

REFERENDUM

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less space to get out of her car.”

City Manager Richard Meyers said the referendum is the first filed by petitioners in Cottage Grove in over 20 years and that all involved have learned a lot about the filing process already. On Monday, City Councilor Garland Burback expressed his discontent with the filing.

“I’m not too happy about it,” Burback said. “This particular plan has been vetted through so many committees and public hearings, and placing it on the ballot is a total waste of money.”

Currently, no other measures are scheduled to appear before local voters in September; if this persists, Cottage Grove will foot the bill for the election on its own. Meyers said that, the last time the City paid for an election on its own, the cost came to about \$7000.

BUDGET

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ence between the two funding ratios would be over \$500,000 in the first year.

How much a school district receives from the State School Fund is determined by its weighted, average daily membership (ADMw). In addition to a baseline of enrollment, this figure is calculated using a variety of other factors, such as the number of students in English as a Second Language programs, or with Individual Education Plans.

This year, enrollment in the district is down by 60 students, due in large part to its smallest kindergarten class in 30 years (160 students). It is unknown at this point whether next year’s class will rebound to the historical average (200 students).

The ADMw for 2015-2016 is 3,471.04 — 137.62 more than the previous year. The introduction of full-day kindergarten is the most significant factor in that difference (95).

BOARD

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for the community to vote on it. I believe that the community is more supportive when it has a say how funds are spent by SLFR.”

Duffy was a business owner for 27 years in the Seattle area and retired to Cottage Grove 12 years ago. He has served on the precinct committee of the Lane County Republican Party since 2009.

“I’ve been interested in politics for a long time. And I’ve

spent a long time complaining about people in power forever and ever; people like [Representative Peter] Defazio and [Senator Ron] Wyden. I might not be able to run for the House or the Senate, but this could be my turn to get involved,” he said.

Duffy said that he has acquainted himself with SLFR by attending its board meetings and said that he would like to assist its budget issues and the potential bond levy.

Pelatt, who is a surgeon trainer at local hospitals, is running

FLIGHT

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to Casey Woodard, who will accompany his father, Carlton, on the trip. (One guardian will accompany each veteran and must pay their own way, though expenses for the veterans are covered by Honor Flight.)

Once they arrive in Washington, D.C., veterans will tour the National Mall, the Capitol building, World War II and Vietnam memorials. A full-length documentary of this particular flight is reportedly being made by a

Eugene television station.

Pengercar said the South Willamette branch of Honor Flight is a non-profit that utilizes the efforts of about two-dozen volunteers, most of which have experienced a flight themselves.

“When they see the impact it has on veterans, they want to help other vets experience it,” he said. The guardians that accompany many veterans often don’t know much about that particular veterans’ service.

“Particularly with the World

War II veterans, a lot of them didn’t talk much about it,” Pengercar said. “But seeing what happens on the Honor Flight weekend, seeing the recognition the vets are finally getting, the interaction with students as part of the process is a great mechanism to bridge the gap between generations.”

Information compiled for the Sentinel’s annual Veterans Day publication indicates that Bricker served as a Radioman 3rd Class in the Navy in Guam from 1944-

46 and on the USS Los Angeles during the Korean War. Woodard served as a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps from 1941-45, and Haymes served with the U.S. Army 718 Amphibian Tractor Battalion from 1943-46 and participated in the Leyte Invasion on Oct. 20, 1944 and the Okinawa Invasion on April 1, 1945.

The Sentinel hopes to connect with Cottage Grove’s veterans when they return to hear details of their trip.

ODOT

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dents may have contributed to far higher levels of traffic than ODOT expected at the construction site.

Meanwhile, ODOT expects work to begin soon on a project to repave significant segments of Highway 99 from Creswell south to near the junction with Interstate 5, excluding Cottage Grove. The project also aims to repave much of the Cottage Grove Connector and Row River Road on each side of Interstate 5.

The Creswell project begins near D Street at milepost 5.86 and ends just north of Longview

Lane south of Cottage Grove at milepost 19.5. In a news release, ODOT’s Rick Little explained that there are two highway segments between those boundaries where no work will be done, segments between Saginaw East Road and Abbot Lane in Creswell (mileposts 12.01 to 12.79) and between Whithycombe Road and Harrison Avenue in Cottage Grove (milepost 14.10 and 15.36). Included in the paving project is the construction of a new membrane and paving on the Hill Creek Bridge in Creswell.

Little said that, during construction, travelers can expect daytime, single-lane closures

with traffic controlled by flaggers and pilot cars, with delays of no more than 20 minutes. Accesses to all businesses will remain open during construction with blue cones or “business access” signs.

The Cottage Grove Connector project will begin at its junction with Highway 99 and continue east for .35 miles; then begin again east of the junction with Interstate 5 on Row River Road and continue east for .46 miles to Thornton Lane.

Little said this project will be done at night because of the need to close I-5 ramps and redirect traffic around the project limits. Accesses to all businesses will

remain open and clearly marked during construction.

On Friday, Little said ODOT had not yet selected a contractor for the Highway 99 project, adding that the contractor will determine the schedule for the project. Currently, construction is expected to begin in May and continue until June 26. Little said he expects whatever contractor is chosen to start at one end of Highway 99 and work forward, and he added that a detour of the ramps at Exit 174 will likely be necessary during work to repave the connector. The Sentinel will update the plans for this project as they become available.

for a two-year unexpired term. He moved to the area from Tacoma six years ago and said he has really taken to the small-town life.

“The board does a lot of good for South Lane County,” said Pelatt, who is also president of the Creswell City Council. “The district’s finances have come a long way, and the board hopes to maintain that positive direction.”

Last year, Pelatt was appointed to a vacant position on the board. He said he was originally

drawn to the position because of his connections to existing board members, and because the responsibilities aligned with his interests.

“It was a really good experience,” Pelatt said of his first year. “Right now, the board is made up of people who can ask questions without being contentious. That can be a rare thing among boards, and I think it’s a benefit to the community.”

Pelatt is in his late 30s and is soon expecting twins with his wife, Jessica.

Radcliffe has lived in South Lane for seven years and said she has an interest in making sure that its emergency services meet the needs of the community and are of a quality that attract new families to the area.

“I would feel very fortunate to join the board at a time when the District has such a strong sense of direction,” said Radcliffe, a realtor with Keller Williams. “I am excited to learn about what the leadership has planned for the future and to help plan for the large, financial items that are

in line with what the community needs.”

Radcliffe stated that her goals for her first term are to better understand the workings of SLFR’s operations and support its community outreach efforts.

She also serves on the boards for the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and South Valley Athletics.

Ballots for the May 19 election will be mailed on May 1, with drop sites opening the same day.

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