

**SLSD** *from A9*

being done on the Student Success Act funds.

**3. Which of the board's current areas of focus are you most interested in working on?**

*Sherry Duerst-Higgins, chair —*

The most important area of involvement in the next few months is the selection and hiring of our next superintendent.

Someone that is highly qualified with visionary leadership skills, experience as an administrator, excellent communication skills, integrity and to be involved in our community. In a few weeks we will be reviewing and interviewing the candidates.

This will involve the board, staff, parents and community members. It is extremely important to select the most qualified candidate that can lead South Lane School District into the future.

*Alan Baas, vice chair —*

Anything that wakes us all up to how the town and the gown — the community and the schools — must work together if we are to educate children suited to deal with the future my generation is bestowing on them. More directly, of course, we are doing a great job once again with strong attention to Career Technology Education (CTE) as well as maintaining an excellent Family Resource Center with good services for our many diverse populations.

*Jerry Settelmeyer —*

I believe the board focus on being more aware of what is actually happening in our schools may lead to more beneficial and actual involvement in bettering the education in our district. Many fantastic things are happening each school day and with clearer understanding of the challenges and needs in our district we will be able to help make even more fantastic happen.

*Tammy Hodgkinson —*

Equity is a hot issue right now in education, but it's important that "equity" becomes a goal we strive to actually achieve, and not just a buzzword we employ to add a thin veneer of temporary credibility to the District. I find it very encouraging that the Student Success Act will allow the District to first, identify areas where we need to improve, and then address those deficits in meaningful ways backed by data.

It's also encouraging that the Legislature seems to be quite serious about wanting to be active partners with Oregon's school districts in this process. I have seen a lot of legislative initiatives plow through education.

Inevitably, the results, good or bad, just wind up being tucked away in an ob-

scure file somewhere and that's the end of it. On to the next "new thing." The SSA feels different and I'm excited to see it actually help us reach the kids who need it the most.

*Dustin Bengtson —*

The most important thing for all of us right now is the selection of the new superintendent. That individual will have a huge influence on the success of the district and what we can provide for kids. I come from a background of facilities and asset management, so I'm very interested in how we use our facilities. The school district has an interesting role in the community in that we own all these resources that the community relies on whether or not you have kids in school.

**4. What are you most proud of accomplishing in your position as board member?**

*Sherry Duerst-Higgins, chair —*

Directing and supporting the board passage of a new high school, the building of Harrison, the updating of our aquatic center, selecting a permanent facility and continuing to meet the needs of the high school. That means working with students, parents and the community to be able to provide the best education we are able to with the dollars and resources available to us.

*Alan Baas, vice chair —*

Working with six other citizens with clearly different points of view who are also all clearly dedicated to the goal of helping our kids grow up to be the best they can be.

*Jerry Settelmeyer —*

Encouraging more communication and information sharing.

*Tammy Hodgkinson —*

One of the things I learned after being elected to the Board is that Board members are expected to set policy, but typically you aren't the people doing the actual work. That said, we can lend our support to the work that others are doing and influence the direction

that the district takes.

I am extremely proud of the vibrant network of local agencies, resources, and collaboration that Jackie Lester and Ana Maria Dudley built to support our families and students in the district. Thanks to years of their hard work and dedication, South Lane is a candidate to open a Community Health Center. I like to think that my support for their amazing work helped in some small way to keep it going.

*Dustin Bengtson —*

I've only been there since July, but I think we are very fortunate to have Yvonne Curtis as our interim superintendent.

I think she's bringing tremendous capacity to the district and will help us understand our needs. So if there's anything I feel I contributed to, it's that piece. I think we should all feel good about having Yvonne as our interim superintendent.

**5. What role can the board play in any anticipated challenges for the school district this year?**

*Sherry Duerst-Higgins, chair —*

To be active and engaged with our district, staff, students and parents with the Student Success Act, which will provide a \$2 million increase in our budget to be able to give more opportunities, to improve the education for all our students. As board members we are actively involved and engaged in facilitating this process.

*Alan Baas, vice chair —*

Our board as a whole has been working hard at understanding just what is required of a board to do its best. I expect we all will continue reflecting on our roles and taking advantage of training available from our board association.

The extra funding pouring into all Oregon schools from the Student Success Act directs us to support community outreach in a wide spectrum of areas, from matters of diversity to careers, all of which our board is clearly committed

to helping with.

Also, I hope to help hire a new superintendent who is visionary enough to be sensitive to how the past may not be a good guide for the future and who also comes with the professional experience to help our district and town deal with the many changes facing education today.

*Jerry Settelmeyer —*

Being good listeners and active information gatherers. Critical thinkers regarding selecting a long-term leader for our district.

And always culturing a stronger education with every staff member, family and student.

*Tammy Hodgkinson —*

Honestly, the biggest challenge the board faces this year is to find the right long-term superintendent for the district. We have some important decisions to make about the direction we want to take and the style of leadership we want for the district.

It's a good challenge though, because it brings with it opportunities to begin engaging the community in conversations about the other challenges we face: creating safe and inclusive schools; staff retention; equity; declining enrollment; etc.

*Dustin Bengtson —*

For us, I think it's working through this process and choosing the next head of the school district. As that person comes on board, it's our role to get them on board and grounded to work through both budget and personnel needs for the district.

That's where we're going to have to invest our time.

That's where I hope to help.

**EMERALD VALLEY ARMORY, LLC**

**Handguns Long Rifles Concealed carry classes**

**Call for Schedules**

**Tues. - Sat. 10-6 pm**

147 W. Oregon Ave. Creswell, OR 97426

541-895-2666

**20 PERCENT OFF WITH THIS COUPON**

*\*Parts not included*

**PC-GARAGE**

SALES SERVICE & REPAIR

711 E MAIN ST  
COTTAGE GROVE  
541 698 8191

**ASK ABOUT OUR NEW REMOTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE!!!!**

**TURNING 65 AND NEED HELP WITH YOUR MEDICARE CHOICES?**

*Call Paul to help simplify the complicated.*

**541-517-7362**

**Paul Henrichs ~ Independent Agent**  
coverage4oregon@gmail.com

**HOMESTEAD Furniture**



**Win an outdoor lounge chair for summer relaxing!!**

**Visit CGSENTINEL.COM to enter into the Pro Football Challenge**



**615 Main Street • Cottage Grove • 541-942-8711**  
**homesteadcg.com**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
THE LOWEST RATES IN LANE COUNTY

**PUBLIC MEETINGS, TRUSTEE NOTICES, PROBATE, AUCTION & FORECLOSURE NOTICES, AND MORE.**

*Published weekly in the Cottage Grove Sentinel and online at cgsentinel.com*

**Cottage Grove Sentinel**

Contact: Meg Fringer  
541-942-3325 x1200  
mfringer@cgsentinel.com

**Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers**

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$18.80-\$19.80 per month and business services are \$31.00-\$35.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 20 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

**CenturyLink®**