

District lags in reading, math scores for most

By HERB SWETT
For the Keizertimes

Progress in student achievement was reported to the Salem-Keizer School Board on Oct. 24.

Lisa Harlan, middle school level director, noted that not all the annual state-submitted figures are up to date, because some of them come out in January, reflecting the previous school year.

The elementary school report showed that reading scores were consistently a few percentage points behind those of the state as a whole, but that they also consistently rose from the third to the

fourth to the fifth grades. Elementary math scores were dropping somewhat, however, and Sandie Price, elementary level director, said that the schools were starting to focus more on math as a result.

In 2015-16, 17 elementary schools in the district were receiving coaching. In 2016-17, 42 elementary schools received it.

Office discipline referrals dropped sharply from 2015-16 to 2016-17, Figures for Sept. 4 through Oct. 19 for both school years, broken down by school days, showed decreases from 32 to 16 Mondays, 54 to

12 Tuesdays, 62 to 17 Wednesdays, 48 to 23 Thursdays, and 43 to 18 Fridays.

Middle school reading scores for those two school years were slightly lower for the district than statewide until the eighth grade for 2016-17 showed a barely higher score for the district. Middle school math scores showed a similar pattern.

At the high school level, the district slightly outperformed the state for the 11th grade in both school years. For 11th-grade math scores, the state had the edge in 2015-16 but the district was ahead in 2016-17.

Unemployment up slightly

The Salem metropolitan statistical area's (MSA) unemployment rate edged up to 4.9 percent in September from 4.7 percent in August. Over the past 12 months, Salem's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate has declined by a 0.5 percentage point. Oregon's statewide unemployment rate in September was 4.2 percent, essentially unchanged from its revised August rate of 4.1 percent. The national unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in September.

Salem's September employment gains were more than normal. Total non-farm employment increased 2,800 jobs in September when an increase of 2,400 jobs was expected. Salem's employment was 10,340, or 6.7 percent above its pre-recession employment peak, which occurred in February 2008.

Employment in the Salem MSA grew 2,300 over the past year, a 1.4 percent increase. Salem's growth was outpaced by the state, but it has outpaced the nation. Oregon's employment grew 2.0 percent over the past year. Nationally, employment was up 1.2 percent over the past 12 months. Salem's private sector added 2,400 jobs over the past year, growing 2.0 percent. The public sector lost 100 jobs over the year, a decrease of 0.2 percent.

The fastest-growing major private-sector industries over the past year included: construction (added 1,000 jobs, or 9.9%); transportation, trade and utilities (added 1,100 jobs, or 4.1%); and other services (added 200 jobs, or 3.7%).

Courtesy of the Oregon Employment Department

Man sought in Keizer burglaries arrested

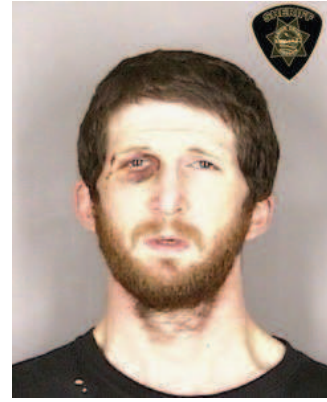
By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A man suspected of burglarizing three Keizer homes was under arrest less than 24 hours after police requested the public's help in identifying him.

On Wednesday, Oct. 25, at about 3 p.m., the Salem Police Department received a call from three people who thought they spotted a suspect described in connection with a string of burglaries in Keizer on Oct. 22. At least two of the witnesses had seen photographs of the suspect that were released by the Keizer Police Department and published on social media. At the time of the call the suspect was inside the Walmart store on Lancaster Drive in Salem along with a female who accompanied him.

The responding officer from the Salem Police Department arrived at Walmart and immediately made contact with the male individual and detained him while Keizer officers were called to continue the investigation.

After talking with police, 30-year old Noah Daniel VanDeventer, of Salem, was arrested and taken to the Keizer police station where he was interviewed by police. He was eventually charged with robbery, burglary, attempted assault, menacing, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle and theft.



N. VanDeventer

Police officials said additional charges may be forthcoming.

The female who accompanied VanDeventer at Walmart was identified as 25-year-old Kyla Renae Hurn, of Salem.



K. Hurn

Hurn, VanDeventer's girlfriend, was taken into custody and later charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of burglary tools or a theft device. Both were taken to the Marion County Correctional Facility.

At 5 a.m., on Oct. 22, Keizer officers were called to the scene of a burglary in the 5800 block of Kate Lane Northeast. Investigating officers learned a suspect had entered the garage rummaged through two vehicles that were parked inside.

At 6:20 a.m., Keizer officers responded to the

report of a theft from a vehicle in the 6200 block of 11th Avenue Northeast. A resident awoke to find a man inside his vehicle parked in his front of his home. The resident confronted the suspect and a physical altercation ensued, both men were injured in the scuffle. The suspect fled on foot and eluded a police search. Further investigation found that the suspect had entered the dwelling and burglarized it.

At 7 a.m., while officers were still on the scene at 11th Avenue, KPD received a report of another burglary in the 1200 block of Harmony Drive Northeast.

All three burglaries took place within a five-block area on the west side of the Gubser neighborhood. The suspect in the burglaries later entered the 7-Eleven at 5550 River Road N. and police were able to obtain security footage from the store and release the images for the public's help in identifying him.

Anyone having additional information about the incidents is asked to contact Det. Andrew Phelps at 503-390-3713, ext. 3497.

Promotion at Clear Paths

Kevin Northcott, Bridgeway's outpatient chemical dependency clinical supervisor, has accepted the role of clinical supervisor at Clear Paths.

Clear Paths, Bridgeway's partner organization, provides outpatient chemical dependency services in Keizer.

In his new role, Northcott will supervise all the counselors at Clear Paths, while providing his own direct clinical services.



"Kevin is recognized as an excellent counselor, coach, and trainer and will bring his years of experience to Clear Paths," said Tim Murphy, CEO of Bridgeway Recovery Services. "I have high expectations that Kevin will greatly enhance the quality of services that Clear Paths provides to both our clients and community partners."

Northcott has been a part of Bridgeway since its inception in 2009. Clear Paths is located at 3793 River Road N. #B.

Bridgeway Recovery Services is an integrated health care service provider offering many services including mental health counseling, chemical dependency treatment, and primary care. For more information, visit www.bridgewayrecovery.com

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