| Submitter: | Susan Halliday |
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| On Behalf Of: | Philomath School District |
| Committee: | House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection |
| Measure, Appointment or Topic: | HB3431 |

Representative Gomberg:

Thank you for introducing HB 3431 to support changes in public meeting notice criteria.  Our desire is to provide our community with the best information we have available.

Following the lead of the Philomath City Council, the Philomath School District announced the acceptance of the Philomath News as the designated publisher of our formal public notices.  The Philomath News, while not designated by a paywall, truly reaches our community in a way that the Corvallis Gazette Times no longer does.  However, as did the City of Philomath, the Philomath School District received a notice from Lee Enterprises, the parent of the Corvallis Gazette Times, stating that our decision for public notice postings was against the law.  As a result, we have returned to paying for publishing such notices with both the Philomath News and Lee Enterprises.

In the bigger picture, I am committed to journalism and the goodness of pubic news.  Personally, I still read the Corvallis Gazette Times as I am interested in my county as a whole.  However, it is very rare that the Gazette Times publishes information specific to the Philomath community.  Most reported school issues, such as the statewide graduation rates, reflect Corvallis, Albany, Lebanon, and Sweet Home.  On the contrary, the Philomath News provided a complete article about the graduation rates in Philomath.

If a determination centers around the larger good of public news, I want to be able to read about our community in the required newspaper for public notices.  If news is not available, members of our community will not subscribe.  For our small community, the Philomath Express makes the most sense for us to communicate with our constituents.

Thank you for your efforts.  Please let me know if you have questions.

Susan

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Susan Halliday
Superintendent

Philomath School District
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