

Keizertimes

SECTION A

MARCH 9, 2018

\$1.00

Who killed Chrissy?

Christina Speten's body was found on Valentine's Day 2011. No one has yet been charged.



Keizer has only one unsolved murder, we wanted to know more about the victim

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Editor's note: We are not using the last names of the women in this interview to protect their privacy and because of their fear of reprisal.

Sharon knew something was wrong in the days leading up to discovering her daughter's body in her Keizer apartment on Feb. 14, 2011. It was in plain sight when she looked in the windows.

"Chrissy had sticks she put behind her

windows to prevent people from opening them from the outside and she checked them every night," said Sharon. "When I looked in her window, the stick was sitting on the window sill."

Christina "Chrissy" Michelle Speten was 43 when her mother and one of Christina's friends found Christina dead of blunt force trauma to the head and under a blanket inside her apartment on Orchard Court North in west Keizer. While Keizer Police Department doesn't consider her death a "whodunit," not enough evidence has ever presented itself to charge anyone with her murder.

"There are people who we think know what happened and those people don't want to be

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Not a 'cold case,' dormant

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

From the beginning, the murder of Christina Speten was never a "whodunit," said Det. Tim Lathrop, of the Keizer Police Department.

Lathrop said the investigation has led to people who they were believed involved in the murder, but never enough concrete evidence leading to charges.

"The thing is that we need enough probable cause to charge someone. If we charged someone and didn't have that evidence and they go to trial, we might lose our chance," Lathrop said. "A lot of time, time is on our side. People get frustrated about the time it takes, but if we have the proper evidence we get a conviction."

Speten was found dead in her west Keizer apartment on Feb. 14, 2011. Police were summoned to the scene after her mother enlisted a friend to crawl in a window at the apartment and check to

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MHS honored for all-in on AVID

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary took a giant step in becoming the first AVID National Demonstration High School in Oregon.

On Feb. 23, Keizer's high school was informed it was being named an AVID School-wide Site of Distinction, putting it in select company with only three other high schools in the state.

"We tell our kids that getting a diploma from McNary High School means more because of the experiences that you get here that you are not going to get at any other 6A high school," principal Erik Jespersen said. "We are going to be the first national demonstration school at the high school level and as a result of that the things that kids are going to get as an experience of going through McNary is going to be unbelievable."

MHS submitted metrics from the 2016-17 school year to document school-wide growth and performance in order to become an AVID site of distinction.

Sixty percent of teachers must be AVID-trained. At

McNary, that number is 61 and doesn't count the 19 teachers that went to the AVID summer institute last year to bring the total to over 70 percent. Another summer at the institute and McNary could be at 80 percent.

"Three years ago I told our staff in a meeting in the choir room, if you have not ever been to a summer institute and you desire to go, we will find a way, and we have," Jespersen said. "We haven't turned away anyone. We've had a great partnership with Nike. They've been tremendous. They've helped pay for a lot of these trainings."

Seventy percent of teachers must routinely use WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading) in their classroom instruction. McNary has nearly

83 percent who use WICOR.

While 100 percent of McNary's leadership team is on the AVID site team, the benchmark is 50 percent. Nearly 85 percent of McNary juniors and seniors enrolled in

at least one course of rigor—AP or dual enrollment. Seventy-two percent of students took pre-collegiate exams and more than 73 percent of seniors applied to college.

"This is something that

shows you're above the average school that has AVID and clearly we are," said Jespersen, who is even more proud of other numbers that have come from McNary using AVID

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary High School AVID students took part in a filming project that will be used at other schools in December. The Keizer high school was named an AVID Site of Distinction in February.



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To be sure, read KT



See page B8 for more details

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