

Decision *from A1*

and other things.”

The 6.84-acre property has also begun a rezoning process from R1 to R2, which will allow the property to accommodate a wider variety of housing types including duplexes and multifamily dwellings. Hopes are that this process will be completed in June.

The decision to sell the property came after

months deliberating on the issue and exploring options. Two other options under consideration by the school board involved abating and demolishing the building to develop athletic fields, one scenario involving the rebuilding of the old gym.

Estimates, however, put the latter option at about \$1.5 million, the cost of developing the athletic fields itself after abatement and demolition costing more than \$800,000.

Two appraisals by analysts Duncan & Brown and RE/MAX Advantage Plus of just the bare land have put the property at a value of \$745,000 and \$880,000, respectively, assuming the rezoning to R2 goes through.

With that in mind, the board determined that Cottage Grove High School and the new Harrison School properties still had enough field space and that bond dollars could be prioritized toward other projects

such as deferred maintenance.

The school board is currently working with the Oregon School Board Association to receive guidance on the path ahead for the old Harrison School property and the City of Cottage Grove has showed interest in helping the school district manage.

In adopting a housing strategy earlier this year, the city committed to working with the local school district to look at

surplus lands and how they can help the city meet its housing needs.

“One of the major things they were looking at was how the city can help the school district figure out what to do with this property,” said City Planner Amanda Ferguson, “and more specifically, how can we meet some of our housing needs with this property?”

Through the partnership, the school district was encouraged to continue with

its plan to change the property zone to R2.

“It helped reassure them that the path of rezoning was a better option, that it wouldn’t hurt them financially and it would meet the stated needs that the community has,” said Ferguson. “I think it was a really great partnership.”

Providing an implementation plan passes committee approval, it will be brought before the City Council next month.

Budget *from A1*

New employees were also included in the budget.

In response to this year’s snowstorm, two part-time city employees were taken on to work full-time in the Public Works department and will continue employment into the next fiscal year as cleanup continues.

A part-time community coordinator assistant position was also made full-time to continue ongoing

community service projects such as housing and assisted living.

Other new positions in the adopted budget included a human resources director/assistant to the city manager, part-time engineering aide, part-time finance clerk, a library intern and six new seasonal employees who will be employed full-time for two and a half months.

A current planning technician position will also be reclassified as an assistant

city planner.

The new positions were said in the budget message to be “essential in helping to complete projects this year or are a direct result of the grants.”

Additionally, an aging workforce among city staff is expected to see the retirement of several employees in the next six months and the hirings are regarded as a way to make up for the predicted shortfall in staff.

Major city projects in the next fiscal year will in-

clude the reconstruction of the Swinging Bridge, roadway preservation, the Safe Routes to Schools program, continuation of three bridge repairs, restoration of the Armory and improvement or replacement of water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure.

Renovations are also underway for the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center, a community facility that will include a new warm water pool, replacing the current therapy pool in the

Community Center.

The adopted budget includes \$20,000 for operational savings and \$50,000 for the HVAC system. An additional \$75,000 will be budgeted to support operation costs for after-hour community use of the new aquatic center.

City water rates under the adopted budget will see a \$3.42 monthly increase for residents using 5,000 gallons per year and a “typically-sized meter,” with rates differing depending

on meter size, consumption and type of use.

No other fee or rate increases were proposed in the new budget.

Overall, there was agreement on the state of the proposed budget at Tuesday’s budget meeting.

A budget message to the committee stated that “the funds are generally healthy and are able to continue current levels of service.”

Court *from A1*

million, it would be the largest capital project built by Lane County.

Complaints about the 60-year-old building’s condition are nothing new.

“The building itself has reached its lifespan,” said County Commissioner Heather Buch.

Proponents of the measure point out that the current courthouse has significant safety, space and operational limitations, a problem exacerbated by the fact that its population has doubled since being built.

A salient safety concern involves the sharing of corridors and an elevator by judges, court staff, jurors, victims, defendants and inmates. The environment has concerned some that those waiting to testify before a trial would feel intimidated by sharing space with those they are testifying against.

The building’s space

limitations are also said to affect the length of trials, security and accessibility.

“People are stuffed in there like sardines,” Buch said.

Chronic problems with plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling systems are also cited as needing to be addressed. Some infrastructure is so bad that raw sewage has reportedly leaked through ceiling tiles onto evidence and into offices in the past.

“It’s also getting more

and more expensive to operate just because of its age and the constant maintenance that it’s requiring,” said Buch.

A running argument from proponents is that the building’s full renovation will actually cost more than building a completely new courthouse.

“As a developer, I always have to make those conscious decisions,” Buch said, “and here it looks pretty obvious that it’s well past the renovation period.”

od.”

The infrastructure is also not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and parts of the building do not meet accessibility requirements. Because jury boxes are not ADA accessible, jurors in

wheelchairs are forced to sit among audience members during trials.

Proponents argue that the current limitations of the courthouse are causing inefficiencies and delays, which burden the taxpayer.

The court handles a

full range of cases including traffic tickets, murder cases, family law, juvenile court, car accidents and matters of personal injuries. Lane County reports that the courthouse

See COUNTY 11A

# Worship Directory

**DRAIN:**

**HOPE U.M.C.**  
131 W “A” St. Drain, OR  
541-315-1617  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am  
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm  
Worship: 12:30pm

**COTTAGE GROVE:**  
**6th & Gibbs Church of Christ**  
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822  
10:00am  
Christian Education:  
Pre-K through 5th  
www.6thandgibbs.com

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290  
Pastor: Riley Hendricks  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Worship: 11:00am  
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm  
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

**Church of Christ**  
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565  
Sunday Service: 10:30am

**Cottage Grove Bible Church**  
1200 East Quincy Avenue  
541-942-4771  
Pastor: Bob Singer  
Worship 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,  
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm  
www.cgbible.org

**Cottage Grove Faith Center**  
33761 Row River Rd.  
541-942-4851  
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett  
www.cg4.tv  
Full Children’s Ministry available  
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

**Delight Valley**  
Church of Christ  
33087 Saginaw Rd. East  
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend  
Two Services:  
9am - Classic in the Chapel  
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

**First Baptist Church**  
301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242  
Pastor: David Chhange  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Worship Service 11:00am  
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm  
cgfirstbaptist.com

**First Presbyterian Church**  
3rd and Adams St  
541-942-4479  
Rev.: Karen Hill  
Worship: 10:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
fpcgrove.com

**Hope Fellowship**  
United Pentecostal Church  
100 S. Gateway Blvd.  
541-942-2061  
Pastor: Dave Bragg  
Worship: 11:00am Sunday  
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday  
www.hopefellowshipupc.com  
“FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE”

**Living Faith Assembly**  
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612  
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a  
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)  
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

**Non-Denominational Church of Christ**  
1041 Pennoyer Ave  
541-942-8928  
Preacher: Tony Martin  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am  
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm  
www.pennoyeravecoc.com

**Old Time Gospel Fellowship**  
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999  
Pastor: Jim Edwards  
Sunday Service: 10:00am  
Join in Traditional Christian Worship

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches**  
1025. N. 19th St.  
541-942-3420  
Father John J. Boyle  
Holy Mass:  
Saturday Vigil – 5:30 PM  
Sunday – 10:30 PM  
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net  
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM  
Saturdays or by appointment  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell  
552 Holbrook Lane  
Sunday 8:30 AM  
**St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050  
Rev. Lawrence Crumb  
“Church with the flags.”  
Worship: Sunday 10:30am  
All Welcome

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
820 South 10th Street  
541-942-5213  
Pastor: Kevin Miller  
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am  
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40  
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373  
Pastor: James L. Markus  
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups  
tlccg.com

**United Methodist Church**  
334 Washington • 541-942-3033  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Worship: 10:30am  
umcgrove.org

**“VICTORY” Country Church**  
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913  
Pastor: Barbara Dockery  
Worship Service: 10:00am  
Message: “WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES”

**CRESWELL:**  
Creswell Presbyterian Church  
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419  
Rev. Seth Wheeler  
Adult Sunday School 9:15am  
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am  
website www.creswellpres.org

# Worship With Us!

**Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in this newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!**

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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