

BUDGET

Continued from page 1A

measure the experience level of its teachers; it also lost almost \$80,000 in transportation funding, and a change in the estimate of the number of students that live in poverty cost another \$203,962. The funding ratio the state uses to calculate the State School Fund also dropped.

"Phil (Scrima) and I had been confident since the December estimate that everything we were doing was right in line," Parent said. "But then we get an estimate with almost a \$700,000 drop. How do you make those cuts when you have only 2 1/2 months left in the year?"

Parent said that she and Scrima had worked Monday afternoon to trim an additional \$293,000 from

the budget, leaving the District short about \$600,000 for the remainder of this year. She said the District has the money in reserve to cover the gap, but she likened spending reserves to using the money in a savings account to cover regularly recurring bills.

In fact, a lower-than-expected carryover into the 2016-17 school year will create a budget deficit then, a deficit the District has already begun planning for.

Parent said the District has been placed on a complete spending freeze. The District has not hired additional staff to support the implementation of full-day kindergarten, an addition that may now have to wait. The administrator position of former Director of Technology

and Student Achievement Tim Porter will not be filled when Porter leaves to become superintendent of the South Umpqua district next year. There will be no new dean of students at Cottage Grove High School. Plans to add a teacher at Bohemia Elementary have been scrapped, and contributions to reserve funds dedicated to maintenance, athletics fees, textbook adoptions and funds dedicated to cover rising PERS retirement costs have also been lowered.

Other possible cuts for 2016-17 include cutting school days (the District saves about \$80,000 per cut school day, Parent said), dropping the temperature by two degrees at secondary schools, cutting summer school funding, dropping

a second administrator position at Bohemia and closing either Dorena or Latham School (Parent pointed out, though, that the District receives more funding for students at Dorena and London schools due to their rural location).

Parent pointed out that cutting school days would have to be negotiated through the District's two teacher associations, adding that she heard a willingness to cut perhaps three or four days next year. Despite the concerns, she said that budget cuts are nothing new and that the District will manage.

"We'll just keep plugging away. You have a budget worksession where you'll be joined by the budget committee in two weeks. We'll just keep whittling away at it."

OBON

Continued from page 1A

are "not just a piece of cloth," and were worn close to a soldier's heart as he fought for his country.

"When the families see these flags again, they believe it is as if the soldier's spirit has finally returned," she said.

Cottage Grove's Kathy Parsons said she isn't sure how her father, William Arthur Arndt, who entered the Army Air Corps in 1943 and was part of the force that occupied Japan following the Allied victory two years later, came to be in possession of his flag. But on Saturday, Parsons used the Obon Society exhibit as a way to begin

the process of returning the flag to the soldier who carried it so long ago, or that soldier's family.

Upon glimpsing the flag, Keiko Ziak, clearly excited by its appearance at the library, began a quick assessment of the beautiful markings it featured, though she added that others with more scholarship in the language of the period would conduct a more thorough analysis later.

Right away, Ziak was able to discern the name of the soldier, Mr. Katsuo Ishida, whom she surmised worked for the Mitsubishi corporation, as its name was clearly featured in one corner of the flag. She explained that the flag contained

"so many mixtures" of messages from well wishers for Mr. Ishida, with many referring to him using nicknames and assuring him that they would take care of the homeland while he was away at war. Ziak believed these to be co-workers of Mr. Ishida.

"They're all very personal messages," Ziak said, "saying things like, 'Good luck, buddy,' and names that express close friendship."

Now, the Obon Society will begin working in Japan to find Mr. Ishida or his family. It's a process that Keiko Ziak said has

taken as little as two days and as long as 18 months.

The Obon Society exhibit will be in place at the CG Library throughout April.

REPORT

Continued from page 1A

flexibility" due to the placement of built-in cabinetry.

The school's office/administrative area is extremely cramped, the report states, and would need to be relocated, as would the school psychologist's office. The same is true for the computer testing room and music room.

In the report's cost analysis, McClean estimates a cost of a little over \$2.1 million to acquire properties that would allow for Harrison's expansion, about \$1.9 million in site improvements, \$4.15 million in deferred maintenance repairs, \$1.49 million to reconfigure the existing building for accessibility (primarily for the restrooms), \$4.4 million in new construction costs, \$1.2 million in permits, fees and other costs and a \$2.3 million contingency, for a total renovation estimate of \$17,636,928.

At just under the \$18.921 estimated cost of a new Harrison facility, renovating the old building isn't cost-effective, according to South Lane Superintendent Krista Parent.

"By the time the report was done and in the hands of the advisory committee, they had decided it didn't make sense," Parent said. "It's basically the same amount of money to build a new school, and the District would have to purchase properties to do it. And you'd still have a seven-acre lot that's too small for a school that size. We'd end up with a remodeled school that still has deficiencies for the same money as it would cost to build a new one."

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