

## Seaside School District adopts budget

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The Seaside School District's board of directors Tuesday approved an approximately \$21 million budget and passed a resolution to help establish a local option tax.

The general fund includes an approximately 4.7 percent increase from this year's budget. The general fund covers all operating costs.

The overall budget also includes about \$2.3 million in special revenue and \$201,000 for capital projects, such as a roofing project for Gearhart Elementary School's gym, two roof packs at Broadway Middle School, addressing Americans with Disabilities Act compliance issues, engineering and construction of walls at Seaside Heights Elementary School and a restroom renovation at Seaside High School.

The district also is pursuing a local option tax in November. The board voted unanimously on a resolution for the district to call a measure election to renew a five-year local option tax to provide funds to finance certain district operations.

In November 2010, voters in the district approved a local option tax at the rate of \$0.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2016. According to the resolution, the board has determined there is a need to continue this level of funding for district operations at the same rate over the next five-year period following the expiration of the current five-year operating tax. The district is calling for a measure election to give local electors the ability to vote to renew the local option tax through June 30, 2021, at the current fixed rate.

At the meeting, the board also approved new English

Language Development and English Language Arts curriculum for the elementary schools and middle school for the 2015-16 school year. The Oregon Department of Education has a seven-year cycle for schools to introduce new curriculum at a rate of one subject per year; school districts have the option of asking for a one- or two-year delay. Last year, the Seaside School District asked for an extension on adopting new ELA and ELD material and will do the same for math curriculum this year.

In other news:

• The school board formally swore in members Patrick Nofield, Steve Phillips and Mark Truax, incumbents who were re-elected to office in the May 19 Special District Election. The board voted for Steve Phillips to be chair and Mark Truax to be vice chair.

• After a closed session, the board unanimously approved a motion to en-

ter into an agreement with Duane Johnson Real Estate to negotiate the sale of district property on the school's behalf.

• The board also made a motion to make a counter-offer of \$20,000 to Wayne Poole, who, on behalf of the Marianne Poole Trust, made an offer of \$18,250 to purchase 1,912 square feet of school district property adjacent to his parent's former residence at 2015 North Holladay Drive. The purpose of the acquisition, according to a letter from Poole to the school district, is to "resolve the property boundary issues between my parent's former residence and the adjoining school district property." The district estimated the property to be worth closer to \$22,000 — when considered within the context of the whole lot — and decided to split the difference in its counter-offer, Superintendent Doug Dougherty said.

## Warrenton passes budget, says goodbye to O'Brien

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton-Hammond School Board has adopted a 2015-16 budget of \$15 million.

The district's general operating fund will be \$10.7 million, with \$6 million for instruction, \$2.9 million for support services and \$1.5 million for contingencies.

For staff, the school board passed memorandums of understanding to offer tuition prepayment for professional development, increase tuition reimbursement, increase incentives for employees to seek affordable health care options through a Health Savings Account, add back to previous furlough days and add salary steps

for non-represented staff to bring them in line with other employee groups.

The board also approved a memorandum to allow exceptions to the district's inter-district transfer caps put in place a few months ago. Superintendent Mark Jeffery said it was to allow students to be enrolled in a "closed" grade level if a sibling is enrolled in an "open" grade.

The board, meeting last week, also increased the salary for the information technology supervisor and the business manager.

Jeffery announced that Athletic Director Ian O'Brien is leaving Warrenton High School and taking the same position at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego.

## Cannon Beach seeks new goal of 'strategic budgeting'

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach will move forward with a strategic plan to solicit input from local residents and use that input to prepare a vision statement for the city. The cost would be approximately \$10,000 for the survey and \$10,000 for the consultant.

"You've already got a good start with the comprehensive plan," City Manager Brant Kucera said. "The ultimate goal is now strategic budgeting. Now my budget is completely tied to the strategic plan. That's the ultimate, most effective way of using our limited resources."

At a City Council work session last week, Kucera told council members that all successful strategic planning processes include input from three stakeholder groups: citizens, council and staff. The strategic plan is "very different" from a comprehensive plan, which typically talks

about transportation and land use, planning issues, he said.

"The strategic plan deals with specific goals of the community," he said.

### National survey, local audience

According to Kucera, the National Citizen Survey is a nationally recognized survey instrument for finding out the people's opinion of community services and community direction. The comprehensive plan does not address specific goals or specific actions to accomplish the vision of the city.

Kucera said the proposed strategic plan, prepared by the nonprofit National Citizen Survey under the auspices of the National Resource Center in Boulder, Colo., would be updated in about two years, while comprehensive plans are typically updated every 10 years. Comprehensive plans are legally mandated, but the strategic plan is not, he said.

"The National Citizens Survey is the best means of

sampling residents because results can be compared with thousands of other communities across the U.S.," he said. "These results are then incorporated into the discussion that occurs in the actual strategic planning session."

Kucera said after the survey results are delivered, he expected a weekend or retreat by council members in formulating goals.

The survey and analysis would take about 16 weeks from survey preparation to final report, according to a National Citizen Survey timeline.

City Council members said they were generally supportive of the strategic plan proposal, but had questions about the styling of the questionnaire, its cost and its usefulness specifically for Cannon Beach.

"My first reaction is this is huge, such a huge undertaking of time and money," said Councilor George Vetter. "Can we scale this to Cannon Beach?"

"Each of us has lived here

for a number of years," Vetter added. "We have a lot of interaction with residents. Each of us brings a lot of information to the table. I don't see as much value as this to a community like Cannon Beach as you do in a community like Portland, where you have so few people representing so many people. Here we have pretty good (connection) with our community, all of us. That's why I'm a little concerned about all the money we're spending on this."

Mayor Sam Steidel said he thought the survey failed to offer questions pertinent to Cannon Beach. "They don't ask residents of Cannon Beach about their ideas," he said. "They don't ask how they feel about very specific things. I'm not saying this is bad, it's just not going to have meaning. To me, we've already got most of that already in our goals, and now we're going to all this expense."

Kucera said he anticipated it would take no more time or personnel in Cannon Beach

than in other communities he has prepared strategic plans for as city manager.

### Polling the community

"The goal is to find out what the community thinks," said Councilor Mike Benefield in support of the survey. "This is a well-proven system. I can sit here and say what's important, but with a survey we may find things we haven't thought of."

"I'm looking for ideas," Benefield said. "We want to know what people like and dislike and are comfortable with in the city. What works and what doesn't work."

Councilor Wendy Higgins said she welcomed the feedback that the survey would provide, which would provide a perspective that could come from new sources in the community.

Benefield said the council would have to implement the policy and assign the resources. "You're trying to pull out of the citizens what needs to be done and make this the

kind of community people want to move to for, and live here for," he said. "For us, it's making priorities based on the information. You might be surprised. You might think you know exactly how everybody feels. Some people might say, 'I don't want to be like Seaside.' Others might say, 'I love it, I like the carnival atmosphere.' That's what these general surveys will help you do. I'm not looking for ideas, I'm looking for emotion, feel and perception of the town, what we're doing, not doing."

Kucera said he sees "it as an opportunity to make sure that the goals of the community and the goals of council and staff are all lining together and make sure we are (going) to use our resources effectively to make what we want to see happen."

Council members agreed to further discussion of the survey, including a review of costs and customization of the survey, at future council meetings.

## Knappa School Board approves superintendent contract

The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — The Knappa School Board approved a contract through 2018 for new superintendent and Knappa High School Principal Terrence Smyth at its Monday meeting.

Smyth, who is coming to Knappa from being principal at Springwater Trail

High School in Gresham, will earn \$105,000 in 2015-16, increasing by \$1,000 each of the next two years. He also gets \$300 a month toward a tax-sheltered account of his choice, along with up to \$1,400 a month toward health coverage for he and his family.

The board adopted a \$6 million budget for 2015-

16. It includes \$2.6 million for instruction, \$1.9 million for support services, \$1.3 million in special revenue funds from sources like logging and \$600,000 for

debt service. The budget assumes the equivalent of 59.69 employees, the highest employment in Knappa since the 2010-11 school year.

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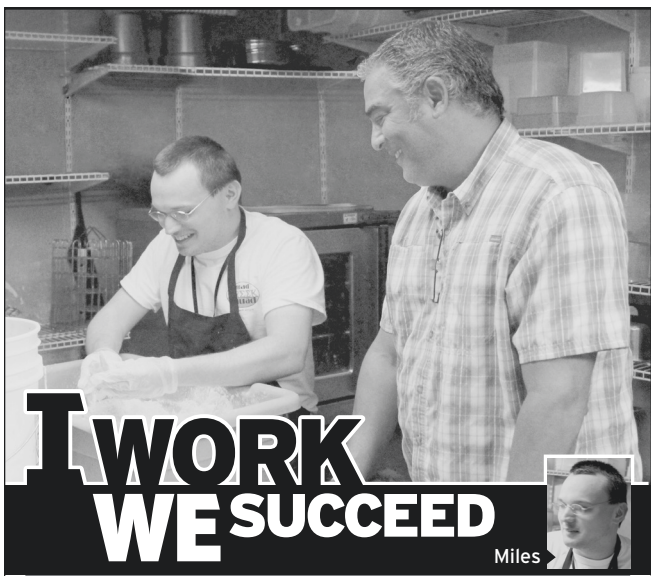
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