



Submitted Photo

Steins Pillar Elementary School in Prineville.

Crook County voters reject school bond

By **BRYCE DOLE**
The Bulletin

PRINEVILLE — A bond measure that would have funneled millions of dollars toward improvements for Crook County School District’s oldest facilities has failed, district officials conceded Tuesday.

In all, 51.37% of voters said no to the \$66 million bond while 48.63% said yes, according to the Oregon Secretary of State’s website as of Tuesday afternoon, a gap that has only grown over the past week. The deadline for certifying the election isn’t until June 13, but Tuesday was the final day on which ballots mailed last week could be counted.

The bond measure was one of at least eight in mostly rural Oregon school districts that failed this election cycle, according to the Oregon School Boards Association. Voters approved at least six other bond measures, five of which were in school districts located in the Willamette Valley.

Crook County School District officials attribute the bond failures in rural districts largely to the nationwide economic turmoil brought on by inflation and surging gas prices.

“I suppose miracles happen, but the trend hasn’t changed since last Tuesday,” school board member Scott Cooper said of the bond measure’s failure. “I point the finger directly at the deterioration of the economic situation.”

The district’s superintendent, Sara E. Johnson, agreed that economic instability, atop national fears over the war in Ukraine and cultural upheaval over schools, may have negatively impacted voter interest in the bond.

“People are afraid, and things are unsteady,” Johnson said. “Voting for more taxes wasn’t their first priority.” The measure would have increased the tax rate by 10 cents per \$1,000 of

assessed property value, district officials have said.

But with the district’s decades-old boilers, roofs and other facilities getting older and repairs growing more expensive each year, district officials say they will almost certainly have to go out for another bond.

District officials said it’s possible that the district might trim the bond but noted that many of the district’s essential facilities, including roofs, will need to be replaced eventually.

The bond was intended to fund new and expanded facilities to improve the school district’s programs and security. The district hoped to improve its old roofs, boilers, undersized cafeterias and locker rooms and an auditorium. It also hoped to expand middle school classrooms that are becoming too small for the growing district.

The bond also would have allowed the district to receive \$4 million in grant funds from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program.

Cooper did not voice any regret in going out for the bond this cycle. He said the voter turnout was larger than what the district has seen for bond measures in the past, and he noted that it failed by a relatively small margin.

He did say, though, that had the district known how the economy would change, they may have put off the bond measure proposal.

“I think we failed to take into account the very real economic pain that’s being inflicted on people,” he said. He added: “We were watching with some horror in the last couple of weeks as the markets tanked.”

Cooper and Johnson said it’s possible that the district goes out for another bond as early as next November, but said district officials have had little discussion over what they plan to do next.

Cooper said of a possible November bond proposal, “I wouldn’t rule that out.”

Teachers could get pandemic bonus

By **IAN CRAWFORD**
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Baker School District teachers and other employees who have worked throughout the pandemic could receive a bonus payment of \$860 if they stay on through the 2022-23 school year.

Employees who worked for one year during the pandemic and stay for next year could get \$430.

The money would be from a state grant program designed to reward school employees who stayed during the pandemic and encourage them to continue in their jobs.

The Baker School Board

voted on May 19 to apply for \$242,000 from the state program.

The district filed the grant “in an effort to retain our contracted teachers, classified, and confidential staff on our payroll who worked during the pandemic and will continue with us,” said Lindsey McDowell, the district’s public information and communications coordinator.

“To my knowledge, there was no significant staff exodus during the pandemic, even when the vaccination mandate went into place,” McDowell said. “Although we won’t know probably until August, I am told that we do expect most staff to return next year.”



Blue Mountain Hospital District

Community Health Beat



What’s new at BMHD?

Rehabilitation Department Expands Services

We’re continuing to expand services in our Rehab Department and are now offering lymphedema management and pelvic floor physical therapy!

We are excited to announce that Katie Cole, PT, DPT, CLT has received her certification in managing lymphedema. She can treat a range of patients from acute to chronic with coordinated care with the patient’s physician. Katie Hughes PT, DPT has obtained additional training in pelvic floor health and is now seeing patients who deal with pelvic floor dysfunction including pain, urinary retention issues, and pre/post pregnancy.

As always, please stop by to say hi or give us a call to ask any questions that you may have. We look forward to providing these therapies to our community!

Rehabilitation Services - 541-575-4157

Dine & Walk With a Doc

Join us the second Tuesday of each month starting in July for a complementary catered meal while you enjoy a talk on health and wellness topics from your local healthcare providers/professionals. After we eat, we’ll take a walk around beautiful 7th Street Complex. A new topic will be presented each month.

What Time: Dinner will begin at 5:30 pm and a walk around the complex will follow.

Where: Dinner will be served at the Veteran Memorial Picnic Shelter @ 7th Street



When: July 12th, August 9th, September 13th
This is a FREE event and people of all ages are invited!

In collaboration with: John Day/Canyon City Parks & Rec, Community Counseling Solutions & Grant County Community Health Improvement Coalition

FREE Bicycle Helmets!

Our Injury Prevention Program has FREE bicycle helmets for all ages - both children and adults. Stop by Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic to pick yours up anytime during regular business hours. No appointment needed!

Locally Grown Prenatal/Postpartum Classes

Register now for June prenatal/postpartum classes by visiting our website. Classes are FREE, dinner is provided. Dates: June 8th, 15, 27th 5:30pm-8:00pm

We’re Hiring!

Recruiter | Human Resources - (Full Time)

Environmental Services Technician | Housekeeping/Laundry - (Full Time)

Activities Director | Care Center - (Full Time)

Claims & Billing Specialist | Business Office - (Full Time)

Many other full-time, part-time & casual positions open, visit our website for more information & to apply.

Save the Date:

Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation
Fundraiser Golf Scramble
Saturday, July 16th, 2022
John Day Golf Club

www.bluemountainhospital.org

