

# Lady golfers got it covered



The McNary Ladies Golf Club custom made 176 fleece blankets for homeless and less fortunate children at McNary High School, Whiteaker and Claggett Creek middle schools and Weddle, Kennedy and Keizer elementary schools. The blankets were delivered to the schools on Friday, Dec. 1. Donna Zeeb started the project called "Comfort and Joy." The material was paid for by donations from the men's club and McNary Estates residents. "The thought of so many kiddos without adequate housing really touched our hearts," Patti Lee said.

# Christmas festival at Silver Falls Saturday

Rangers, hosts, and volunteers are transforming the Silver Falls State Park's Historic District into a Christmas wonderland for the 40th annual Christmas Festival. The event will be on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the South Falls Historic District.

Musicians and choral groups provide the sounds of the holidays. Visitors can enjoy cookies and cocoa as they gather in the South Falls Lodge area to hear seasonal stories and music in the afternoon. Or they can get in the spirit by creating make-and-take projects such as holiday

cards, gingerbread houses, festive ornaments, wreaths, nature crafts, and more. There will be guided hikes to enjoy the park in its winter splendor. The Salem Audubon Society is supplying parts, tools, and expertise for bird nest boxes. There is a \$5 materials fee for the bird nest boxes. All other crafts and activities at the festival are free.

The Silver Falls Lodge and Conference Center will be offering roasted chestnuts, popcorn, coffee and cocoa, as well as holiday craft stations and carnival style games with prizes. There will be snow-flake flurries each hour. A

small selection of lunch items will be available for purchase in the hall. A shuttle bus will run continuously between the conference center and the South Falls Day Use area.

South Falls Nature Store offers Christmas gifts and souvenirs including handmade hats, pens, and ornaments to field guides and nature toys.

# School board sets limit on bond ask

By HERB SWETT  
Of the Keizertimes

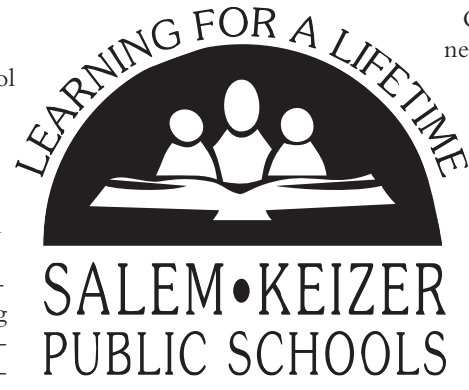
Salem-Keizer School Board members agreed at a special meeting Monday that the proposed school improvement bond should stay within \$620 million.

A recent survey discussed at the meeting showed that district voters were particularly concerned about more space for music classes and more services for special education. It was agreed that staff should look for ways to shift some money from other items to those areas, to safety measures, and to more space for Junior ROTC.

Michael Wolfe, district chief operating officer, noted concerns about having enough space for science classes and said there was enough flexibility in classrooms now available to provide the needed space. Wolfe added that the staff would look each year at expansion needs generally for growth in full-time equivalent enrollment.

Lisa Harnisch, co-chair of a political action committee promoting the bond proposal, said her committee had found most people receptive to approving a bond.

A recent questionnaire from the district on opinions of the bond proposal asked parents three questions and requested responses of "positive," "negative," and "other." The district-wide questions and responses:



Question 2: Positive 24, negative 6, other 0.

Question 3: Positive 26, negative 1, other 5.

Some parents in the McNary area responded with comments. Parents of McNary students urged more room for the orchestra, negotiation with St. Edward's Church for more land, and moving the softball field to the area that has been proposed for parking.

A Gubser Elementary School parent called for more classroom space and a better place for the orchestra. Another Gubser parent urged moving the cafeteria to the southeastern part of the campus.

A Keizer Elementary School parent said, "This does not support my child's learning if we don't address class size caps."

A Kennedy Elementary School parent called for making a seismic upgrade the highest priority and for replacing older portable classrooms.

The bond vote is scheduled for the May 2018 ballot.

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