

\$1.50



Co-Directors welcomed at SandBox
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Abiding Care Pregnancy Resource Center held their annual Father/Daughter Dance at the Balliwick in Medford on Saturday. See additional pictures from the event on page 13.

Reaching middle ground

Budget compromise restores funding for forestry, housing

BY BRIAN WILSON
 NEWS EDITOR

A budget compromise helped avert a showdown at Wednesday's county board session.

The compromise, brokered by Supervisor Mike Bub, restored a position to the forestry department, funding to the Taylor County Housing Authority and reversed dramatic changes proposed to the county employee's health insurance while still keeping the overall tax levy increase below the rate of inflation.

As approved, the county budget for 2023 will be \$13,378,540. Overall spending is up 8.1%. However, the county's overall property value jumped by more than 11% last year. The impact of this is that the \$7.89 per \$1,000 of equalized value tax rate approved by the county

See COUNTY on page 10

All-day, 5-day, Pre-K on the way

Medford schools gives OK to launching 5-day program in fall 2023

BY BRIAN WILSON
 NEWS EDITOR

Five-day, full-day, Pre-K will be coming to the Medford Area Public School District in the 2023-2024 school district.

At Monday's Medford School Board meeting, board members approved a plan presented by elementary principal Dan Miller to provide district-sponsored 4K programs, five days a week in both

Medford and Stetsonville elementary buildings. The plan also includes an option for parents who wish to keep the current two day a week schedule. The breakdown of how many students and sections will be needed will be finalized next summer after the district knows the number of students that will be enrolled in each option.

Last summer, the district had directed the staff to look at full week options for the pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) program. Since then Miller and the Pre-K staff have been looking at how such a program could work and could fit within the current footprint of the elementary school buildings.

Miller explained that when he started in Medford 16 years ago, the district offered a four-day a week Pre-K program which coordinated with the local HeadStart and private and parochial childcare programs and providers with students going from one to the other. However the need for budget cuts saw the consolidation into the current two day on, two day off full day model to eliminate the mid-day bus route.

Miller said the focus of looking at the 4K program change was to make a greater investment in early childhood education and provide additional childcare options for Taylor County families.

See SCHOOL on page 4



Supervisor Mike Bub

Page 12: Senior health and wellness fair



SPORTS: Medford girls cross country team headed to state



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