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Veterans fear loss of PTSD group therapy

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Senior Staff Writer
The News-Review

A group of Vietnam veterans told The News-Review this week they're about to lose a group therapy program they say has improved their lives and, in some cases, saved their marriages.

The Roseburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center said

it is moving toward a more evidence-based approach to treating post-traumatic stress disorder. The veterans said they were told that the weekly therapy sessions that some have relied on for as many as 20 years would end this week. After they complained, the VA announced the group would continue meeting while it transitions to an unspecified new

type of care.

By Thursday afternoon, group member Chris Haymond had collected 45 signatures on a petition urging the VA to continue the groups.

Haymond has been a member of a Vietnam veterans therapy group at the VA since 2001. He said the VA therapist who facilitates the group's sessions announced last week he had

been promoted to a different job and that no one would be replacing him. The therapist facilitated groups for Vietnam War, Korean War and World War II veterans.

Haymond said his group is important to the veterans, and it's not acceptable to "have it pulled out like they turned the lights off all of a sudden."

He began attending after his

wife gave him an ultimatum.

"I was told that if I didn't get some help ... I would no longer be married," he said.

He credits the weekly sessions with saving his marriage.

So does Herman Redlich, who said he was on the "brink of just going under" when he joined the group about eight

THERAPY, A3



Geneva Academy freshman Jonathon Jacobsen demonstrates the plasma generator he constructed for a science fair at the Roseburg school on Thursday.

Think like a scientist

Online input leads search

Roseburg schools meet public to find new superintendent

JANELLE POLCYN
The News-Review

Only one community member showed up to the first community member meeting in the search for a new Roseburg Public School Superintendent. He was on his way to a concert and had an hour to kill on campus at Roseburg High School.

Most of the input comes from online surveys, said Michael Taylor, who is leading the search at NextUp Leadership for the district. He said he's had meetings of one or two people before and wasn't surprised.

"We do far more on the surveys than we would do otherwise," Taylor said. "This particular survey is just trying to get an overall sense. We often have community meetings of one, two, three people. It's very typical unless there is currently a real controversy."

Taylor said the purpose of the survey and community meetings is to gather information about the desired qualifications for the new superintendent and to identify strengths and areas for improvement for the District.

Taylor led the search for Gerry Washburn, who was the superintendent from July 2015 until August 2018.

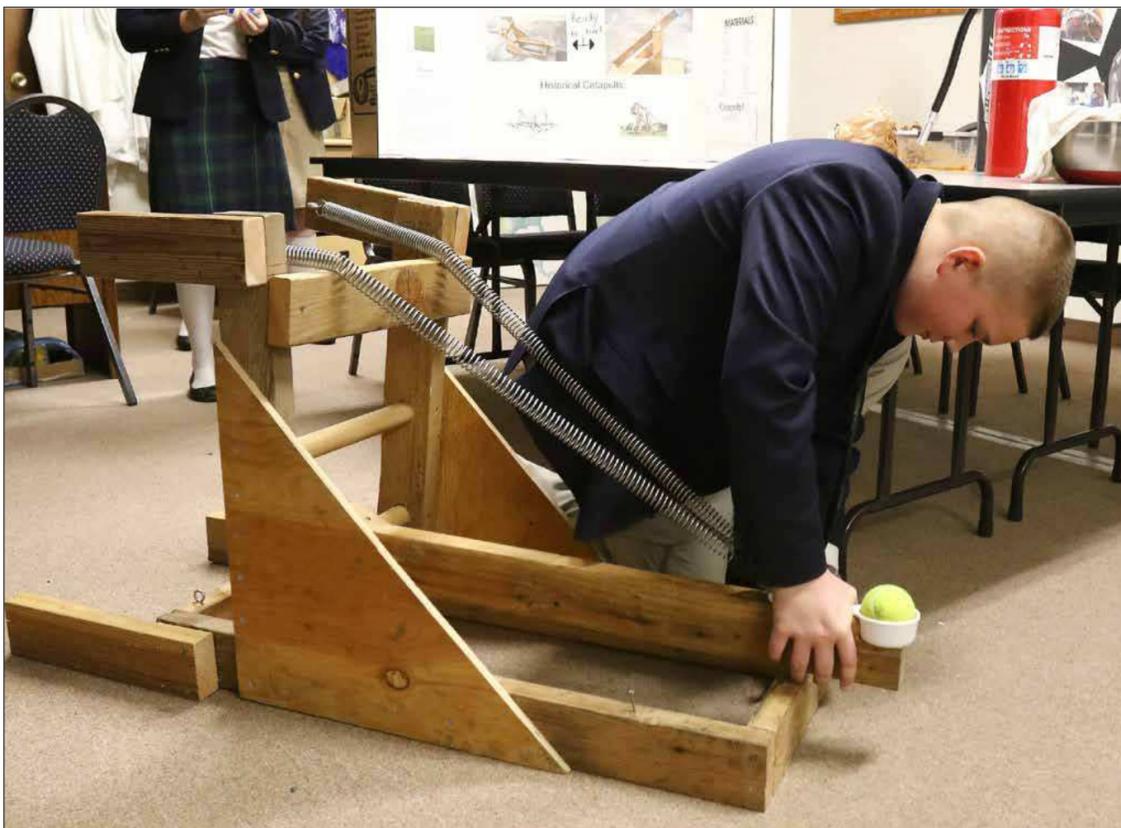
Interim Superintendent Lee Paterson came along with board directors Micki Hall and Charles Lee. He agreed with Taylor that the ease of the online survey and lack of current issues contributed to a smaller turnout.

"I thought there would be a lot more people," Paterson said. "I know what he said is probably the reason why a lot of people didn't come out to the meeting. In the old days, this was the only way you could do it. Now, with the electronic submission, they will have what they want and they will have it in a form they can fold in. This takes a lot more time."

Taylor asked students, teachers and community members the same questions from the online survey in meetings that started during the school day and ran until 6:30 p.m.

Elementary teacher Sherri Good, who stayed for a little bit after the teachers' meeting, said she wanted a superin-

SEARCH, A3



MICHAEL SULLIVAN/NEWS-REVIEW PHOTOS

Geneva Academy eighth grader Benjamin Boice sets up a catapult known as a mangonel that he built for a science fair at the Roseburg school on Thursday.

Students show off experiments at Geneva Academy science fair

ERICA WELCH
The News-Review

Geneva Academy students put science to the test this week during the school's biannual science fair.

Students were challenged in September to choose an experiment to present to their classmates, teachers and four community judges. The assignment allowed three methods of experimentation: the traditional scientific method, a "Myth Busters" approach, and a category called "Improve the World," where students analyze the best solution to a real-life problem.

Exhibits were wide-ranged. Eighth-grader Benjamin Boice compared and contrasted the distance and accuracy of mangonel and trebuchet catapults; Cole Chapin, a sixth-grader, tested the electrical conductivity of different fruits; and junior Kaitlyn Riley tested the consistency and pigmentation of homemade and store-bought oil paints.

"The most fun part of our science fair is watching the students explain their projects because they



Geneva Academy sophomore Aiden Allen discusses his science fair project for judges, from left, Darrell Green, Jennifer Sikes and Beth Gallant at the Roseburg school on Thursday.

experience the pleasure of presenting the completion of months of hard effort on their part," said sixth-grade teacher Lenny Lanterman. "The value of doing this is to guide children into more closely observing and exploring

their world, and wondering and questioning what would happen if they changed something, and if they can get a certain outcome by that change."

SCIENCE, A3



INSIDE, A2
Roseburg school on lockdown after threat

HIGH: 49
LOW: 47



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