

TAX

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West Main and R Street, Fourth Street and Highway 99 and others that have been carried out with gas tax revenues.

"The tax has been successful, but it's getting more and more difficult as costs have gone up and revenue isn't really changing," he said. "Professionally, I think it's (the gas tax) not a solution. We have hybrid cars, and vehicles today get far better gas mileage. There needs to be some kind of solution to match modern technology, and it hasn't happened yet."

PAKTECH

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"We've had a wonderful response from EPUD on this," he said. "Scott Coe has been instrumental in making it happen."

Borg shared similar kudos for Meyers, who he called "spectacular to work with."

BONDS

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also allow the District to pursue a bond for other capital projects when the drop occurs, or Parent said South Lane could instead maintain the \$1.90 per \$1000 rate and "lop off a year or two" in the life of the bonds.

The District is expected to sign paperwork for the bonds on Aug. 1, and Parent said that she expects the \$35,950,000 to be in its account the following day. Much of the money, however, will wait in the Government Investment Pool to be invested even further while the new school is built and security and technology upgrades are carried out.

South Lane School District was the subject of an in-depth, 58-page analysis before receiving an A-1 rating from Moody's, including studies of the makeup

OFFBEAT

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Next, in an attempt to establish the ancient tradition of involuntary servitude for sailors, it cited the laws of an ancient tribe of seafaring barbarians from circa 900 B.C., and then moved on to approvingly cite the laws of the Hanseatic League of German traders in the late Middle Ages — among whom desertion was punishable by a year's imprisonment on bread and water or by having the deserter's face branded.

As for American precedents, the court pointed to the laws against soldiers going AWOL, ignoring the obvious moral difference between a soldier serving his country and a worker helping another private citizen make money. Then the court asserted that all Constitutional rights come with special exceptions — a claim it tried to illustrate with a series of really silly examples: that laws against carrying concealed weapons are an exception to the Second Amendment, for one, and that laws against libel are an exception to free speech, for another. The laws requiring cops to act as goon squads for private shipping companies, the court claimed, were the same sort of thing — a special exception to the Thirteenth Amendment.

And as if saving its most outrageous point for last, the ruling finished off with this gem:

"Indeed, seamen are treated by Congress, as well as by the Parliament of Great Britain, as deficient in that full and intelligent responsibility for their acts which is accredited to ordinary adults, and as needing the protection of the law in the same sense in which minors and wards are entitled to the protection of their parents and guardians."

In other words, the court ruled, sailors were a child-like special class of persons and were too stupid to be entrusted with the full rights and privileges of citizens.

Shanghaiing had, of course, been a real and growing problem in Oregon port cities for at least 10 years before this ruling came down. But it was after this decision, which became known as "Baldwin v. Robertson," that the real glory days of shanghaiing came to pass. Having legal cover from the Supreme Court emboldened the captains and labor contractors in a whole new way.

But it emboldened others, too.

The option of placing a bond for street repairs before voters drew the support of several councilors, including Councilor Garland Burback, who pushed the issue of bonding for repairs throughout the meeting and ultimately voted against placing the tax increase on the ballot. Meyers pointed out that the City does not have the staff to direct the number of needed repairs all at once. He also added that a bond could be used to repair the infrastructure under the street, which is not covered by fuel tax revenue.

"Even if we couldn't bond the

whole amount, we could bond parts like 16th Street and South Sixth that you could get done," Burback said. "This thing here is just a waste of time, trying to come up with enough money to do anything."

The Council seemed to agree that a multi-part solution involving bonding and gas tax revenues could work best, though Meyers pointed out that placing a bond before voters could take a while.

"We could get together a list of some of the streets, some of the cost totals and get ready to put something out in May or

later," he said, adding that revenue would not be available until much later than that.

Councilor Mike Fleck said he could support a gas tax increase that would not put Cottage Grove's tax higher than that of nearby cities. Fleck supported placing the three-cent hike on the ballot, which Councilor Jeff Gowing said might still be a tough call for voters.

"I think you'll have a hard time selling it at three cents," Gowing said.

The Council will review the prospective ballot measure at its Aug. 8 meeting.

PakTech is expected to start limited operations in Cottage Grove by December.

"It's still unfolding, exactly how we'll use this much more space," he said. "The Cottage Grove facility is larger than the facility we have in Eugene now. This is going to be an excellent expansion for us, and we're ex-

cited to be coming to Cottage Grove."

Mayor Tom Munroe also lauded the move.

"Bringing PakTech to Cottage Grove was a community effort," Munroe said. "It could not have happened without the efforts of City Staff, Commissioner Faye Stewart, Emerald People's Util-

ity District and the Chamber of Commerce. "We are happy to have them here not only because of the new quality manufacturing jobs but because of the additional improvements to electrical services that will come to the area as a result."

of the District, its major taxpayers and the health of the state school system itself. Parent said she alone was interviewed for an hour as part of the process.

Now, the District will ramp up its planning efforts to build the new school and make its upgrades, though cost estimates returned by Highland Construction, which will build the new Harrison, have gone up from the \$19 million anticipated during the bond planning process.

"The construction world is really intense right now, and costs are really escalating," Parent said. "We'll be scaling back some on our original design, but it won't be much."

South Lane will work with a \$22.6 million estimate that Parent said will involve scaling back the square footage of the new Harrison. The school is expected to cost \$250 per square

foot, she said, and cutting 1000 square feet from the 82,000 square foot size as originally planned could provide significant savings.

"We won't be cutting classrooms or anything else; it will just be fine-tuning," she said.

The District initiated a Construction Management General Contractor model during the bond planning process, and as such, plans from BLRB Architects will carry over to Highland Construction, though with 21 school districts passing bonds in the state last fall, it may prove difficult to secure sub-contractors to fulfill some aspects of construction.

Parent said South Lane is currently paying its architects' fees related to the new building, in addition to tackling the network upgrades and deferred maintenance. The District is working

to replace 80 devices including computers, and Maintenance Supervisor Matt Allen is overseeing flooring upgrades in many schools. Crews will likely not start roof work until next summer, Parent said.

The District is also currently ordering 500 new security locks for classroom doors, locks that can be used to secure rooms from the inside. The work necessary to begin the move of Kennedy High School to the old Delight Valley campus and construction of the new early learning facility may begin next year. South Lane will be putting out a bid for security equipment and cameras soon, Parent said, and by next April, she estimates that construction of the new Harrison will be advanced to a stage that "we'll start to see things go vertical."

SENIOR MEALS PROGRAMS

Offering Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60 at the following locations:
Anyone age 60 and older is served, regardless of income, suggested donation is \$3. Guests under age 60 are welcome to attend for \$8 per meal.

Cottage Grove Riverview Terrace
925 W. Main St., Cottage Grove
Noon: Tues., Wed., Thurs.

Creswell Cresview Villa
350 S. 2nd St., Creswell
Noon: Mon., Wed., Fri.

Thursday, July 28: Chicken Salad or Egg Salad Sandwich Halves
Friday, July 29: Cowboy Campfire Sew or Southwest

Omelet Bake
Monday, Aug 1: Turkey Divan Bake or Beef Rigatoni
Tuesday, Aug. 2: Hearty Chicken Stew or Beef Chili w/Beans
Wednesday, Aug 3: Curried Chicken & Rice or Turkey Pasta Salad

Drain/Yoncalla area

Served at 400 Main St., Yoncalla.
(For Douglas County Meals on Wheels eligibility, call 541-440-3677.)
Suggested donation \$3.50

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Friday, July 29: Scalloped Potatoes and Ham
Tuesday, Aug. 2: TBA



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