

LOCKDOWN,

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there's not an imminent threat," Jespersen said. "Our protocol is we have to call the district office and we talk to either Ray Byrd or John VanDreal, of Safety and Risk Management Services, they have to release us from lockdown because we may not be aware that something is going on down the street. They have to check to make sure it is indeed safe and then we let them out, so instead of a lockdown for 3-4 minutes, it turned into 15 minutes."

Within 30 minutes, Jespersen sent an auto-dialer to all McNary families informing them of the lockdown. He then sent an email to the McNary staff, telling them to communicate with their students why the school went into lockdown.

"We want to communicate with our families as fast as possible," Jespersen said. "Once things were done, I needed to get a very quick debrief with everyone involved. I got my facts straight. I had someone from the communications office write this for me, and then we went from there. We tried to get it out as fast as we possibly could in a responsible and clear way."

Exactly where the gunfire sound came from is unknown.

Area residents went to the Keizer City Council in the past to demand action regarding a private shooting range across the Willamette River from Sunset Park.

McNary golf course has an air cannon they use to scare off geese. However, Alex Kantner, assistant golf shop pro, confirmed the cannon wasn't shot on Thursday morning.

A cannon fire sound can also be heard across the river from Keizer Rapids Park.

The Salem-Keizer School District has three levels of lockdowns—Condition 1, 2 and 3.

Condition 1 occurs when there is danger away from campus. Teaching continues but everyone is out of the hallways, doors are locked and kids can't leave the room.

In Condition 2, the threat is not currently in the building but is on its way. Instruction then stops, doors, windows and blinds are closed and locked, the lights are turned off and everyone moves to a pre-designated safe area away from windows.

Condition 3 is when a threat is in the building. Doors are barricaded.

"We have formal drills a few times a year. Our students and staff are very aware of what a Condition 1, 2, and 3 are," Jespersen said. "The kids and the staff were amazing. They responded in probably 15-20 seconds. We had 2,000 students that were where they needed to be."



Submitted by Keith Fajer

A fence on Jakewood Court was the site of several acts of vandalism.

THREATS,

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instances of vandalism, a stop sign at the intersection of Jakewood Court Northeast and Horizon Ridge Drive Northeast had the word "go" painted on it, and a City of Keizer Parks Regulation sign at Country Glen Park had "Sh

school shoot" painted on it. Salem-Keizer School District Superintendent Christy Perry released the following statement: "Overnight, some houses in our community were tagged with graffiti communicating a threat of violence that has impacted multiple schools. Your child's safety is our highest priority and we are working on closely with all of

our law enforcement partners which includes additional security across the district. We will continue to update you as we gather more information. Classes are continuing as usual. If you have any information regarding the graffiti, please contact your local law enforcement. Thank you for trusting us with your children. We take this responsibility seriously."

APPLE: 'It was a shock'

(Continued from Page A1) it an art because he is so good at it."

Tiller received one of 13 Crystal Apples from 46 nominees at a ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 2 at Salem's Historic Elsinore Theater.

Tiller had nominated other McNary teachers for the award in the past and when they didn't win, Tiller didn't think he had a chance.

"It's been so disappointing when you know what a quality teacher they are that I was telling myself, 'It's not going to happen, don't worry about it,'" Tiller said. "It was a shock when they called my name."

Tiller didn't have to wait long as his was the third name called. But he did learn something from watching the first winner.

"The first guy that was announced as the winner was standing up there and he looked like he was gonna faint and then when he started to walk off the stage, he took his trophy and he shook it and the apple rolled off the base and off the stage. It didn't break," Tiller said. "So when I got mine, I was holding on to it like a football, trying to make sure it didn't go anywhere."

Reading the nomination letters was one of his favorite things about winning the award.

"I'm glad I did it in private, especially the ones from the kids," Tiller said. "As a math teacher, it's not like they are writing me essays and pouring over their deepest wishes and dreams so I know them but not necessarily how I affect them. So it was really a cool thing to read those and see that they had really felt like they had learned a little bit about me and a little bit about math at the same time

and enjoyed the experience." Tiller, who grew up in Fresno, Calif., has been at McNary for 19 years. He's most pleased with how the math department has grown during that time, from one section of calculus with 10-12 kids and one or two classes of pre-calculus to two full sections of calculus and eight of pre-calculus.

"I think all of our math teachers have done such a good job of helping the kids feel like they can be successful at the next one so they're willing to take that risk and try a harder class once their requirements are all met and that never used to be the case," Tiller said. "That's pretty neat. For a lot of kids it's just an elective."

As a national trainer for the Salem-Keizer School District-adopted match curriculum, Tiller not only provides professional development for the math department at McNary but he also travels around the western United States assisting math teachers.

When Salem-Keizer Public Schools received an Equal

Opportunity Schools grant, Tiller lead the charge in closing the access gap to AP math courses for underserved students.

"Mr. Tiller has always worked to make AP Calculus and AP Statistics a positive experience for all students," former McNary assistant principal Rhonda Rhodes wrote.

Along with teaching math, Tiller coached freshman baseball at McNary and worked in the intramural program. He can also be found during his lunch or after school working with students from other teachers' classes.

"His reputation for being the math instructor who understands their pain, and his willingness to take time to help anyone—even those from other teachers—has helped create a culture in our school where teachers see all students as theirs, not just the ones in their classes," McNary assistant principal Dan Borresen wrote in his nomination letter. "Of all the teachers I've ever met, he is the most deserving of this important award."

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