

To be eligible, a candidate must live in the District, not be an officer or employee of the District, and be a qualified voter in the District. A candidate should participate in school activities, be a positive problem-solver and commit time to review materials and attend budget committee meetings.

Those interested may contact Mel Petterson, school board secretary, via email at mel.petterson@ssd6.org or pick up an application at the District office. The application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, January 31. Applicants will be notified of interview times. Budget meeting dates are April 15 and May 6. The budget hearing will be June 3.

HEMP FILM: Kickstarter campaign runs through February 5

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"Everybody had stars in their eyes," Moring said. "We're gonna be rich!" — but there's just so much product. It's been a real education in the process, the economics of it. I haven't been around agriculture that much but — especially with this product — it's gambling."

And any gamble is full of inherent drama, which gives the educational aspect of the documentary film additional punch.

Moring's filming is about 75 percent complete. He plans to use the funds raised through the Kickstarter campaign for editing, audio sweetening and bringing the production to the finish line and into theaters.

The Kickstarter campaign, which runs until February 5, can be accessed at www.kickstarter.com/projects/hempisback/hemp-is-back-in-central-oregon.

SCIENCE: Club and District hope to restore event in 2021

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while the Science Club coordinates volunteers. Allen said that placing the District in the lead would be good for the event long-term.

"You get a stronger sense of ownership in the schools if the school district takes the leadership of it," Allen said.

The District was unable to put together the event coordination in time for this year's event, so Superintendent Curt Scholl and the Club leadership decided to postpone the event and take a year off, Allen reported.

Scholl confirmed that the District supports the event and is interested in stepping up its role — but staff didn't have the capacity this year to take on the coordination of an event of this scale.

"We'll meet again in the spring and decide what's going to happen for 2021," Allen said. "It's a problem of transition... I'm very hopeful that we can work out an arrangement where the District picks up 50 percent of the event."

The Club will continue to support student field trips and educational programs.

The fair, which draws about 800 people from across the region, features exhibits from a planetarium to a flight simulator, 3D printing, a variety of scientific displays and experiments and a Design, Construct, Compete event.

COMPETITION: School earned \$15,000 in technology

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in Sisters.

He explained the basics of the contest and the project.

The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest encourages teachers and students to solve real-world issues in their community using classroom skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

“...projects are supposed to find solutions to local problems, so this one really fits where we live... — Jeff Schiedler

"Samsung is extremely proud of the evolution of the Solve for Tomorrow platform over the past 10 years: fueling students' passion and curiosity to tackle issues that affect their communities

in unexpected and creative ways," said Ann Woo, Senior Director of Corporate Citizenship at Samsung Electronics America in a press release announcing the winners. "Reading the innovative proposals students and teachers have put forth this year exemplifies what we know to be true for every student — that young minds have just as much to teach as they do to learn. Our guiding citizenship vision is 'Enabling People,' and we are thrilled to celebrate another year of empowering future innovators to achieve their full potential through STEM learning."

The entire first period technology class, made up of seventh- and eighth-graders, contributed to the project. Most of them had no real formal training in coding, but some gained a strong foundation last year in a class taught by Wes Estvold called "Tinkering."

Parker Miller says that class gave him the experience and confidence to oversee a lot of the coding and wiring that the group did on the project. Miller explained that the next step is for the group to create a three-minute video of their project in action, which

is due later in February.

Conrad Irlam says he was inspired to take the class "to follow in my mom's footsteps" since she works in the technology industry as a software engineer. He served as a leader in the programming of the signs.

According to the contest press release, 20 national finalist schools will be selected to travel to the final event in the spring, where they will present their project to a panel of judges. For achieving national finalist status, schools will be awarded in total \$50,000 in technology and classroom materials.

Five grand-prize national winner schools will receive in total \$100,000 in technology and classroom materials, and participate in a trip to Washington, D.C. to present their projects to members of Congress.

Public voting will also determine one Community Choice winner from the pool of national finalists, who will be eligible to win an additional \$10,000 in Samsung technology.

Miller said, "It would be pretty cool to be able to make it to the finals and go to Washington, D.C."

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