

## Quick Facts: General Obligation Bond Measure

Lincoln County School District undertook a three-year process of evaluating its school buildings and infrastructure. This included researching, planning and working with school site councils, school staff, community steering committees, engineers, architects and others. The result was the identification of several renovation and structural projects that focus on student learning, safety, and protecting the investment in schools.

If approved by voters during the May 17 election, the proposed bond would generate \$63 million for School Construction, School Improvements, and Safety Improvements.

The school district's financial advisors have said this could be accomplished without a tax rate increase. This is because an existing bond is scheduled to be paid off at the same time the new bond payments would begin.

If the bond measure is approved, the estimated tax rate for bonded indebtedness would be 72 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, or approximately \$144 a year on a property valued at \$200,000. (A second tax rate shown on the Lincoln County property tax statement for Lincoln County Schools is a fixed amount that is set by state law and is unrelated to the bond tax rate.)

A wealth of information about the bond measure is available online at the school district's website, [www.lincoln.k12.or.us](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us). You'll find descriptions of proposed projects, architectural plans of proposed renovations, a 10-minute informational video, and more.

The website also includes Answers to Your Bond Measure Questions. Following is a summary of some of these questions and answers:

### WHAT WOULD BOND PROCEEDS PAY FOR?

- **Consolidating educational resources** by relocating Waldport High, which is vulnerable to tsunami, earthquake and flood, to a safer location adjacent to the existing Crestview Heights School.

- **Removing 39 portable classroom buildings** that are past their useful life – *projects at Newport Prep Academy, Newport High, Oceanlake Elementary, Taft Elementary, Toledo Elementary, Toledo Jr./Sr. High, and Waldport High.*

- **Building and/or remodeling classrooms and instructional space** to meet academic and technology requirements, as more than half of district school buildings are between 53 and 61 years old – *projects at*



**LOW TIDE ON LINT SLOUGH.** This view looking southwest shows that Waldport High School is just a few feet above Lint Slough, which is fed by the Alsea Bay. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries did a seismic evaluation of the school and rated it as having a "High Collapse Potential." If approved by voters, the bond would fund the relocation of Waldport High School to high ground adjacent to Crestview Heights School, consolidating south area educational facilities in one location.

*Newport Prep Academy, Newport High, Oceanlake Elementary, Sam Case Primary, Taft Elementary, Toledo Elementary, and Toledo Jr./Sr. High.*

- **Upgrading or renovating heating/ventilation, plumbing and electrical systems** to improve efficiency and reduce operating costs – *projects at all schools.*

- **Making athletic field improvements for more efficient maintenance and regular, year-round use** by students and community members – *projects at Newport, Taft, Toledo, and Waldport high schools.*

- **Making site and building improvements** – *projects at many schools including roof replacement at Taft High.*

- **Making disability access and safety improvements** – *projects at all schools.*

### HOW DO WE KNOW THE PROPOSED PROJECTS WILL ACTUALLY BE DONE?

Community members have been involved with this process from the beginning, and would continue to be involved through its completion. Should the bond measure be approved, a volunteer Citizens' Oversight Committee would be appointed. Members periodically would review progress on project improvements, and recommend project modifications to account for decreases or increases in construction costs.

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## Letter from Your Superintendent



**Dear Lincoln County School District Residents:**

The 2010/2011 school year has reached the point where several forces are in play simultaneously that will affect how our school district operates. State testing windows are open for a bit longer; bargaining with our teachers' union has begun; the state budget is being developed; and Lincoln County residents will vote in an election May 17th on general obligation bonds to address facilities needs in our district.

This District Dialog contains information about the proposed projects the bond could fund. While I cannot predict future costs perfectly, nor can I predict precisely how the bond sales will go, or if one project has unexpected problems that could affect the other projects, please know this: Ethics and trust are very important to me as a superintendent and as a human being. I am committed to building what we say we will build. I am also committed to a very open community oversight

process so if unexpected things occur, there will be transparency in the decision making.

The legislature is getting closer on identifying what our funding will be for the next two years. We know it will be less than we need to continue operating at our current service level. I am also watching other bills that will have an impact on us, both on how we spend our resources and interact with employees. I believe most of this will be clearer in late May or June.

I welcome your input. Please feel free to contact me by email ([tom.rinearson@lincoln.k12.or.us](mailto:tom.rinearson@lincoln.k12.or.us)), or phone (541-265-4403). You can also visit us on the web at [www.lincoln.k12.or.us](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us). Thanks for being a part of our district and community.

Sincerely,

**Tom Rinearson,  
Superintendent**

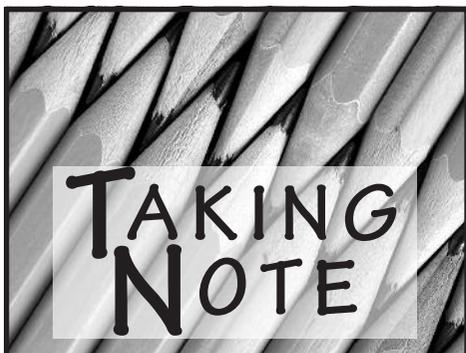
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NEWS OF INTEREST  
from around the district

## OCAMP Teachers Share Info at National Conference

"Partnering Teachers, Scientists, and Informal Science Educators to Improve Teaching and Learning" was the title of the session that six Lincoln County OCAMP Teacher Fellows presented at the San Francisco National Science Teachers Association Conference on March 10.

Presenting an overview of their professional development experiences in the grant, each teacher illustrated how she developed standards-based field learning experiences and classroom inquiry for their students. They also shared their collaborations with marine and



**SHARING SCIENCE TEACHING TIPS.** Lincoln County teachers, from left, Beth Parsons, Mary Koike, Ingrid Olson, Jennifer Stobie, Laurie Beutler, and Dana Spink, outside the exhibit hall.

aquatic scientists and informal educators from the school district's MSP Grant partners: the Oregon Hatchery Research Center, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon Coast Aquarium and Yaquina Head-BLM.

Along with project director **Ruth McDonald**, the Lincoln County teachers who made presentations were **Dana Spink**, Toledo Elementary; **Laurie Beutler**, Siletz Valley Charter; **Mary Koike**, Isaac Newton Magnet and Newport High; **Beth Parsons**, Taft Elementary; and **Ingrid Olson** and **Jennifer Stobie**, both of Crestview Heights.

Following their presentation, the group attended workshops, presentations, panels and keynotes on science education research, best practices in science instruction, new technologies and cur-

riculum. The conference was attended by more than 10,000 K-20 science teachers from across the country.

One goal of the OCAMP project is to help participating teachers develop leadership and research skills by presenting to their colleagues in the field at state, regional and national professional conferences. This also helps Lincoln County School District share its cutting edge program of embedding Ocean Literacy into science instruction for all students.

Kudos to these outstanding educators for helping put Lincoln County Schools, students and our partners on the map!

## Student Work Featured in District-Wide Art Show

Honoring Lincoln County School District's efforts to encourage "ocean literacy" in all students, the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts has selected the theme of "sea life" for this year's annual Lincoln County Student Art Show.

The show will be run from **April 29 through May 29** in the Runyan Gallery at Newport Visual Arts Center, 777 N.W. Beach Drive. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Students from public, private and home schools throughout the county were invited to exhibit their work. The creative pieces represent a multitude of art forms, including drawing, painting, photography, weaving, + ceramics, and more.

An opening reception was held April 29 to honor the

student artists, including those who received awards for Artistic Excellence.

## Top Ten Concert to Highlight Student Music, Photography

Top performers from the last two seasons of "Lincoln County's Got Talent!" return to the stage for an evening of music on **Sunday, May 22**, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Taft High School Commons.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors because no one will want to miss this exciting reunion of remarkably talented singers and musicians ranging in age from 11 to 17 years.

There also will be a silent auction of several beautiful photography works by 12-year-old Jaylene Manitopyes, student at Siletz Valley Charter School.

Admission is \$3 or 3 cans of food for adults and \$1 or 1 can of food for students and seniors. Proceeds of the concert will help the Homeless Youth Alliance of Lincoln County provide housing for homeless families with children, while the food will be donated to the Lincoln City Food Pantry.

Contact Gloria Baum at the Homeless Youth Alliance of Lincoln County for more information or to volunteer for this event: 541-765-4558 or [hyalc@centurytel.net](mailto:hyalc@centurytel.net).

## Altrusa Helps Brighten Students' Smiles

For the sixth year, Altrusa's "Something to Smile About" dental program is working to eliminate dental disease among Lincoln County's young people.

The dental committee worked hard this past fall securing grants, purchasing dental supplies, assembling and delivering kits, partnering with Dental Van sponsors and area dental professionals, and communicating with schools and the Lincoln County School Based Health Clinic staff.

Altrusa Club of Yaquina Bay raises the \$25,000 annual cost of the "Something to Smile About" program through grants, private donations and fund-raising activities. Here are some of their accomplishments this school year:

- Approximately 2,600 dental kits were assembled for and delivered to students in kindergarten through sixth grade throughout the school district.
- Each middle school and high school in the county received a big box of supplies with toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, and flossers that can be kept in the school office or health center. If students need supplies, they are there for the asking. If teachers know of a particular need, they can be sure the stu-



**OPEN WIDE!** Dental hygienist **Lori Grimstad** was photographed a couple of years ago teaching a class of young Sam Case School students about proper oral health care. (Photo credit: Nancy Jane Reid)

dents receive dental supplies.

- Elementary schools also received extra supplies to hand out as needed.
- The Dental Van has been to Newport, Toledo and Waldport, with at least one other visit scheduled for this school year. seeking sponsors for the dental van. More than \$18,000 worth of dental care has been provided to students through the Dental Van.
- A group of dental hygienists is available to present short classroom lessons on oral healthcare to elementary students, with Altrusa covering their fees.
- During National Children's Dental Health Month in February, Altrusa distributed fun posters in English and Spanish to be displayed in school classrooms and hallways.
- Altrusa also has funds on hand to cover the costs of urgent dental care for children from financially needy families (for Dental Van visits and for individual appointments). ♦

## DEVELOPING DISTRICT BUDGET

LCSD administrators, principals and staff have been working for weeks to create a budget for the next school year that focuses on student needs, despite the ongoing challenge of increased expenses and reduced funding from the state.

The Oregon Legislature will provide \$5.679 billion for K-12 education during the next two-year budget cycle, beginning July 1. This level of funding results in a shortfall of approximately \$3.5 million to LCSD for the coming school year.

Several possible scenarios are being considered to bridge the budgetary gap while maintaining programs and services that focus on the classroom. For example, administrators, confidential employees and exempt employees may be asked to agree to a salary freeze; Superintendent Tom Rinearson has already offered to freeze his salary for the coming year. Staff may be asked to once again to agree to a reduction in days; there was a 12-day cut during this current school year. The school district and the teachers' union are currently in contract negotiations.

The Budget Committee will review the proposed 2011-2012 budget at their meeting scheduled for **7 p.m. Thursday, May 24**, at Newport High School. Public testimony is encouraged at this meeting.

The committee then will approve the budget and present it to the LCSD Board of Directors for their review. After a public hearing at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21**, at Newport High School, the school board will adopt the budget. ♦

## Quick Facts about Bond Measure

continued from Page 1

Superintendent Tom Rinearson announced that the oversight committee would include:

- **David Green** of Lincoln City – district manager and senior vice president of West Coast Bank.
- **Don Davis** of Newport – former long-time city manager for the city of Newport.
- **Ron Beck** of Newport – engineering specialist with Central Lincoln People's Utility District (PUD) and current school board chairman.
- **Jim Chambers** of Toledo – Lincoln County parks supervisor and former Toledo mayor.
- **Bill Turner** of Waldport – retired electrical engineer/physicist who is active in several community and government boards and committees.

On the topic of district accountability, LCSD Superintendent Tom Rinearson addresses the topic of district accountability in his "Letter from the Superintendent," on page 1 of this issue.

### HOW MUCH IS THE PROPOSED BOND & HOW LONG WOULD IT BE ON MY TAX BILL?

The ballot measure calls for a maximum of \$63 million in bonds to be repaid within 18 years. This would generate \$60.3 million for school building improvements. The School Board has stated its intent to repay over a shorter period of time, 15 years.

### WHAT WOULD MY PROPERTY TAX BILL BE IF THE BOND IS APPROVED?

It is estimated that the bond measure would cost the taxpayer approximately 72 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value each year. The actual rate would vary depending upon interest rates, assessed value growth and other factors. Taxpayers currently pay 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value on bonds that mature in 2012, so there would be no overlapping of bond levies.

### CAN BOND PROCEEDS PAY FOR SALARIES?

No. By law, school districts may use bond proceeds ONLY for capital improvements, not general operating expenses such as teachers' salaries. School district budgets continue to be tight, with reduced state and federal funding. However, if the bond measure is approved, the district would be able to make needed building improvements without using general operating funds.

### WHAT IS THE DISTRICT DOING TO IMPROVE ACADEMICS?

Our teachers instruct, nurture, mentor and care for close to 5,000 students. They strive to inspire learning and give students the tools they need to succeed in academics and in life. How do we know if students are achieving? Here are just a few indicators:

- **Total Instructional Alignment:** This is one of the basic cornerstones of student success. It involves the alignment of the system; alignment of standards, curriculum and assessment; and alignment of instructional practice. To ensure that all children have an opportunity to learn, these three processes are ongoing, responsive, and alive in Lincoln County School District.
- **State Testing and Reporting:** The state and federal governments want to make sure the money they invest in K-12 education is well spent. They have a wide range of



**ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING SHOWS** proposed Waldport High School, front, built adjacent to the existing Crestview Heights School. This view is looking to the north.

reporting tools to ensure that kids are learning and schools are improving; in turn, school districts use data from these reports to pinpoint areas of strength and weakness so they can focus on improvement. Among the reports are Adequate Yearly Progress, Oregon Report Card, and Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives.

- **College Bound Grads:** 76 percent of students who graduated recently from LCSD's four public high schools and three charter high schools planned to continue their education at a trade school, community college, or four-year college or university. One way the school district encourages this is through the Expanded Options Program that gives students a head start on college, at considerable savings, while they are still in high school.

- **Keeping Kids in School:** Dropping out of high school hurts the entire community, but some students find it difficult to learn in a traditional classroom setting. To keep students enrolled and interested in school, LCSD offers alternatives – alt ed programs, teen parent program, online learning, English language learners program, etc.

**"Ethics and trust are very important to me as a superintendent and as a human being... I am committed to building what we say we will build."** – Tom Rinearson  
LCSD Superintendent

### IS FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY AVAILABLE TO HELP OFFSET THE COST OF THE BOND?

Yes! Lincoln County School District has been allocated \$15 million through the Qualified School Construction Bond program, which is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – otherwise known as the Federal Stimulus Package.

The purpose of the QSCB program is to help fund school construction, rehabilitation and repair. Through this program AND if the bond measure is approved, the school district could significantly reduce the cost of borrowing which could result in a lower property tax rate.

If the proposed bond is not approved, the district will not be able to participate in the QSCB program this year.

### WHY IS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING TO RENOVATE ATHLETIC FIELDS?

After considering the long-term advantages of each type of playing field, district officials agreed that synthetic, all-

weather turf is more cost effective than grass turf and would greatly expand the fields' use by students and community members. Some points to consider:

- The increased cost of adding synthetic turf would pay for itself through reduced maintenance costs within 8 to 10 years.
- Synthetic turf requires less water usage (after switching to synthetic turf, Taft High's water usage dropped from approximately \$5,560 to \$2,648).
- Synthetic turf requires approximately 20 hours of grooming per year per field, compared to 150 hours per year to mow, water and maintain a grass field.
- Without grass field maintenance, the school district's maintenance and facilities staff would be freed up to perform other work duties.
- The school district's tractor and pickup machine both would need to be replaced within the next couple of years, at an approximate cost of \$60,000, compared to the \$3,000 cost of a grooming machine for synthetic turf.
- Because of its quick drainage and lack of soil, synthetic turf can be used year-round by physical education classes, school sports teams, community adult and youth sports leagues, and other community groups without harming the field.
- The synthetic turf, all-weather field can be used for football, soccer, track and other sports and uses.

### WHEN IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION AND WHO CAN REGISTER?

Anyone who is an Oregon resident, a U.S. citizen, and age 18 or older may register to vote. The deadline to register for the May 17 election is April 26. Contact the Lincoln County Clerk's Office for details at 541-265-4131. Or, you go online to the county's website and look for the "Register to Vote" link on the County Clerk's page: [www.co.lincoln.or.us/clerk/](http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/clerk/)

### WHEN WILL BALLOTS BE MAILED AND WHEN DO THEY NEED TO BE RETURNED?

The ballots will be mailed on April 29 and must be returned to an official ballot drop box no later than 8 p.m. on May 17 to be counted. ♦

### DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please Call the LCSD District Office at 541-265-9211, Contact your School Principal, or Submit a Question Online at: [questions@lincoln.k12.or.us](mailto:questions@lincoln.k12.or.us)

# This is not a drill!

## Students, Staff Awakened to Tsunami Warning

Many Lincoln County residents were awakened very early on Friday, March 11, to phone call warnings from the school district and county reverse 9-1-1, wailing sirens, and bullhorn announcements to evacuate from low-lying areas, as a tsunami warning had been issued for the entire Pacific Northwest.

The threat was very real. Thankfully, the West Coast was mostly spared from damage or death.

Sue Graves, LCSD safety coordinator, works collaboratively with area emergency response agencies to ensure that students and staff are safe in the event of any natural or manmade emergency. Under her leadership, the school district regularly conducts earthquake and tsunami drills.

On March 11, all this practice was put into action. Here is just a bit of what took place that day:

- **Moving Buses:** Mid Columbia Bus Co. moved buses that are parked in a tsunami zone, at the former Taft Elementary site in Lincoln City, to Taft High School. This started at 2 a.m.

- **Alerting Students, Staff:** LCSD sent a mass phone call to more than 6,800 phone numbers of students and staff starting at 4:40 a.m. The call explained that school was cancelled and that people should listen for TV or radio announcements. This process was accomplished in less than 15 minutes. There were just a few exceptions, for phone numbers that were busy signals or weren't answered; these were re-called several times.

- **Opening Schools as Shelters:** LCSD gave control of three schools to the American Red Cross for use as community emergency shelters. Hundreds of people gathered at Newport Intermediate, Taft High in Lincoln City and Crestview Heights in Waldport for the day, as the tsunami warning was not officially lifted until mid-afternoon.

- **Visitors Evacuated:** Mid Columbia Bus Co. partnered with the local fire departments to help evacuate citizens



**SCHOOL TRANSFORMED INTO COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SHELTER.** A student-created sea life mural offers an ironic backdrop to the Newport Intermediate School multipurpose room, as community members await word on the tsunami. This photo, taken at about 9 a.m., shows citizens watching a TV monitor, reading newspapers, and calmly sitting out the tsunami warning. The TV was tuned to a station showing what was happening in Japan and Hawaii. Along with American Red Cross volunteers, assistance was provided by Sodexo personnel, Newport and Toledo police, Newport police volunteers, and Lincoln County Sheriff's staff.

and visitors from some local hotels and assembly areas and brought them to Taft High and Newport Intermediate.

"I must praise Mid Columbia Bus for volunteering their buses, drivers and fuel, at no cost to the community," Graves said. "Also, kudos to Sodexo food services. They had already trained all their head cooks in Red Cross shelter and operations management. They generously volunteered their time and help at those shelter schools, also."

**Preparation & Planning:** Under Graves' guidance, the district has received grants to stock up on emergency food, water and other supplies, and NOAA Alert Radios have been placed in all schools and in more than 200 staff members' homes.

With assistance from many other staff members and volunteer student and staff actors, Graves has produced 26 original videos on various school safety procedures, including tsunami and earthquake. Staff members are required to view the videos, which cover every aspect of the school district's Emergency Plan.

Parents and students are encouraged to go online before an emergency to read about the school district's safety program. Go to [www.lincoln.k12.or.us](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us), to Departments, to Safety. ♦

## Your School Board

Ron Beck *Chairman*

Jean Turner *Vice Chairman*

Karen Bondley - Brenda Brown - Liz Martin

### LCSD VISION:

Quality Learning For All

### LCSD MISSION:

To Develop Passionate Learners and Responsible Citizens



## To Graduate, Students Must Master Essential Skills

Students graduating from high school in Oregon will be equipped with the skills needed to be successful in college, technical training or the workforce, thanks to a new law [OAR 581-022-0615] concerning high school diploma requirements.

Under the law, the state has a timeline in which students must demonstrate proficiency in the essential skills of reading, writing, mathematics, and more. The essential skills requirement is being phased in over several years, beginning in 2012.

To receive a high school diploma, Lincoln County School students who entered the ninth grade in 2008 must show proficiency in reading comprehension during their junior year. In addition, they must fulfill the credit requirements set forth in LCSD Policy-IKF (the current policy with a revision date of July 2010 is being changed to reflect the change in state law).

### TO MEET THE READING ESSENTIAL SKILLS REQUIREMENT, STUDENTS MUST SCORE AT THE STATED LEVEL ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT TESTS:

- **236 on OAKS (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills)** Students have three opportunities each year to take this assessment, beginning their sophomore year.
- **44 on PSAT** All sophomores take this assessment.
- **440 on SAT** • **18 on ACT** • **18 on PLAN** • **81 on COMPASS** • **42 on ASSET** • **5 on WorkKeys**

Oregon law allows students not meeting the essential skills requirement through any of the above methods to complete reading work samples to demonstrate proficiency in reading comprehension.

LCSD teachers and administrators want to ensure that all students successfully meet requirements to earn a high school diploma. School principals are sending letters to parents of students in the class of 2012 who have not met the reading essential skills requirement, asking them to call their child's counselor. ♦

## IMPORTANT DATES

### CONTRACT REDUCTION DAYS

No School, No Staff

East & West Areas: Mondays May 9, 16, 23

North & South Areas: Mondays May 16, 23

### MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

No School, No Staff Monday, May 30

### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – Half Day

Taft High: Thursday, June 9

All Other Schools: Friday, June 10

### SENIOR GRADUATION

Saturday, June 11

### RECORDS DAY/ TEACHERS' LAST DAY

Monday, June 13

Lincoln County School District has six calendars for its different areas and schools. The most recent revision is dated March 15, 2011. **Please contact individual schools for their school calendar or go online to the LCSD website at:**

[www.lincoln.k12.or.us](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us)