MAIOCCO: Purpose was to give district more stability

Continued from 1A

students.

"The current world situation demands that I remain in uniformed active military service beyond the term which we originally contemplated when the board granted me a leave of absence," he wrote.

In March of 2017, the board approved a three-year employment contract with Maiocco, with an annual salary of $165,753.95. Interim superintendent Tricia Mooney said Maiocco does not get paid by the school district while he is on military leave, and that his contract is on hold during that time.

According to documents provided by the school district, Maiocco received a letter from the U.S. Army dated June 29, 2017, stating that he was required to report by July 27. He informed the school board of his impending leave on July 10, 2017, at a board meeting. Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), Maiocco's contract is protected while he is on active duty, and guarantees him re-employment for three years from the date of his return. Had the district refused to approve his leave when he was called to duty in July 2017, they would have had to buy out his contract.

Goller said the full buyout of Maiocco's contract would have been somewhere in the neighborhood of $786,000, including benefits.

To arrive at the agreement of $281,346, board vice-chair Ginny Holthus said it was the equivalent of one year's worth of his contract, plus some money from benefits.

Mooney said the purpose was to offer the district some more stability.

"I am not speaking for the board, but I know that Hermiston School District is the largest district in Eastern Oregon," she said. "When you have an organization of our size, it requires some stability and leadership."

She said while the board's job is to represent the community, their main task is to hire and evaluate the superintendent.

"This is out of an intention to move the district forward and do what's best for our community," she said.

Goller added that the board is pleased with the job Mooney has done, but the situation has put some uncertainty on her role, too.

"It's a difficult position for an interim superintendent to be accountable to both the board of directors and the superintendent when he returns," Goller said.

Mooney's contract as interim superintendent ends June 30, 2019. Sherman said that the board's two options were to appoint Mooney as full-time superintendent, or search for another permanent superintendent. She said the board would discuss it at their next meeting, on September 10.

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BRIEFLY

Iran asks UN's court to suspend U.S. sanctions

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Iran warned Monday that re-imposed U.S. sanctions would cripple its economy and plunge the volatile Middle East deeper into crisis as it urged the United Nations' highest court to suspend the Trump administration's economic pressure on Tehran.

In a written statement about the case at the International Court of Justice, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Iran's claims "meritless" and defended the sanctions as a way of keeping Americans safe.

The world court's Great Hall of Justice in The Hague is the latest backdrop for Washington and Tehran's high-stakes dispute about Iran's nuclear ambitions.

President Donald Trump said in May that he would pull the U.S. out of a 2015 agreement over Iran's nuclear program and would re-impose sanctions on Tehran. Washington also threatened other countries with sanctions if they don't cut off Iranian oil imports by early November.

Alleged cover-up pivots on when, if sanctions imposed

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The archbishop of Washington on Monday "categorically denied" ever being informed that his predecessor had been sanctioned for sexual misconduct, undercutting a key element of a bombshell allegation that Pope Francis covered up clergy abuse.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl issued a statement after the Vatican's former ambassador to the United States accused Pope Francis of effectively freeing ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick from the sanctions in 2013 despite knowing of McCarrick's sexual predations against seminarians.

Wuerl's denial corresponds with the public record, which provides ample evidence that McCarrick lived a life completely devoid of ecclesiastic restriction after the sanctions were said to have been imposed in 2009 or 2010. That suggests that Pope Benedict XVI either didn't impose sanctions or never conveyed them in any official way to the people who could enforce them — or that McCarrick simply flouted them and Benedict's Vatican was unwilling or unable to stop him.

Poll: Few Dems favor closing ICE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rallying cry from some liberals to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement isn't a likely winner this election year, as a new poll finds only a quarter of Democrats support eliminating the agency that carried out the Trump administration's policy of separating immigrant children from their parents.

But even as they don't want to fully dismantle ICE, 57 percent of Democrats view the agency negatively, including nearly three-fourths of those who describe themselves as liberal, according to a poll released Monday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The findings demonstrate tension among Democrats about how to address the crisis at the border that intensified in June when the Trump administration instituted a family separation policy to deter illegal immigration.

President Donald Trump has seized on the Democratic criticism of ICE to paint the party as weak on immigration and national security. The administration reversed its separation policy amid an international outcry, but hundreds of children remain separated from their families.

Overall, opinions about ICE are divided along partisan lines. A sizable chunk — a full one-third of Americans — are too unfamiliar with the agency to form an opinion.

Prices in this ad are effective 6 AM Wednesday, August 28, 2018 thru Tuesday, September 4, 2018 (unless otherwise noted) in all Safeway or Albertsons stores in Oregon and S.W. Washington stores serving Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, Walla Walla and Klickitat Counties. Items offered for sale are not available to other dealers or wholesalers. Sales of products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine limited by law. Quantity rights reserved. SOME ADVERTISING ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES. Some advertised prices may be even lower in some stores. On Buy One, Get One Free ("BOGO") offers, customer must purchase the first item to receive the second item free. BOGO offers are not 1/2 price sales. If only a single item purchased, the regular price applies. Manufacturers' coupons may be used on purchased items only — not on free items. Limit one coupon per purchased item. Customer will be responsible for tax and deposits as required by law on the purchased and free items. No liquor sales in excess of 52 gallons. No liquor sales for resale. Liquor sales at licensed Safeway or Albertsons stores only. © 2018 Safeway Inc. Availability of items may vary by store. Online and In-store prices, discounts and offers may differ.

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