

Keizertimes

SECTION A

NOVEMBER 30, 2018

\$1.00



TALKING trash

Council wants public input on rate increase

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer City Council will be voting on garbage service rate increases at its meeting Monday, Dec. 3, and it will likely come down to the best of difficult options.

Councilors opened a public hearing on the matter at its Nov. 19 meeting and it will be continued Monday with time for residents to chime in. Monday's meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Keizer Civic Center.

Keizer's two local haulers, Loren's Sanitation Services and Valley Recycling and Disposal, are requesting an increase to garbage rates as a result of turmoil in recycling markets. Action by China – which once purchased the bulk of the West Coast's recyclable materials – placed new limits on the contamination of accepted materials. The new contamination standards are difficult to meet while finding

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Boys basketball preview
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KLL Task Force digs in
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KNOW needs helping hands
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WHAT CONTAMINATION? How that fee ends up on your garbage bill and what it covers

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

So, you opened your most recent garbage bill and found a \$10.83 charge for recycling contamination. Now what?

First, don't get mad, get information. "We're using the contamination charges to have the conversation with customers," said Greg Dittman, operations manager for Valley Recycling and Disposal.

If it's the first time you've had the charge appear on your bill, both Valley Recycling and Loren's Sanitation are willing to wipe it off the slate in return for a few minutes of education regarding what can and can't go into the blue commingled recycling bins.

Contamination charges are receiving more attention lately as haulers try to realign expectations for what can and cannot be recycled. The businesses are trying to adapt

to changes in China's market for recyclable materials that call for stringent refusal of contaminated items.

What accounts for contamination? Garbage that should have been put in the gray bin, glass, styrofoam, plastic film (like shopping bags), child car seats (yes, it happens), blue tarps, carpet padding and more. Anything that potentially pollutes the

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Homeless student population trending upward

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer City Council was hit with some alarming numbers regarding homelessness in the city's student population at a November work session.

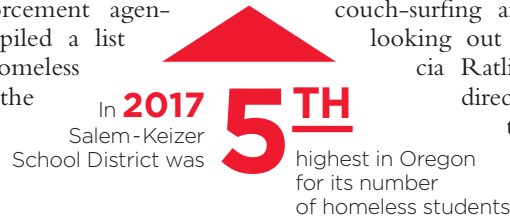
In the 2016-17 school year, there were 61 homeless McNary High School students, another 19 at Claggett Creek Middle School and a dozen more at Whiteaker Middle School. The situation hasn't improved.

"There are many more this year than last year," said Julie Conn-Johnson, the Salem-Keizer district homeless liaison.

In recent months, local homelessness advocates have tried to get a better handle on the actual numbers in the area and the homeless student population is just one component of the larger picture.

Salem-Keizer School District also works closely with HOMEYouth and Resource Center in Salem to ensure that the area's homeless youth are receiving the needed attention. In a recent 100-day challenge, members

of several local service and law enforcement agencies compiled a list of 231 homeless youth in the area, but



HOMELESS STUDENTS

BY THE NUMBERS

1,132 homeless Salem-Keizer students
61 at McNary High School **19** at Claggett Creek Middle School **12** at Whiteaker Middle School

*Data from 2016-17 school year, counts are already higher this year.

many of the students don't always conform to traditional stereotypes of sleeping on sidewalks.

"Only about 5 to 10 percent are

living on the street, the majority are couch-surfing and there is no one looking out for them," said Tricia Ratliff, HOME program director. "What making that list told us was

that we had to do better at cross-referring. Every youth accessing services at one site should be accessing services at other sites"

Homeless students are identified in a variety of ways. Teachers and counselors notify the district when they suspect someone is housing insecure, friends of the students may also seek help on behalf of someone who is homeless. Sometimes

students give their school's address as their permanent one, which is another tell. There are also some homeless families willing to ask for help or assistance at the school itself.

What happens after a student is found to be struggling for shelter can also be a delicate matter.

"Even telling teachers or counselors isn't something that happens pro forma. We let food services know and the student immediately gets qualified for a free meal program," Conn-Johnson said.

The district concentrates on getting the students enrolled or re-enrolled at school, a steady source of meals and providing them with school supplies and transportation if needed.

HOME, which is operated by the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, is a drop-in center where homeless youth can connect with other support services and spend some time commiserating or studying out of the elements, but it only operates between noon and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The area's first

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Development, not boundary will change student numbers

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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At first glance, proposed map of the McNary High School boundary may appear overwhelming.

However, there aren't any planned changes to the existing boundary lines. The most significant impact would most likely come in the form of currently undeveloped areas being built out. There is at least one planned development of 500 new homes – between Kale Street Northeast and Hazelgreen Road Northeast in Salem – that is included in

the existing boundary. But district officials say there isn't cause for concern.

"The process that we're using for growth estimates takes into account all the developable land and (that area) is in the plan we used to craft the bond," said Mike Wolfe, the school district's chief operations officer.

Still, parents, students, school neighbors and community members are invited to attend Boundary Review Task Force

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Mike Wolfe, School district's chief operations officer

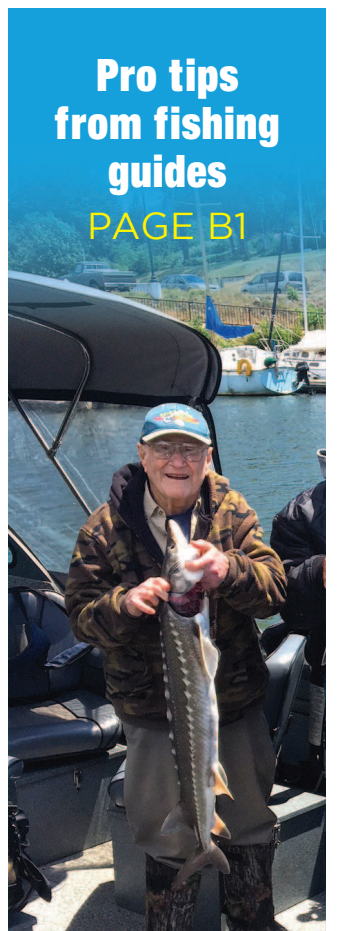
Listening Sessions on Dec. 4 to share feedback on area boundary adjustments. In Keizer, the listening session will be held from 6 to 8

p.m. at Kennedy Elementary School, 4912 Noren Ave. NE. A Spanish interpreter will be on site.

Boundary adjustments in

other areas of the district are needed to relieve overcrowding and put to use the new spaces being built in the 2018 bond program. During the boundary review process, all school attendance area boundaries in the Salem-Keizer School District are being reviewed, but not all will be adjusted.

Presentations at Four Corners Elementary School, 500 Alma Ave. S.E., and Waldo Middle School, 2805 Lansing Ave. N.E., the same evening will be co-presented in English and Spanish. Childcare and snacks will be provided.



Pro tips from fishing guides
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