

SKSB budget gets grim nod

By **HERB SWETT**
For the Keizertimes

Reluctant budget committee recommendations for the proposed 2017-18 Salem-Keizer School District budget closed the committee's session Tuesday, May 23.

Monday and Tuesday, both set aside for public testimony, were the last two days of committee meetings; two more days had been scheduled in the event of failure of the committee to reach an agreement Tuesday. The School Board, whose members constitute half of the committee, is expected to approve the budget proposal June 13.

The budget proposal of \$671,019,221 is lower than the current budget, which is \$677,547,775. This results from a reduced state school fund of \$8.1 billion.

The greatest concern of committee and audience members was the elimination, by district staff recommendation, of two science specialist positions for kindergarten through fifth grade.

Of four speakers from the audience, Monday, John Yoder and Linda Wallmark spoke against removing the science specialists. Ross Swartzendruber said any cuts should be made in computer hardware and software purchases. He contended that hours students spent with computers failed to improve their performance and caused various health problems.

Mindy Merritt, president of the Salem-Keizer Education Association, said her disappointment was the reduction in state spending on schools. She also expressed concerns about class sizes and support for English language learners.

Budget committee members had a variety of comments and questions. The most outspoken was director Jim Green,

who did not focus on any parts of the curriculum but said there was a need for more counselors and graduation coaches and above all more than the \$8.1 billion the state was budgeting for education.

"Our state won't fund teachers adequately, period," Green said. "\$8.1 billion is a ridiculous amount for the state to put in the school fund. Call your legislator."

Green said the staff should look at the strategic plan to decide what cuts in teachers, if any, should be made.

Director Chuck Lee asked Superintendent Christy Perry to find out what the staff's choices for any two added positions would be should two teachers be cut, and what the consequences would be.

The committee received a class size report for the district as of the second semester of the 2016-17 school year. For the elementary classrooms, 6 percent in kindergarten and first grade, 15 percent in second and third grades, and 23 percent in fourth and fifth grades had over 30 students. The classrooms with 25 to 29 students were 43 percent for kindergarten and first, 44 percent for second and third, and 59 percent for fourth and fifth. Classrooms were 24 or fewer students were 51 percent for kindergarten and first, 41 percent for second and third, and 18 percent for fourth and fifth.

In the middle schools, 9 percent of classrooms had 35 or more students, 59 percent had 26 to 34, and 32 percent had 25 or fewer. In the high schools, 37.5 percent of courses had 35 or more students.

Mark Bateman, a committee member, asked Perry whether she could interpret the proposed budget into those figures. She said she could not, because "each

class has a different look."

Director Nancy MacMorris-Adix asked whether a parent would have the opportunity to move a child to a school with smaller classes.

"I believe that's correct," Perry said. MacMorris-Adix asked for the superintendent's recommendation for a hierarchy for budget add-backs. Without recommending one, Perry said the district could have a supplemental budget.

Yoder repeated his position Tuesday, saying studies of mathematics classes elsewhere showed that math can help with literacy. Also Tuesday, Angel Reyes, president of the Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, urged the use of Spanish in teaching.

Lloyd Chapman, a committee member, said Tuesday that during his time on the committee he always had looked at "significant additions and reductions" but did not know the significance of numbers of science specialists.

"This budget produces (no specialists) for science, and I think that's wrong," he said.

Saying there should be a way to delete enough from the budget proposal to fund two science specialists, Chapman moved that the specialists be reinstated. His motion died for lack of a second.


Marcia Atkinson, a committee member, asked Perry whether any elementary teachers who remained in the budget proposal specialized in science. Perry said she did not know.

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, committee chairperson, said she was "torn on this" but took the position that "a thoughtful approach to determine how science teaching is used" was still more important than reinstating the specialist positions.

The committee recommendation passed with 10 votes in favor, Chapman opposed, Lee and Green abstaining because they saw potential conflicts of interest, and Adam Kohler absent.


the deuce

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Saturday, June 10

JAMES P. CONNOLLY & JOHN HILDER will perform at 7pm and 9pm. Admission is only \$10. Ages 21 & over only. Reserved seating for this show. Purchase tickets at box office or at our website.

Today in History

Babe Ruth, one of the greatest players in the history of baseball, ends his Major League playing career after 22 seasons, 10 World Series and 714 home runs. The following year, Ruth, a larger-than-life figure whose name became synonymous with baseball, was one of the first five players inducted into the sport's hall of fame. — June 2, 1935

Food 4 Thought

"The two things that can hurt you are if you need money or if you need fame. Those are the things that can be your Achilles heel. But if you don't need money and you don't need fame, then you're free."

— Dana Carvey, comedian
born June 2, 1955

The Month Ahead

Continuing through Tuesday, June 27

Pentacle Theater presents *Leading Ladies*. Located at 324 52nd Avenue NW. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person. pentacletheatre.org. 503-364-7200.

Saturday, June 3

McNary Athletic Booster Club Auction and Dinner, 5 p.m. at Log House Garden at Willow Lake. Tickets can be purchased at mcnaryabc.com.

Artist's reception for The Annual Photography Show, 2-4 p.m., Keizer Art Association and Enid Joy Mount Gallery at the Keizer Heritage Center, 980 Chemawa Rd. N.E. Show continues through July 1. Visit keizerarts.com for gallery times.

WillaMutt Strut 5K and Fun Run/Walk, 9 a.m.-noon, Salem's Riverfront Park. Fee is \$35 which includes race and T-shirt, food, news, music and dog training. \$10 for kids 12 and under. whs4pets.org.

Sunday, June 4

Big Band Sacred Jazz at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1444 Liberty Street S.E. 4 p.m.

Monday, June 5

Keizer City Council meeting, 7 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

The Historic Grand Theater presents Igor and the Red Elvives in concert, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$17 advanced purchase. enlightenedtheatrics.org.

Tuesday, June 6

Free admission all day at Hallie Ford Museum of Art, 700 State Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, June 9

McNary High School Class of 2017 commencement ceremony. 5 p.m. at the Pavilion at State Fair Grounds. Tickets required.

Saturday, June 10

Knit in Public Day, bring your latest project to the Willamette Heritage Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The WHC and Teaselwick Yarn are sponsoring the event.

Monday, June 12

Keizer City Council work session, 6 p.m. Keizer Civic Center. On the agenda: Fee to create dedicated police funding.

Gordon Lightfoot—In Concert: The Legend Lives On, 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$49 to \$69. elsinoretheatre.org.

Tuesday, June 13

Keizer Parks Advisory Board meeting, 6 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Wednesday, June 14

Keizer Planning Commission meeting, 6 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Thursday, June 15

Last day of school, all grades.

2017 Cherry City Music Festival at Downtown Salem, 900 Court Street NE. Free admission unless otherwise noted per location. 503-364-1403. cherrycitymusic.com.

Friday, June 16

Keizer's Awesome Burger Bash Car Show at Avamere Court, 5210 River Road N. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 503-393-3624.

Friday, June 16 – Sunday, June 18

Oregon Garden Briefest. Sixty breweries pouring 120 beers from all over the state. Hours are 3-11 p.m., Friday (21 and older only), noon to 11 p.m., Saturday (minors until 5 p.m. only) and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. Admission is \$15 which includes tasting glass and five tasting tickets. oregongarden.org/events/brewfest

Saturday, June 17

Vans Warped Tour, Cascade Hall, Oregon State Fairgrounds and Expo, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 to \$50. vanswarpedtour.com.

Add your event by e-mailing news@keizertimes.com.

"Our state won't fund teachers adequately, period."

— Jim Green
Budget committee member

Keizer man nearly hits home in Bronco

A Keizer man ended up in the hospital after kicking a Keizer Police Department patrol car door so hard it began to bow.

On Tuesday, May 16, at 7:15 p.m. a woman reported her adult son was "tearing up the house." The woman shared an address with her 37-year-old son in the 900 block of Leeward Court North.

While she was still on the phone, she reported her son was leaving in a Ford Bronco under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The man allegedly backed out of the driveway and then sped into the front yard striking a tree and another vehicle and nearly crashing into the front of the house.

Officers arrived at 7:26 p.m. and found the suspect about a block from his residence. He was placed in handcuffs and put into the backseat of a patrol car.

The responding officer drove the man back to his home to begin an investigation and saw the extensive damage the Bronco had caused, about \$1,500 to the tree and another \$1,500 to the second vehicle.

While talking with witnesses, the officer heard pounding noises coming from his patrol car and saw the rear passenger-side door bowing out as the suspect kicked at it from the inside.

After telling the man to stop kicking the door and a

momentary pause, the suspect resumed. When another officer opened the door to ask him to stop, he saw the suspect bleeding from his head. Police suspect he slammed his head against the cage separating the front and rear seats.

Medics were called to the scene after removing the man from the car and placing him in leg restraints and a spit hood.

Charles Anthony Lott was taken to Salem Health where he was found to have a dislocated and broken right ankle.

looking back in the KT

5 YEARS AGO

Good grades lead to big bucks

McNary High School seniors Jessica Mendez-Vasquez and Justin Schneider were both named Gates Foundation Scholars, a college funding package that will pay for all their college expenses up through and including graduate work provided they keep up their grades.

10 YEARS AGO

Whiteaker principal retiring after 36 years
A 36 year career in education is coming to an end for Larry Goss, principal at Whiteaker Middle School the past five years. Goss announced he is retiring at the end of June.

15 YEARS AGO

Police crunch the numbers to determine Keizer's most dangerous intersection
River Road and Lockhaven Drive. Traffic hazards in that area, especially near the end of the noon hour, have earned the intersection a top spot on the Keizer Police Department's list of dangerous places to drive in Keizer.

20 YEARS AGO

Citizens chase, catch Keizer robbery suspect
Mr. LaDuke was robbed by a man that pulled out an eight inch knife and threatened him. Mr. LaDuke gave the robber his wallet, then the attacker demanded the LaDukes drive him. When Mr. LaDuke refused, the attacker tried to stab him. Mrs. LaDuke sounded the car horn and three citizens chased the attacker to Staats Lake development and was caught.



Submitted

Charles Anthony Lott was jailed after allegedly barreling toward his mother's home in a Ford Bronco on May 16.

Five hours after first being taken into custody, a breathalyzer test showed a blood-alcohol level of .08.

Lott is charged with criminal mischief in the first and

third degrees, driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and menacing. He was taken to Marion County Correctional Facility after release from the hospital.

sudoku

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

5				1				
			2			4	6	
9	6			4	8			
7	9						2	
	1		6	8		7		
3					4		8	
		8	2		6		7	
1	3			9				
			3					4

THERE'S A MOMENT YOU REACH DEEP INSIDE YOURSELF.

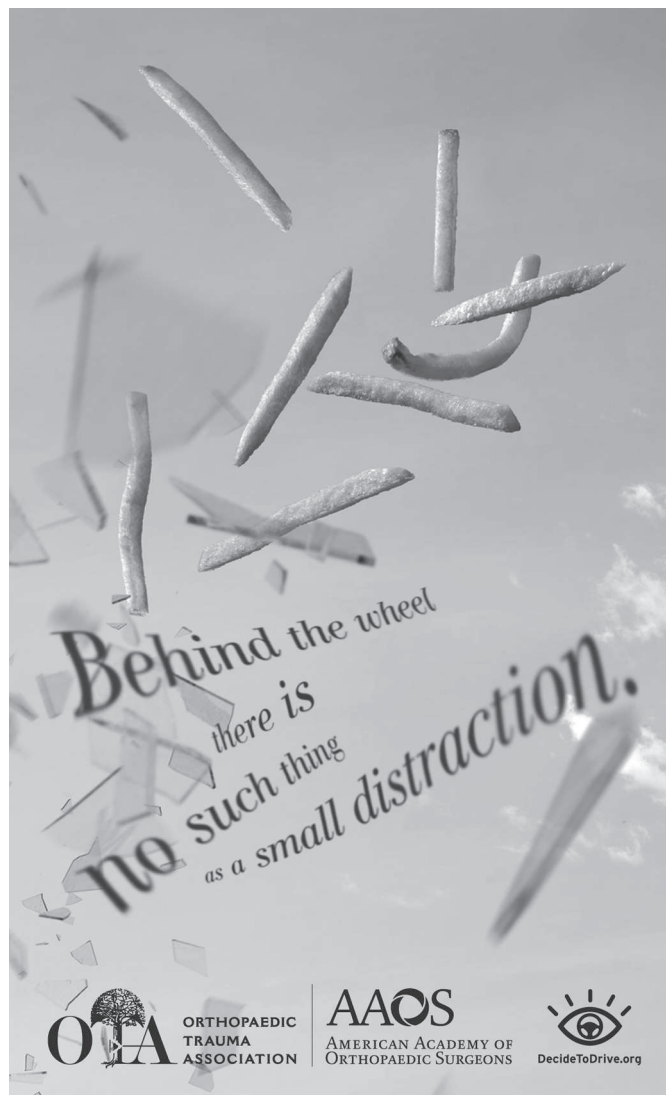
When you find the courage to fight through the elements. And you find the strength to save a life. These are the kinds of moments you'll experience in the National Guard.

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