

Students awarded for turnaround

Salem-Keizer Public Schools (SKPS) recognized 21 students from across the district and community in the 2018 Turnaround Achievement Awards on Wednesday, May 23 at the Keizer Civic Center.

Sponsored by Don and Ann Lebold of Town and Country Lanes, the award recognizes middle and high school students in the district that demonstrate effort, commitment and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Recipients of this award have shown personal improvement in their academics, behavior or attitude and continue to implement these qualities in their daily lives.

"I didn't think anything really mattered, especially myself," said one award recipient. "Now, my life has purpose and I am filled with joy. I know that I have people in my corner that care and believe in me, and because of that, I am working hard to show them how much I appreciate all they

have done for me."

Keizer winners were Alexia Romero Duran (Claggett Creek), Lazaro Chavez (Whiteaker) and Travis Steffes (McNary).

Since 1994, the Turnaround Achievement Awards have inspired and motivated more than 400 students to achieve success in their personal, academic and professional lives.

"This is no small feat for these incredible young men and women," said Superintendent Christy Perry.

"Our students are diverse individuals who bring unique backgrounds and experiences into their educational careers. These awards are a small way for us to recognize students who faced and overcame extraordinary obstacles and made a commitment to making new, positive changes in their lives. We couldn't be more proud of our students and what they have accomplished and will continue to achieve as they move through their adult lives."



Salem-Keizer Public Schools honored 21 middle and high school students with Turnaround Achievement Awards on Wednesday, May 23 at the Keizer Civic Center.

School budget committee talks contractors

By HERB SWETT
Of the Keizertimes

Salem-Keizer Schools budget committee hearing on Tuesday, May 15 was high-

lighted by a suggestion that the district replace building contractors with maintenance employees.

Mark Kowitz of Keizer, an electrician employed by the district, said the cost of retrofitting buildings and constructing new ones would be several times that of using hired labor. He added that there was a legal means of letting employees tap into what contractors do.

Kowitz was the first of several speakers from the audience, but Michael Wolfe, the district's chief operating officer, said there was no way district staff could do all the work contractors could provide.

"We're using our own people," Wolfe said, explaining that district employees would get as much work as the district and contractors could provide.

Others from the floor included four who were Spanish-speaking, three of whom spoke through interpreters. All four urged the committee to find more room for bilingual instruction. The four were Lucia Sanchez, Jazmin Torres, Maricela Lagos, and Javier Quiroz, all of Salem.

Mark Atkinson of Salem said the budget should make more room for drug and alcohol counselors.

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