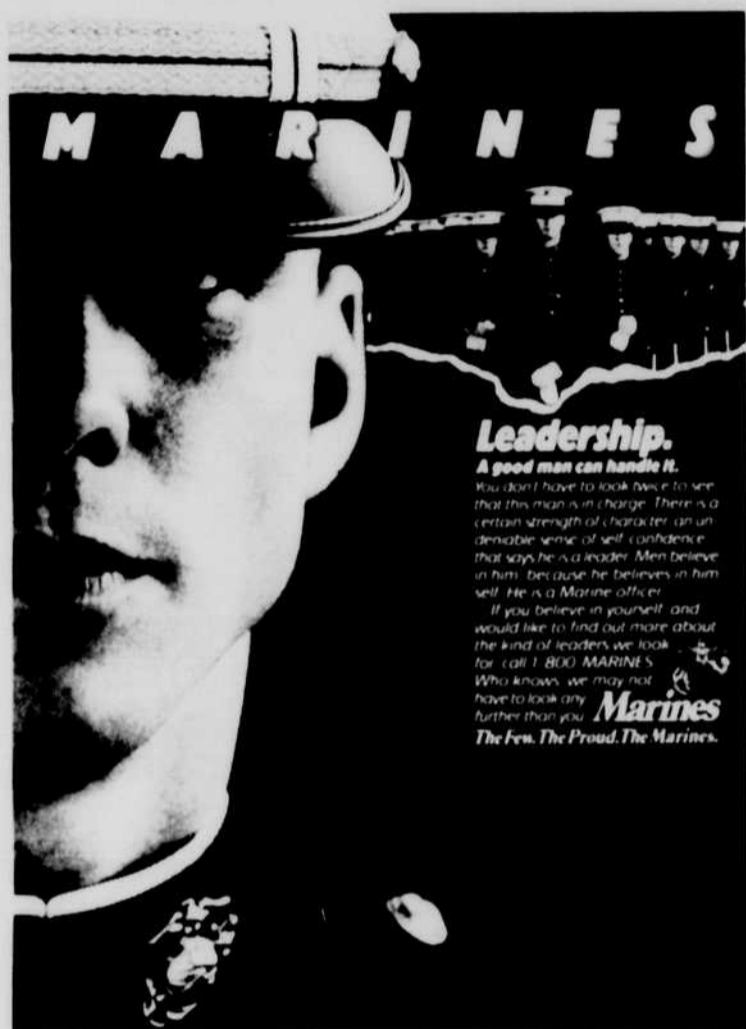


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Governor declines to submit finance plan

SALEM (AP) — Gov. Neil Goldschmidt says he won't propose a school finance plan to a legislative panel and instead will work on improving basic education.

The 1989 Legislature set an Oct. 15 deadline for the governor to submit a school finance proposal, if he drafted one, to the Joint Interim Revenue and School Finance Committee.

The panel is supposed to come up with school finance alternatives for a statewide advisory vote next May.

Goldschmidt said Tuesday he thinks he can do more good by providing a blueprint for improving the quality of basic education.

"There needs to be more focus on educational excellence because all the time has been spent talking about money," he said in an interview with the Statesman Journal newspaper of Salem.

High dropout rates among U.S. students and increasing competition against foreign students for college spots are big concerns of parents and educators, Goldschmidt said.

"That is not purely a money question," he said. "It also is a

question of building a consensus about what the goals for education are and what the responsibility of various parts of this society are going to be to see that it gets done."

Goldschmidt said his ideas will complement rather than duplicate the committee's work.

"If all we do is more of the same, and all we get is the same product for more money, I don't think anybody is going to see in that the seeds that would grow to some major change in public attitude," he said.

He said he hopes to have a plan for improving basic education by the end of November. He wouldn't say what the plan might be.

Goldschmidt said he thinks an emphasis on educational excellence can win the support of parents, educators and reluctant taxpayers, who then would be willing to adequately fund a system in which they have confidence.

"In the end you're really saying to people, 'Do you care enough about the outcomes

here to help us find a way to solve the finance problem?'" he said.

Sen. Jane Cease, D-Portland, chairwoman of the interim committee, said Goldschmidt's help is welcome.

"You get people who say I'm not going to support money until you do something about improving the system," Cease said. "All the ideas we get that can help move the state in the direction of a larger and more stable base of support is a step in the right direction."

Another person to have a major voice about excellence in education will be the next state superintendent of schools, who'll succeed Verne Duncan when he leaves in mid-November.

Goldschmidt will appoint a replacement to serve an interim term until an elected successor takes office. The Democratic governor said he hadn't interviewed any candidates but that he would consider Norma Paulus, his Republican opponent in the 1986 gubernatorial race and former secretary of state.

Paulus said Tuesday she will run for the superintendent's job in the May primary election.

School Continued from Page 7

Moreover, Bascom said Lorig has offered to build a child care center on the property as part of their deal with the city.

Lincoln School, built in 1924, is not a designated historic landmark, but it could qualify as one. Teresa Bishow, a senior planner at the Eugene Department of Planning and Development, said the school meets many of the criteria for historic status, including age, importance to the community, and historical significance.

Bishow said it is up to the property owner, in this case the City of Eugene, to nominate the school for historic status.

Reuter said historic designation would save only the facade of the school and not its most distinctive interior features.

"Once they sign on the dotted line, they (Lorig) can do what ever they want," he said.

An issue larger than the community center may be at stake in the battle over Lincoln School. Reuter said the city council is more interested in increasing city coffers than in serving the public interest.

Bascom said the city has done its part by buying the school and saving it from destruction. The council chose the Lorig proposal because it would enhance the neighborhood.

As soon as the sale from the city to Lorig becomes final within the next few weeks, Reuter and Fair Share will bring their suit against the council.

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Benefit set tonight

By Layne Lakefish
Emerald Reporter

Tomorrow night will be a night of mirth and music — and a night of fundraising.

Nine Days Wonder, Stone Biscuit and The Back Porch Acoustic Balladeers will perform a benefit concert for Hungry Head Books and Southern Willamette Green Oct. 6 at the Community Center for the Performing Arts at Eighth Avenue and Lincoln Street. The doors open at 9 p.m. and the room will fill with music at 9:30.

Nine Days Wonder is a group of five that formed in 1985. Brian Wilga, proprietor of Hungry Head Books and organizer of this benefit, said the group has "an original blend of southern fried rock and San Francisco influenced sounds."

Second in line is Stone Biscuit, a Little Feat influenced group with lead and rhythm guitars, bass, drums and Hammond keyboard. With this lineup of instruments, the band plays a "combination of blues and rock," Wilga said.

The Back Porch Acoustic Balladeers will close the show. With two acoustic guitars and piano accompaniment, the band is known for their musical interpretations of ballads and folk songs.

"The concert is to raise money and to raise a lot of publicity," Wilga said.

Tickets cost \$5 at the door and all ages are welcome. Refreshments will also be available for concert-goers with ID.

"Bring your friends out to support the community book store," Wilga said. "Support the Head."