

FEE, continued from Page A1

"My experience was that we had questions about putting it on the ballot, but the majority of people I talked to said they trusted the council," Ryan said.

A vote has two potential consequences, if city staff were ramp up the effort to place an ordinance on the November ballot, it will incur additional costs (about \$1 per registered voter according to City Recorder Tracy Davis). Deciding to wait for a 2018 election, in which the city could forego the per-voter expense, defers needed maintenance and repairs for at least another year.

Councilor Bruce Anderson said he was uncomfortable with any action given the city's lack of conversation about how to create greater funding for

the Keizer Police Department. He was joined in his concern by Councilor Kim Freeman.

"The people I talked to said they love their parks, but they said police come first. I want to have that conversation before we move this forward," Freeman said.

Mayor Cathy Clark countered she did not want the conversation to become an either/or proposition. Police officials have come up with a plan for what they need, but the past year was spent collecting information from residents about the parks because they are "the experts," she said.

"We have good information and we know what our (parks) needs are. In my mind, waiting another year would not be responsible. The safety and maintenance issues are critical," Clark said.

Ryan was the only councilor to voice support for a structured fee increase from

the outset.

"If we increase incrementally, people can prepare for it," Ryan said.

Councilor Laura Reid, who played her hand close to the vest all night, was most interested in how residents would be billed.

Reid asked several questions regarding how the billing would be handled. From a monetary point of view, the cheapest method would be to include a fee as a line item on existing utility bills already issued by the city. Creating an additional bill sent with the current bills would cost an additional \$1,500 to \$17,600 depending on whether it was annually or monthly. An entirely separate billing would cost a minimum of \$9,200 for an annual statement or \$111,300 for 12 monthly statements.

"Having the separate bill might give us more flexibility to ask for people to increase

their contribution," Reid said.

Clark said previous attempts to collect funds in that manner had rapidly diminishing returns and e-payment systems have made it unlikely many residents even open their bills.

While the motion to have staff draft an ordinance passed unanimously, Anderson and Freeman reaffirmed their reservations in how it was being handled.

"I will support moving forward to draft an (ordinance), but that doesn't mean I am supportive of the (ordinance)," Anderson said.

Freeman said she hoped the council would begin discussing a fee to support the police department sooner rather than later.

"All (Chief John Teague) needs is for me to tell him when and he will be ready. We can have that robust discussion quickly," said City Manager Chris Eppley.

HOUSE, continued from Page A1

The Salem Police Department Bomb Squad was also called to the scene to investigate a suspicious device found among a stockpile of firearms, at least two were stolen. The largest of the weapons was a PTR-91F, a .308 caliber semi-automatic rifle with bi-pod and scope.

Police went in at the early hour because they suspected the occupants had firearms and presented an imminent danger. It also prevented interruption to students getting to

TRIAL, continued from Page A1

Robertson was discovered outside the apartment waving her

school at Cummings Elementary School (385 feet away) and McNary High School (901 feet away).

Lara-Alvarez is charged with: three counts of possession of oxycodone, one count of heroin possession, one count of methamphetamine possession, one count of cocaine possession, one count of manufacturing marijuana extract, two counts of theft by receiving, one count of tampering with evidence, maintaining a place where controlled substances are used and six counts of delivery of controlled substances within 1,000 feet of a school.

His bail was set at \$405,000.

hands and screaming. Caden was found unresponsive under a blanket inside.

Two days later, an autopsy determined the boy had been strangled to death.

Public testimony on parks fee a mixed bag

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

About 15 Keizer residents and at least one from Salem turned out to offer public comment on a proposed fee to create dedicated funding for Keizer parks Monday, May 8.

The testimony offered was wide-ranging and touched on numerous aspects of the fee, but even supporters seemed to have reservations regarding how to proceed.

Keizerite Bill Quinn suggested that a vote would be a stronger indicator of support among residents than the survey the city spent three months asking for response to, but wanted to see additional stipulations.

"The thing is that if you impose the fee, I suggest that you take away the \$360,000 (for parks in the current budget) and put it toward the police. If you are going to have a fee go out for a vote and get the true feeling of the people," Quinn said.

Jerry McGee said the first 10 minutes of his conversations with residents regarding the fee were spent trying to convince them that there was no connection between the parks fee and the city utility bills. Including a fee as a line item with existing bills is the cheapest way for the city to collect it.

"Don't try to save a few pennies by including it with the water bill," McGee said.

McGee also encouraged the council to be reasonable with the amount saying a \$4 fee would double the amount available for parks and few agencies see their budgets increase by that much.

Keizerite Hans Schneider said it didn't matter whether the council or residents see the amount as a fee or a tax.

"I don't view this as a fee or a tax, it's an investment in the city of Keizer. My vote is for this investment in this community," Schneider said.

Garry Whalen, a former member of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board said, "solid, predictable funding is critical because the parks are on life support."

However, Whalen championed the idea of tying a parks fee to the amount available in the city budget.

"If the parks budget was reduced from \$300,000 to \$150,000, then the fee should also be reduced by 50 percent. A fee properly structured will benefit our whole community," Whalen said.

Jesse Borghesi, treasurer for a Salem rugby club that makes frequent use of Claggett Creek Park for their intramural league, had glowing reviews of his group's interactions with Keizer parks staff.

"The staff at the parks department are excellent and easy to work with. Anything that supports the parks is a good thing," Borghesi said.

Rhonda Rich said the fee should be billed

to property owners annually. She added that while she does not support fees and taxes, she filled out the recent survey and said she would be willing to pay a \$2 monthly fee.

Allen Barker said outside forces acting on the Keizer city budget, such as payments to the Public Employees Retirement System that consume most of the 3 percent increase in property taxes, have made for an untenable situation.

"The Keizer budget doesn't support the parks at the level it needs to be done. Citizens themselves are taking care of the parks," Barker said.

Daniel Miedema was one of the most effusive supporters of the fee.

"The idea of a community or city is to share the burden of expensive tasks. I strongly support the fee. Anything that keeps the parks up and running in my mind is fantastic," Miedema said.

Business & Services

LAWN SERVICES

COMPLETE LAWN & GARDEN CARE
Yard cleanups, mowing, pruning, bark dusting, and more!

Jim's Lawn Services
SERVING KEIZER SINCE 1984

CALL TODAY - 503.304.8849

MEMORY CARE

NEW MEMORY CARE IN KEIZER

TOURS DAILY

- Dementia Specific Activity Programs
- Support Groups & Family Education
- Weekly Housekeeping Services
- Neighborhood Style & Design
- Medication Management
- Respite Care

THE ARBOR
at Avonere Court
A PART OF THE AVONERE FAMILY OF COMPANIES

450 Claggett Court N, Keizer, OR 97303
www.arboratavonerecourt.com

503-856-7440

NURSING & REHAB

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 39 YEARS

Sherwood Park
NURSING & REHAB CENTER

Our family serving your family

24-HOUR SKILLED NURSING • THERAPY • WOUND MANAGEMENT
LONG TERM CARE • DEMENTIA CARE • AWARD WINNING ACTIVITIES
DELICIOUS HOMEMADE FOOD • LOVELY SURROUNDINGS • CARING STAFF

4062 ARLETA AVE NE • KEIZER, OR • 503-390-2271
WWW.SHERWOODPARK.COM

PLUMBING

GORMLEY
PLUMBING + MECHANICAL
A Family Tradition Since 1908

Now Serving Salem + Keizer
503.375.7620

Residential • Commercial • Industrial • Wineries

877.GORMLEY | gormleyplumbing.com
Licensed, Bonded & Insured | CCB #48494

REAL ESTATE

The McVays are Keizer

Born, raised, & residing in Keizer, the McVays have 27 combined years of experience with Coldwell Banker. They know this market and are here to help!

BRIAN & APRIL McVAY
Your goals are their priority

503.510.6827
mcvaythree@gmail.com

COLDWELL BANKER
MOUNTAIN WEST REAL ESTATE, INC.

SAND & GRAVEL

Windsor Rock PRODUCTS

Topsoil, Crushed Rock
Round Rock
Pea Gravel

You haul or we deliver
Prompt Service - Saturday until noon
Phone quotes

393-8920
824 Windsor Island Rd. N. • KEIZER

REAL ESTATE

John L. Scott
REAL ESTATE

Ken Ream 503-881-5335
Carolyn Ream 503-551-3656

Creating Change Starts With Us!
You have options — we are different. We go above and beyond what most Realtors will do. If selling, we help you paint, pressure wash, move you, and help you with staging your home. If buying, there are two of us always available to meet your needs and help you through the process.

FIND OUT MORE AT www.KenReam.JohnLScott.com

SAVE YOUR LIFE

This could save your life.
diabetes.org/FindOut

American Diabetes Association.
CheckUp America® 1-800-DIABETES (342-2383)

TURF & GARDEN

FITZMAURICE
FERTILIZER, INC.

We Specialize in
Fertilizers & Weed Control

We also carry Pest Control Products

4195 Salem Industrial Dr NE Salem
503-393-2121

VEHICLE GRAPHICS

ALL STAR
CUSTOM GRAPHICS

SCREEN PRINTING
VEHICLE WRAPS
EMBROIDERY & MORE!

Team & Fan Wear • Banners
Stickers • Window Tinting

FIND US BY Point 5 Tires
3818 River Rd N, Keizer
503.991.5316

VETERINARIAN

Willamette Valley Animal Hospital

NOW OFFERING
ACUPUNCTURE
AND
CHIROPRACTIC
SERVICES

Owner
DR. SHERI MORRIS
B.Sc., DVM,
Diplomate, ABVP

4975 River Road North
Keizer, OR 97303
503-393-7462
wvah.net

Mon & Fri: 8am-6pm
Tue-Wed-Thu: 8am-9pm
Sat: 8am-4pm, Sun: 11am-4pm
No Appt. Necessary

AAHA
AMERICAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

VETERINARIAN

CREEKSIDE
VETERINARY CLINIC

503.390.5222
CreeksideVetKeizer.com
113 McNary Estates Dr N, Suite B - Next to Don Suklis State Farm Insurance

YARD & GARDEN

McKinley Landscape Maintenance, LLC

503-393-0285
503-935-1893
LCB #9309

OLCA
Oregon Landscape Contractors Association

McKinleyLandscapeLLC.com