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## GVC adds Bend high schools

### Salem-Keizer expects \$700,000 per year in additional travel costs

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

WILSONVILLE—Emotional parents, booster club presidents and athletic directors from West Salem, South Salem, Sprague and McKay as well as Salem-Keizer Superintendent Christy Perry all pleaded with the OSAA not to place three Bend schools in the Greater Valley Conference.

But in the end it didn't matter as the executive board voted 10-1 on Monday, Oct. 16 to approve the classification and districting committee's final recommendation.

Mary Lou Boderman, coordinator of Music and Drama in the Salem-Keizer School District and former band director at South Salem, gave the only no vote.

Nine passionate Salem-Keizer parents, five from McKay, three from West Salem and one from Sprague, testified at the meeting held at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville.

Their biggest concern was safety, citing the new student drivers and bus drivers who aren't used to traveling in the winter conditions of the Santiam Pass to Bend. One parent noted the 10 inches of snow that fell on the pass last week.

Perry spoke to the executive board about the costs of traveling, which initial estimates call for an increase of \$700,000 per year for transportation, lodging and certified substitute teachers. This does not take into account the additional costs to families.

"We travel already, almost

all around the world in miles traveled by our buses," Perry said. "We have a large geographical area, very different than Portland public and Beaverton, who have lots of kids but a lot less geography. We already carry a really big burden for transportation of our kids, much like a rural district, only we have 42,000 students."

Salem-Keizer also has a bus driver shortage with 7-10 bus driver positions vacant.

"To add this level of transportation, our only option will be to do charter buses," Perry said. "Ideally, we wouldn't take charter buses but I don't know if the bus driver shortage turns around in this amount of time."

While schools in other classifications asked to be



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Salem-Keizer Superintendent Christy Perry told the OSAA Executive Board the school district already doesn't have enough bus drivers before its athletic teams will have to travel to Bend.

moved down or refused to move up, when requesting a geographical exception, because of competitive imbalance, Perry said that wasn't the case with Salem-Keizer. McKay even met the criteria to move down but decided to remain in 6A.

"We aren't opposed to

Bend," she said. "In fact we think they will add nice competition to the 6A schedule. They're very good teams, very competitive teams but from a dollars and cents, student safety and geography standpoint, Salem-Keizer shouldn't carry the burden for all."

While the OSAA placed

the Bend schools in the GVC because they are closer to Salem-Keizer than the Southwest Conference and east Portland schools, West Salem athletic director Bill Wittman argued that wasn't the case if you factor in non-league games.

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## Celtics 'dominate' West Albany

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

ALBANY—McNary (5-2) earned a much-needed league win, defeating West Albany 16-8 on Thursday, Oct. 12.

"I think we dominated this game," Celtics head coach Jeff Auvinen said. "The score doesn't reflect it at all."

McNary was less than three minutes away from getting its first shutout of the season as a West Albany receiver got behind the Celtic defense for a 52-yard touchdown with just 2:22 remaining.

"We just had a break down one play and they made a good play," Auvinen said.

The Bulldogs then converted the two-point try to get within one score. However, McNary junior Noah Bach recovered an on-side kick and Junior Walling was able to run out the clock on three runs for 13 yards.

The Celtics got the ball first at West Albany and marched down to the Bulldog 6-yard line. But an illegal procedure penalty and sack forced a fourth-and-long and a missed 34-yard field goal.

West Albany got into McNary territory but the drive ended when defensive back Jose Solorio intercepted Bulldogs quarterback Nick Fleetwood and the Celtics took



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Noah Bach, who recovered an on-side kick and had a sack, tackles a West Albany ball carrier during the Celtics 16-8 win on Thursday, Oct. 12

over at their own 17.

After three consecutive punts, two by McNary and one from West Albany, the Celtics got on the scoreboard when the Bulldogs fumbled and jumped on the ball in the end zone for a safety.

Facing a third-and-long after a holding penalty, Erik Barker connected with Wall-

ing on a wheel route down the McNary sideline for a 19-yard touchdown to put the Celtics on top 9-0 with 7:37 remaining in the first half.

"I was reading the corner to see what he did and threw it where he wasn't," Barker said. "Junior was wide open down the sideline."

Looking to answer, West Al-

bany got to McNary's 13-yard line. However, a holding penalty and sack by Bach forced a punt. Barker then completed six consecutive passes for 60 yards on the following drive before getting sacked and then throwing an interception with just 16 seconds to go in the first half.

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### McNary Varsity Football (5-2) SEASON STATS

PASSING	C/ATT	YARDS	TD	INT
<b>Erik Barker</b>	115/185	1329	12	12
RUSHING	CARRIES	YARDS	TD	
<b>Junior Walling</b>	123	555	6	
<b>Lucas Garvey</b>	66	293	3	
<b>Freddy Jimna</b>	28	172	1	
<b>Robert Benson</b>	31	153	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YARDS	TD	
<b>Jacob Jackson</b>	31	399	4	
<b>Junior Walling</b>	11	158	2	
<b>Brayden Ebbs</b>	18	146	0	
<b>Jonathan Williams</b>	7	134	2	
<b>Kyle McCallister</b>	17	181	1	

## McNary traveling to North Medford

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

McNary head football coach Jeff Auvinen wanted the Celtics to remember last season's opening drive against North Medford as they began preparing for the Black Tornadoes on Monday.

"They went down the field on eight or 10 runs, no passes, and really came off the ball and backed us off the ball and stood us up," Auvinen said. "They took it to us pretty good last year."

While North Medford won last year's game at McNary 38-17, the score was

tied 14-14 early in the second quarter before the Black Tornadoes really took control.

Auvinen wants the Celtics to set the tone this time around.

"I'd like to see us go down and step right up and match their physicality and maybe be the physical team, maybe be the team that comes off and sets the tempo," Auvinen said. "We're going to really try and stress that this week."

North Medford is 2-5 overall but plays in the Southwest Conference with Sheldon and South Medford, two

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## Lady Celts win big on senior night

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

McNary's honored its three seniors, Jessy Shore, Natalie Ito and Iris Rodriguez, with a dominating 9-0 victory over North Salem on Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Shore scored two goals in the rout with assists from freshmen Ashlyn Lyda and Kennedy Buss.

"It was a lot of fun," Shore said after the match. "It was definitely my favorite season because everybody got along so well. Our chemistry was fantastic. We all really lived up to our motto of grit this season."

Rodriguez, a defender who transferred from Western Mennonite for her senior year,



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scored the Lady Celts final goal of the night and her first of the season on a header from a corner kick by Gina Munguia.

"That was crazy," Ito said. "I didn't think that would ever happen. I was so amazed."

Rodriguez, a captain on the JV 2 team, got her first varsity start, and played for most of the game.

"Iris has been in the program for three years and is just a joy to be around," McNary head coach A.J. Nash said. "It takes a special person to take on that role on the JV 2 team and go out there with a great attitude and show up day in and day out and be a captain and a leader."

All three seniors have played an important role in the growth of the girls soccer program at McNary.

Shore started as a freshman and led the Lady Celts with 10 goals as a sophomore.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary seniors Jessy Shore, Natalie Ito and Iris Rodriguez were honored before the Lady Celts 9-0 win over North Salem on Tuesday, Oct. 17.