

HOLLAND, continued from Page A1

Eppley said councilors had four options: deny Holland's request for discounts altogether, waive the deposit, further discount the rental rate of \$1,600 or waive the rental rate altogether. However, he expressed concern over precedent being set with a discount.

"Though I truly appreciate Mr. Holland's spirit of volunteerism - he's just an incredible volunteer - and desire to provide new and interesting events for the community to participate in, this particular event does not appear to have a community purpose beyond simply being an entertaining ticketed event," Eppley said. "So as to not set the prece-

dent of waiving fees for other ticketed or unticketed events held at the community center without a clear community or charitable nature, staff recommends not waiving any fees for the event other than, perhaps, the refundable deposit, and only if Mr. Holland agrees to reimburse the city should any damage be done to the facility attributable to the event."

Mayor Cathy Clark agreed with Eppley.

"I agree that Clint Holland helps make the summer wonderful with the Summer Concert Series," Clark said. "But when we have ticketed events, there is a difference between free and ticketed events."

Councilor Roland Herrera wanted Holland to explain how the event could be interpreted as a community



Holland



Eppley

event and thus eligible for a discount.

"When you say ticketed event, that is where you charge extra money, like for the band," Holland said. "We've been talking needing \$15 to \$18 to cover the food. We need to know how many will show up, or else we waste time and money on the food. The \$15 to \$18 would cover the meal, but the rest would be free for people to come into the event."

Holland also gave more description of the event.

"Patrick Lamb does a fabulous Christmas program," he said. "It will be the day after the parade. Things like this are good for the community. I'd rather have it on a Saturday, but that wasn't possible because it was already booked."

Council president Dennis Koho made a motion to waive all costs except a sunk cost of \$360 and a \$225 security deposit, with the rest of the fees waived unless damage was done to the facility at the event.

Councilor Kim Freeman asked if other events have costs waived.

"As a council we've discussed being fair and equitable," Freeman said. "A lot of other people in the community do fabulous things as well. I want to make sure we're not setting a precedent for one

event. When it comes back to the budget, sometimes there's heartburn about how much we subsidize the community center."

Eppley noted the general fund subsidizes the community center to the tune of about \$80,000 a year.

"It's a misnomer to say those fees (from Holland's event) would be profit," Eppley said. "The kinds of events with waived fees in the past have been typically charitable events, like proceeds to Marion Polk Food Share."

Herrera shared Freeman's concern.

"I appreciate Clint's idea trying to get something going," Herrera said. "But the precedent thing I have a problem with. Clint has done so much for Keizer, I get that. But if we set a precedent, does

that mean we'd have to do that for everybody?"

Eppley said that would be the case.

"Council in the future will be asked you did (the fee waiver) for this person, why not do it for us?" Eppley said. "I supposed you could say, 'We like Clint and we don't like you,' but that's not a good reason."

When it came time to vote on Koho's motion, he was outvoted 6-1. As such, Holland will have to pay the \$3,325 in city fees.

Holland was disappointed afterwards but also understanding.

"The Keizer City Council has always been supportive of me," he said. "I understand totally where they come from on this. I am actively trying to find sponsors for this event."

OPERA, continued from Page A1

Still, his star is rising. In addition to advancing in the Met's competition, he has an upcoming engagement with Oregon Festival Chorale. He's also in talks to perform at Wilamette University.

"Persuing the career is very different from the educational path. Getting the opportunities to do professional work requires a lot of legwork and networking," Ross said. "It can mean trying a million different things in a row that don't work and then having the last three things you tried come together all at once. It feels

very whimsical at times."

While Ross can take care of his voice and run through all the exercises to make it stronger, the one thing he hasn't had control over is how quickly it matures. That's where the patience becomes essential.

"I probably already have the full top range I will have

for the rest of my life, but as I age the color of my voice will change and become more appropriate for singing things like Richard Wagner," Ross said.

Wagner's operas, which are considered some of the highest examples of the art, are still performed regularly in Germany. Landing a Wagner role

has been a dream of Ross's for the better part of five years now.

"They require singers who are capable of heroic endurance, five hours or more. Those operas require singing high and loud and low and loud and all the different colors in between," Ross said.

Despite his age, Ross

would still be considered far too young for such parts.

"They would look at me like I was crazy. In order to do it properly, you have to let your voice develop slowly, but it is very much something I would love to do."

Come January, he might be one step closer to making his dream a reality.

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