

# Opinion

## A student's take on school shootings

By LAUREN MURPHY  
Of the Keizertimes

School shootings are a symptom of a bigger problem within the education system. Students feel unloved, uncared for, and unwanted, and that the problem.

As a student, I know what it's like to sit in a class with a subject you don't care for and a teacher who you can't connect with. It's led me to act out and break the rules because I'm bored. Now imagine that every day for 12 years. Every class you step into is a fight with the teacher, every lunch period you sit alone without anyone to talk to, every run in with an administrator is them telling you what to do because they think you're living your life wrong. It's enough to make anyone hate school.

Part of the reason why students shoot up schools is because of the anger they feel toward that place. They can't see any good in it, there's nothing that they connect and identify with. No coach that gave them something to care about, no teacher that took time to talk about their personal life, no friend who was willing to listen instead of speak. For many, school has become a culture of negativity and hostility for these students.

Which brings me to school shootings and the nothing that gets done about them.

The fact of the matter is, whether you're Republican, Democrat, pro-gun, anti-gun, student, teacher, or par-

ent, you don't have the answer. The answer is not to ban all guns. The answer is not to give everyone a gun. The answer isn't to turn schools into fortresses with one point of entry equipped with metal detectors enclosed by steel walls with no windows.

Moving the school's main office is part of McNary's plan securing the campus as part of the bond. Currently, anyone can walk into the school with little observation and at almost any time. Moving the office is part of McNary's efforts to make school safer. When there are threats, adding extra security is another way that they are trying to do that. These efforts make the school more secure, without turning it into a fortress that never sees the sun.

However, schools are only schools because of the people inside them. In the 12 years that I've attended classes in the Salem-Keizer School District, a handful of teachers greatly impacted me in a positive way. Teachers who check up on me when my grade starts to drop. Teachers who go above and beyond every day simply because they care about their students. I've taken science classes so that I could graduate, and I disliked almost every course. But, some of my favorite teachers made all the difference despite the subject.

The teachers I'll always remember are the ones who took the time to get to know me. There were small things, like saying hello to me, by name, even when I'm no longer in their class.

They make me feel cared for even

when we don't see each other every day. The times teachers or some adult in the school took the time to listen to my answer when they asked how I was doing make a huge difference. They make me feel like they know who I am. It makes me feel like McNary High School is a place where I am welcomed. Those are the people we need to be putting in our schools, whether they are teachers, staff, or just volunteers.

Not everyone gets that. There are students who walk in and out of the doors every day and no one ever stops them to say hello or ask how they are. Of course not everyone who is disgruntled with the school becomes a school shooter. It would be naive to think it was that simple, but taking care of students is an important step towards solving this problem.

Instead of listening to the other side's point of view we just yell our opinion louder. Until we learn how to talk and, more importantly, how to listen, we will never come up with a solution.

As our country continues to face this problem and make decisions to try and curb the epidemic of school shooting, I urge you, on behalf of the students and staff in schools: Be decent human beings. Take time out of your day to connect with people. Make them feel loved and valued.

Something as simple as a smile, or a hello, can make someone's day. By taking an interest in someone's life, you may permanently change it.

(Lauren Murphy is a senior at McNary High School and intern at the Keizertimes.)

guest column

## Pelosi is progressive AND pragmatic

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

While a reporter in San Francisco, Nancy Pelosi didn't seem to like it when I'd pepper her with questions about, say, her ill-considered 2007 visit to Syria, during which she proclaimed, "The road to Damascus is the road to peace."

She was, after all, used to a press corps that considered her a political moderate in spite of her very progressive voting record and positions. I was not among that group.

It was a San Francisco-based misinterpretation due to Pelosi's old-school style. A Democratic fundraiser and organizer while she raised her five children, Pelosi resisted entreaties that she run for office until her youngest was in high school. The daughter of Baltimore Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Pelosi was raised in the ways of the back room. She knows how to cut deals when many Bay Area pols prefer to flaunt their precious sensibilities.

She's pragmatic to the point that she tried to rein in Democrats who wanted to impeach President George W. Bush because of the war in Iraq.

She also is progressive to the point that she helped usher in President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, even though its passage helped Republicans pick up 63 House seats in 2010. She won on health care but lost her gavel.

She's the Democratic leader whom

the *Los Angeles Times* rated the fifth most wealthy member of Congress, with properties, including a vineyard, worth some \$23 million.

Even as progressives chafed at her inevitable return to the speakership, she vacationed during the partial government shutdown at the five-star Fairmont Orchid on Hawaii's big island, and then had no qualms about pledging to fight "disparity of income" in her first speech as the re-elected speaker.

Do not mistake Pelosi's decision to stay at a Kona resort/spa for softness. She is a fighter.

Her predecessor, GOP Speaker Paul Ryan, announced he would not run for re-election in April, at a time his party ruled the House, Senate and White House. Ryan's predecessor John Boehner lost his members' confidence, even as the GOP maintained a majority, and resigned.

Before Boehner, Speaker Pelosi presided over the loss of 63 Democratic seats in 2010. Did she walk away? No, she actually hung onto power through three more election cycles until a fourth when Democrats regained control.

When Democratic Socialist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez beat entrenched incumbent Joe Crowley in New York's June Democratic primary, Pelosi told reporters not to read too much into the rising upstart's surprise victory.

other voices

## Rep. Schrader and the Alzheimer's Act To the Editor:

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that there are more than 65,000 Oregonians living

with Alzheimer's disease and more than 184,000 Alzheimer's caregivers in our state. As an Alzheimer's advocate and Alzheimer's Association staff member who interacts with these individuals on a daily

letters

basis, it is my honor to represent them.

Congress just passed the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act with a strong bipartisan vote and I want to thank Representative Schrader for championing this meaningful legislation.

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act will allow effective Alzheimer's public health interventions to be implemented across the country. Thanks to Representative Schrader's support for the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, we will now be better able to fight this devastating disease as we continue to work towards our vision of a world without Alzheimer's — and we look forward to seeing him continue to prioritize this disease as a public health crisis that must be addressed.

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States—which is why Congress must remain committed to action on this devastating disease. By applying a public health approach to reduce risk, detect early symptoms, and advance care, Representative Schrader is helping to change the trajectory of this devastating disease.

**Alise Liepnieks**  
**Alzheimer's Association**  
**Salem**

## traffic court

### NO LICENSE

Colten Sean Webber, \$285; Aurora Acosta-Velazquez, \$245; Logan Ray Basham, \$100; Angel Bautista Garcia, \$265; Rafael Paz-Aguilar, \$235.

### NO INSURANCE

Ricky Lee Tipsword, \$600; Nicholas Jesus Dued, \$600; Randy Ray Crase Jr, \$300; Norma Linda Palacios, \$600; Monica Serratos Rojas, \$235; Michael Todd Bevans, \$235; Kelli Anne Baughn, \$235; Patrick Matthew Lake, \$600.

### NO PROOF OF INSURANCE

Courtney Lynn Page, \$642; Michelle Lee Shafer, \$95; Erandy Banely Paz, \$75; David Michael Jordahl, \$600.

### DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED

Ricky Lee Tipsword, \$1,258; Nicholas Jesus Dued, \$1,200; Alice Sabrina Jones, \$1,258; Anthony Steven Neal, \$1,258; Jesus Ortega Ramirez, \$1,258; Randy Ray Crase Jr, \$658; Norma Linda Palacios, \$1,258; Daniel Antonio Becker, \$1,258; Darci Laurance, \$440; David Michael Jordahl, \$1,258; Jennifer Lee Hoefler, \$440; Eric Christopher Castillo, \$492; John Pierre Galvan, \$440; Patrick Matthew Lake, \$1,258; Alicia May Luarca, \$1,258.

### SPEEDING

Amber Jul Surdam, \$342; Norma Linda Palacios, \$150; Leanida Fedosavichna Kasachev, \$45; Dimitry

oners of war. Political dissidents also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi Germany.

Through its Days of Remembrance event, the Keizer Community Library seeks both to commemorate this tragic history and to reflect on the lessons it holds for our lives today. "We also pay tribute to the rescuers who risked their lives to save others during the Holocaust and to the American soldiers who liberated the concentration camps," said Paula Guiles, president of the Keizer Community Library's Board of Directors.

To learn more about the Keizer event, visit the Library's website at [www.keizerlibrary.org](http://www.keizerlibrary.org). To learn more about Days of Remembrance, including the national ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda and a map of remembrance events around the country, visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's website at [ushmm.org/remember](http://ushmm.org/remember).

The Keizer Community Library, 980 Chemawa Road NE, is open at the following times: Monday-Thursday, 1-7 p.m.; Friday, 1-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

Vladimirovich Vasilyev, \$135; Keci Karyn Harris, \$135; Adam Tran Dang, \$75; Thorsten Geissler, \$145; Brittney J Morris, \$337; Zachary Christopher Monger, \$135; Eric Victor Farm, \$145.

### USE OF MOBILE DEVICE

Melissa Jane Varcoc, \$235; Jason Patrick Roberts, \$192.

### FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE

Daniel Antonio Becker, \$600; Darci Laurance, \$265.

### OTHER

William L Bates, \$192, improper positioning of vehicle; Lawrence Craig Miotke, \$1,258, failure to stop for bus safety lights; Marie Katherine Preston, \$245, improper lane change; Richard Keith Nelson, \$115, improper display of validating stickers; Ralph Curtis Morgan, \$245, careless driving; Clayton Allen Jess Zacharias, \$642, improper lane change; Jennifer Lee Hoefler, \$115, failure to use safety belts; John Pierre Galvan, \$115, failure to register vehicle; Zachary John Mize, \$415, careless driving; Patrick Matthew Lake, \$150, failure to register vehicle; Ruzak Ahmad, \$40, failure to renew vehicle registration; Timothy Allan Johnson, \$40, failure to register vehicle; Stephen D Arwood, \$40, improper display of plates.

## police scanner

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:10 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 1000 block of Rafael Avenue N.  
8 p.m. - Theft of bicycle in the 100 block of Apple Blossom Avenue N.  
9:51 p.m. - Arrest for criminal mischief and vandalism in the 100 block of Apple Blossom Avenue N.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

12:30 a.m. - Vandalism in the 3000 block of River Road N.  
12:32 a.m. - Arrest for driving under the influences of intoxicants at the intersection of Verda Lane NE and Dearborn Avenue NE.  
12:53 a.m. - Arrest for simple assault in the 1000 block of Cynthia Street N.  
9:16 a.m. - Arrest for driving under the influence of intoxicants and driving while suspended in the 4000 block of River Road N.  
11:41 a.m. - Shoplifting in the 6000 block of Ulali Drive NE.  
5:10 p.m. - Identity theft in the 500 block of Greenwood Drive NE.  
8 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 5000 block of River Road N.  
10:51 p.m. - Arrest for probation violation in the 500 block of Greenwood Drive NE.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

12:29 a.m. - Theft of bicycle in the 100 block of Manbrin Drive N.  
3:45 p.m. - Arrest on warrant in the 900 block of Chemawa Road NE.  
4 p.m. - Criminal mischief and crime damage in the 5000 block of Kalmia Drive NE.  
4 p.m. - Criminal mischief, crime damage, and unlawful entry to vehicle with the intent to commit crime in the 5000 block of Kalmia Drive NE.  
4:35 p.m. - Arrest on warrant in the 300 block of Lakepoint Place N.  
8:06 p.m. - Arrest on warrant in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Boulevard NE.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

10:32 a.m. - Graffiti in the 1000 block of Dixon Street NE.

12:32 p.m. - Arrest for driving while suspended/revoked and driving uninsured in the 4000 block of River Road N.  
1:29 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of a driver when property is damaged in the 4000 block River Road N.  
3:30 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of drive when property is damaged at the intersection of Claggett Street NE and River Road N.  
5:51 p.m. - Traffic accident resulting in injury in the 5000 block of River Road N.  
7:35 p.m. - Telephonic harassment in the 7000 block of Kayla Shae Circle NE.  
10:23 p.m. - Arrest on warrant in the 2000 block of Jorie Lane NE.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

11:40 a.m. - Probation violation in the 900 block of Manbrin Drive NE.  
2:41 p.m. - Arrest on warrant in the 900 block of Chemawa Road NE.  
3:30 p.m. - Arrest for driving while suspended/revoked at the intersection of Cherry Avenue NE and Clearview Avenue NE.  
6:28 p.m. - Traffic accident River Road N and Chemawa Road N.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

2 a.m. - Physical harassment in the 4000 block of Holly Court NE.  
2:22 a.m. - Arrest on warrant at the intersection of Pleasant View Drive NE and Griswold Avenue NE.  
9:49 a.m. - Arrest on warrant in the 700 block of Weeks Drive NE.  
6:25 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 700 block of Chemawa Road N.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

12:06 a.m. - Arrest for giving false information to a police officer in the 500 block of Bever Drive NE.  
12:15 a.m. - Arrest on warrant for probation violation in the 500 block of Bever Drive NE.  
11:12 p.m. - Felon in possession of a weapon at the intersection of Plymouth Drive NE and Cherry Avenue NE.

KEIZERTIMES.COM

# Web Poll Results

Are you concerned about the continued government shutdown?

No: 52% Yes: 48%

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!  
GO TO KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Keizertimes

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