

RCC ...

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The planned Redwood Campus Career and Technical Education Enhancement Project would upgrade or expand advanced flexible lab spaces and career and technical education (CTE) services to better align with local industry needs.

The White City Table Rock Campus Emergency Services and Fire Training Facility classrooms at District 3 would expand and improve shared training space. Plans for the Table Rock Campus High-tech Center include remodeling and outfitting a 12,000 square foot facility for best practices in Mechatronics, advanced manufacturing, welding and related fields.

A Campus Health Professions Training

Center will involve either a new 55,000 square foot training facility or expansion and remodel of an existing 40,000 square foot facility at the Table Rock campus. The choice of new building or remodel is still being evaluated for cost effectiveness.

Both Table Rock and the Riverside campus in Medford are also slated for a CTE program expansion including forestry, outdoor recreation and leadership, apprenticeship programs and “millennial classrooms,” which are flexible, high-tech learning spaces for the workforce of tomorrow.

A portion of the bond levy funds would also go toward furniture and equipment for the campus improvements as well as covering the costs of the bond issuance.

MEET ...

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Other issues on Smith’s list are jobs, “responsible and sustainable use of natural resources” and proper adherence to the county’s home rule charter.

Selma resident, cannabis activist and frequent candidate Mark Seligman is running for a seat on the Josephine County Board.

“I feel the cannabis industry has a great multiplier effect,” Seligman said. “This industry is similar to the gold rush and the timber boom of past years, and my goal as county commissioner would be to encourage the region and this industry.”

Born in New York City, Seligman earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from New York Queens College; a two-year degree in business administration from the University of New York; and did graduate work in psychology at Sonoma State University.

Seligman drove a taxi in New York City and managed a health food store. Since moving west, he’s run a landscape maintenance business for 35 years.

“I’ve been politically active since the ‘70s,” Seligman said. “I feel our problems of poverty, crime and homelessness can be solved by jobs for all that want to work. Unfortunately, we are rated as the ninth poorest region in the United States. As a county commissioner I will strive for economic development.”

Regarding public safety issues, Seligman says he’s “made a contract with the voters to not support any local or state tax levy for law enforcement. I feel very strongly about respecting the voters and they have voted ‘no’ numerous times on any tax levy.” He also said, “I’m against any state of emergency because I don’t feel there is a state of emergency and would not wish to give up local control to the state.”

Seligman, running nonpartisan, said everyone has the right to speak at county meetings and trust and integrity are important qualities in county commissioners, but, “The present board lacks those qualities.” He also said: “I believe in private property rights and only reasonable regulation. I support all our local industries: logging, mining, medical and tourism. If elected I am there to serve the people not the other way around. I can think and reason. I have integrity and I can always learn the job.”

Republican Ron Smith, who ran for the county board once before, spent much of his life in the Illinois Valley before moving to Grants Pass in recent years. In 2001, the Illinois Valley

Chamber of Commerce recognized Smith as the “Citizen of the Year” for his leadership role with People for the USA (PFUSA), a property rights organization.

“I really believe in individual property rights. My talent and ability for active public service life was acknowledged,” Smith said. “We (PFUSA) promoted wise use of public federal lands and stewardship of the forests. If we address the issues of healthy forests, we’ll have healthy communities. Right now there are too many trees per acre. I am not for corporate greed, but I truly believe that if we address forest health from a holistic point of view then we’ll have healthy communities.”

Smith’s government experience includes meeting with former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt; and he traveled to Washington DC, to lobby for Klamath farmers’ water rights. He met with Senators Harry Reed and Gordon Smith, Representative Greg Walden, and various other legislators while working on that issue.

Currently, Smith is the “overseer” for the Grants Pass Fruitdale Grange, a member of Josephine County Pomona Grange, member of Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce, and a member of Josephine County Farm Bureau and Vice Chair for the 9-2 Project of Kerby, Oregon.

Smith said that while he supports Josephine County’s criminal justice programs, that they should not be funded from levies. “We need to take a look at the O&C lands and make sure they accomplish what the 1937 Act says they are for - which is a permanent revenue stream for the counties. Again, I think we need to look at our forest practices.”

Smith also said he’ll “strive to maintain a business friendly environment for job growth and remove the unnecessary bottle-necks to improve economic development activity and support our largest job making businesses such as agriculture, timber, mineral industry and building materials.”

Finally, Smith said: “What’s going to save us is unity in the community. And until we can sit down together and come to mutual agreements about producing from the ground, we’re going to remain in decline. It’s going to take the whole community to come up with the answers.”

Shayne Christen, a farmer from Williams, is also seeking a seat on the county board. This nonpartisan candidate attended Chemeketa Community College for Resources Management and is a retired State of California employee. His government experience includes his work in the Department of Conservation in California, and also, time spent on the state’s Disabled Advisory Committee.

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