

Budget: Set to continue pursuing the district’s top priorities and strategic plan

Continued from Page A1

Bess Gloria, Ryan Dewey and A.J. Wahl.

The district’s strong beginning general fund balance of approximately \$3.18 million “has been anticipated,” Hill said, adding the goal is to be able to absorb increasing state pension costs “without having to make reductions.”

“The district does anticipate that consistently over the next 10 years, unless something is done, the public employee retirement system rates will consistently increase every biannual,” Hill said.

Additionally, the budget incorporates a 2.5% salary increase for licensed, confidential and administrative

employees and a 2.25 percent salary increase for classified staff.

Strategic plan and construction work

The proposed budget reflects an approximately 3.6% increase over the adopted 2018-19 budget of about \$21.4 million. Other components of the district’s overall budget include special revenue funds, debt service funds, capital project funds, and trust and agency funds, which are designated for specific purposes or functions.

During the 2019-20 school year, the district plans to implement several evidence-based practices to ensure students’ success, Roley said. The goals they



Seaside High School

have set for the next five year are that by June 2024, all students K-12 will be on track to graduate and be prepared with a plan beyond high school and will develop the social and emotional skills to be positive community members.

Additions in the pro-

posed budget for next year to support the strategic plan, along with the district’s construction project to move all schools outside the tsunami inundation zone, include:

The addition of a full-time classroom teacher at Broadway Middle School to alleviate large classes sizes.

An increase in professional development funds for both teachers and educational assistants.

Extra duty funds to support teacher team leaders who will support classroom practices.

An increase in executive administration expenditures to support the addition of an assistant superintendent to support both the strategic plan and to provide oversight for the construction project, both in 2019-20 and the first half of 2020-21.

The district anticipates a large portion of the general obligation Bond funds will be spent during the upcoming fiscal year, as the construction project continues progressing. With the near completion of the middle and high school building, the district will now tackle construction of the new elementary school gymnasium; seismic improvements and updating Seaside Heights Elementary School; completion of most site work, including road construction; and a variety of processes in preparation for moving in August 2020.

The budget committee will meet again May 21, the target date for approval by the budget committee. On June 18, the district will hold a public hearing on the budget as approved by the budget committee and enact resolutions to adopt the budget, make appropriations, and declare the tax levy.

Housing: Federal lawmaker seeks remedies for Clatsop County’s housing woes

Continued from Page A1

rural Oregon, adding value to forest projects and jobs. “It really gives structural stability to the rural economy,” she said.

Balensifer said cities should consider alternatives to traditional single-family dwellings, such as cottage clusters or tiny homes.

He sought more flexibility in the defining of wetlands, with a proposed rating system that could permit development on less critical lands. “There are a lot of wetlands in the city of Warrenton that are not high quality wetlands. They’re cow pastures.”

A more streamlined process could speed developments that can take years.

Others session participants sought incentives for developers, fee waivers or reduced system develop-



U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici and Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer.

HOUSING AT A GLANCE

In Clatsop County, someone making min wage would have to work 65 hours a week to afford a one-bedroom apartment, Suzanne Bonamici said at the listening session.

A family needing three bedrooms would need an income of more than \$51,000 per year, or \$25 an hour.

ment charges.

Evans, whose Helping Hands served more than

1,300 people last year, said his organization was unable to secure access to federal

funding, despite the growing need. “We have a growing need with no access to funding,” he said. “None whatsoever. We bark, we cry, we beg, we do all those things — but we still can’t meet the need. Our referrals exceed what we’re capable of providing.”

The listening session was part of a series of six discussions on the housing crisis in Northwest Oregon.

Bonomici anticipates legislation in Congress designed to create 3 million “deeply affordable homes” across the country. Other potential tools include housing vouchers; low-income tax-credits or raising the minimum wage.

Bonomici said there’s a political will on both sides of the aisle. “People in communities across the country are experiencing this, it’s not red or blue, urban/

suburban. It’s an issue everywhere.”

“Government isn’t the answer to all things, but there truly is a role, and national policies and resources are going to be a vital part of addressing this crisis,” she added. “State, local, federal, public, private, nonprofit — everyone’s going to need to be working together.”

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Write On: Authors share insight into literary process

Continued from Page A1

participated in the writers extravaganza during the fundraiser hail from across the Pacific Northwest, including the Long Beach Peninsula, Gearhart, Nehalem and in between. Throughout the evening, the writers read excerpts of original work while guests bid on the opportunity to name various story characters. Winning bidders also were to receive a printed copy of the book featuring everyone’s work.

James A. Tweedie, who read an excerpt from his work “Just Looking,” has written 10 books across various genres, including poetry, theology, and a series featuring a private eye set in Manhattan. His latest collection of stories, “Long Beach Short Stories: Possibly Untrue Tales from the Pacific Northwest,” is set on the Long Beach Peninsula, where he’s resided for about 10 years.

“All of that is derived from my experiences there and stories I heard from other people who live there,” he said.

Tweedie worked in a public library for six years and was accepted for graduate school in library science, before life took a different route. However, his mother was a librarian and he also worked with his wife at a library before they were married, which caused him to have a long-lasting “love affair with libraries and an appreciation for them.” The story he read at the fundraiser was based on an event he experienced when working at the library, but he set the plot in Seaside.

Other authors who presented during the evening and their work include:

- Andy Barker, “A Precarious Nest”
- Bruce Bushing, “Used Books”
- Tom Lackaff, “Teachable Moment”
- Pamela Mattson McDonald, “The Substitute”
- Dayle Nelson, “What Sets Us Free”
- Kay Stoltz, “Between the Pages”
- Kayleigh Armstrong,

“Something Purple”

In addition to the writers extravaganza, the event also featured a live auction and paddle bid for donated items, including six little free libraries, designed for individuals and businesses to use as small-scale book exchanges for the public. The libraries, created by local craftsmen, came in a variety of shapes and styles, such as a rendition of the Terrible Tilly Lighthouse perched atop the rock, a Bavarian Haus, and a DIY library with materials and instructions to put it together.

Nettie-Lee Calog, the Warrenton Community Library site manager, also was recognized for her work in the community and advancing the institution. Calog, who is retiring at the end of 2019, helped establish the nonprofit Libraries ROCC program—a collaboration between the three public libraries, five school districts, corporate sponsors, and the local communities.

The organization’s mission is to bridge the gaps between funded and unfunded youth services in rural areas by placing a library card in the hands of every child who wants one; providing courier services between the schools and libraries for library materials; and to support the annual countywide summer reading program. Since being established in 2009, the outreach program has served about 2,900 students

“Because of this effort, kids that are now in high school have had a library card for the entire time they’ve been in school,” Astoria Library Director Jimmy Pearson said. “What a powerful message we send, when we talk about literacy for children, when we give them books that open their minds by opening their access to reading.”

Eight local authors shared their work and insight into the literary process in a writers extravaganza during a community event to raise money to support library services and programs in Seaside and the surrounding area.

The third annual Write On Seaside!, a fundraiser for the Seaside Public Library Foundation and Libraries Rural Outreach in Clatsop County (ROCC), was held April 14 at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

“Libraries are one of the last places on the planet where you can get things for free,”

said Melissa Eskue-Ousley, chair of the foundation’s board. She referenced several of Seaside’s services and programs, such as checking out books, DVDs and audio books; attending storytime and Teen Tuesday, featuring a slate of engaging projects for youth; and using computers and accessing the Internet.

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