

# UPGRADE,

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and McNary. Both schools have grown well beyond their buildings' capacity, even with portable classroom units stationed at each site. McKay is at 135 percent of its capacity without portables, McNary is at 119 percent without portables.

Those figures drop precipitously with the use of portable classrooms, but portables do not address crowding in communal spaces like cafeterias, libraries, gyms and auditoriums.

To address the issue for the next decade, the task force is recommending increasing the capacity of five district high schools from 2,000 students to 2,200 students. West Salem High School would be the only high school exempt from the increase. That's in addition to improvements needed at a throng of elementary and middle schools (feeders schools) whose populations pool at the high school level.

During the final task force meeting, discussions were wide-ranging and included topics like seismic upgrades, the need for further Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and addressing specific classroom needs such as science labs and career technical education.

If voters approve a general obligation bond, teams would be assembled at each targeted school to plan the way forward.

On the topic of seismic upgrades Wolfe said the district is concerned with minimizing the loss of life over saving the buildings for reuse.

"We're not an organization like a hospital that needs to keep operating in an emergency. (Schools) aren't built to the highest seismic

standard," Wolfe said.

A subcommittee working on the question of whether to build a new high school or increase capacity at existing schools jettisoned the new high school idea.

"Even if you went out for a new high school, there are still core infrastructure needs (at other schools) that need to be addressed," said Mark Shipman, a member of the task force.

Even though building a new school would be cheaper on paper, there would still be about \$100 million in additional infrastructure work at other schools needs to be completed making it a more costly option in the end, Wolfe said.

Two members of the task force expressed reservations about the final recommendation of expanding capacity. Task force member Lloyd Chapman and Steve Chambers said issues of equity are a major concern at larger schools.

"Many of the studies I looked at talked about incremental differences when you increase populations. At lower socioeconomic levels, the academic results go down," Chambers said.

Chapman had reservations about moving forward on a plan without more detailed analysis of how expansion would be accomplished at each school.

"I want to make sure we know how we would do things at North and South, and what do we do if we can't (expand)," Chapman said. North Salem and South Salem high schools are two of the most landlocked campuses in the district.

(Keizertimes will have a more in-depth look at the way rising enrollment numbers are affecting Keizer schools in the March 10 issue.)

# DOG,

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Children's Hospital in Portland for a battery of tests in the following days.

Type 1 diabetes is the result of the body not producing enough insulin. It's an autoimmune condition in which the immune system mistakenly attacks cells in the pancreas that produce insulin. Insulin controls the amount of glucose/sugar in the blood stream. Diagnosis means constantly checking blood sugar levels and injections of insulin to modulate one's glucose levels.

The diagnosis put Lauren's family into a tailspin for a few months.

"All we did was eat out because we could look at a website and find out how many (blood glucose) points everything was worth. A McDonald's hamburger is the same every time and everywhere. It was a known quantity," Tania said.

As her parents gained confidence in their ability to measure and monitor Lauren's intake, the family started eating at home more and everyone was healthier for it.

About a year after her diagnosis, and with some experimentation, Lauren got a glucose pump that can dose her regularly and monitor her blood sugar levels which means fewer needle injections.

Lauren herself has also become a good monitor of her needs.

"If my levels are too high, I get a headache. When they are too low, I get shaky," Lauren said.

The pump also allows her to partake of the things that were once denied her, like cake at a friend's birthday party.

While Lauren is taking on a new role as an ambassador, her precocious and outgoing personality serves her well. When she has friends over to visit or spend the night, she turns it into an educational experience.

"A lot of my friends want to get tested when I do," Lauren said.

A diabetic alert dog would change her quality of life for the better still. The dogs are trained to sense drops and spikes in their owners' blood sugar levels and can alert them to the coming problem, get help, or even retrieve a juice box for them to drink.

While a diabetic alert dog will certainly help her personally, Lauren is already thinking about how she can use the opportunity to help others. She is currently working with the California Pizza location at Bridgeport Village in Portland for a year's worth of fundraising activities.

"We are looking for someone with a diabetic alert dog to bring to Bridgeport, and I want to be able to do that for other people with my dog when I get it," Lauren said.

To contribute to Lauren's diabetes alert dog campaign, visit <http://bit.ly/2mCwYag>.



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