

Amid dissent, school board approves Salem urban renewal

By HERB SWETT

For the Keizertimes

The Salem-Keizer School Board on Tuesday approved a request from the city of Salem to support tax exemptions for a downtown urban renewal project.

M Parkside Living, LLC, had received unanimous approval from the Salem City Council for The Court Yard Apartments, which would consist of a 42,866-square-foot apartment building with 40 units, a 2,359-square-foot commercial building, and 40 parking spaces.

For the project to be exempt from property taxes from other taxing districts, the governing bodies of taxing districts representing at least 51 percent of the combined tax rate must approve the exemption.

The matter was on the board's February 12 agenda, but with director Chuck Lee absent but communicating by telephone, a technical difficulty prevented him from voting. The item failed by a tie vote, and director Jim Green said he would bring the

matter up at the next meeting.

After City Manager Steve Powers of Salem spoke to the board Tuesday, noting that the tax impact would be on the urban renewal district only, not the school district, Green moved for board approval of the tax exemptions.

The board approved his motion 5-2, with Paul Kylo and Jesse Lippold opposed. Kylo argued against partnering with a council that had rejected a proposed third bridge in Salem. Lippold said the move would amount to giving money to a group that already could afford the project.

In other business, the board voted to acquire land owned by St. Edward Catholic Church and adjacent to McNary High School, to add various facilities to accommodate an anticipated enrollment of 2,200 students. After initial opposition from the church and considerable negotiating, the board agreed to pay \$2,262,400 for the land.

The board also approved six grants, the largest \$907,108 in federal programs through the Oregon Department of Education, for various programs. Also from ODE are \$237,814 for behavioral learning, \$82,107 for excess costs of services to students who have disabilities, \$34,300 for a teacher mentor program, and \$13,187 to support statewide training for students with disabilities.

The remaining grant, \$2,800 from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, will fund a three-week summer program, called People of the Light, for American Indian and Alaska native students.

Four of the personnel actions approved by the board involve the McNary attendance area. The board approved temporary full-time status for Bullington Stort at McNary and accepted the resignations of Erin Ellison and Jesse Ellison from Claggett Creek Middle School and Christopher Roach from Weddle Elementary School.

PHOTOS, continued from Page A1

had told their parents said their parents made them feel bad for identifying at LGBTQ, 78 percent said even their parents did not know of their identity struggles.

I've worked with McNary students in an after school creative writing club for the past eight years. Every one of those years, at least one of "my kids" has identified as a member of the LGBTQ community. I've read about their struggles, heard from friends and family about other trials and hardships, and, when the stars align, they seek me out as a confidante.

Last year, as the result of a story that is not mine to share, I decided with a few students that we would rekindle the fire of the McNary Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA).

Since that time, the GSA students spoke to the entire McNary faculty about the need to end the use of the

terms "fag" and "faggot" — we prefer to call them "f-slurs" — in McNary's hallowed halls and classrooms, and the importance of not mis-gendering students whose gender identity does not align with their physical traits.

Last Saturday, the GSA hosted the film festival and invited all of Salem-Keizer's middle and high school students to join us in the creating a new segment of this community that is desperately needed. About 15 to 20 visitors — teens and parents — who weren't already associated with our club turned out. It's a start.

Our next project is sending greeting cards to LGBTQ youth and adults in the United Kingdom who lack support as their make their way in the world, part of a larger effort named The Rainbow Cards Project (www.therainbowcardsproject.org).

All of this has occurred in less than a year from the day I talked with students about restarting the GSA. My eyes welled up with tears numerous

times during the film festival and it didn't have anything to do with onscreen images.

I thought long and hard about what I wanted to tell the GSA Club during our first meeting. As a member of the cis-gendered, heterosexual, white, male patriarchy, there's only so much I can do or say that's relevant to what they are going through. I settled on telling them that the lesson I hoped they learned from my presence as adviser was how they should expect to be accepted, respected and understood in the big, wide world.

Still, I am concerned. I can model what I want them to experience, but I cannot force others to treat them in the same way. It's also difficult for them to accept my modeling as truth when I was the only adult male in the room last Saturday. A small part of me fears for them and all the things I cannot protect them from, but it doesn't stop us from communicating with depth and care.

Lately, I've taken to telling them that we have to prove we care so other people know it is okay to do the same. The looks I get in response run the gamut from hopeful to incredulous to disappointed.

I get it. Why should we burden our youth with showing, or reminding, us how to care? Wouldn't it be easier to not care? Shouldn't caring be the default?

In my ideal world, only the third question matters. The answer obvious.

Yet, here we are, in the struggle every day to reach a day when I don't have to worry about what pictures accompany a story about young people trying to become the truest version of themselves.

If you want to be an ally to the McNary GSA, let us know at gsmcnary@gmail.com. If you want to be an ally to the larger LGBTQ community in Salem-Keizer, attend a meeting of the recently-revitalized Salem-Keizer PFLAG, dates and times are at www.gaysalem.org.

CHARTER, continued from Page A1

Keizertimes drew attention to issue in September 2018. But, changing the charter is easier said than done.

"The state can't remove it by a council, only the voters can. The council does not have the authority on our own to make this change," Clark said. "We can work with the community to get this on the ballot and take care of it appropriately."

Section 44 of the Keizer city charter was approved by voters in 1993 and would still be in effect had the state legislature not rendered it moot.

City staff will return to council with a resolution to form a charter review com-

mittee and the goal is to place revised language on the ballot in 2020.

Waiting until next year will keep the cost of engaging voters on the matter to a minimum.

Section 44, which was approved by Keizer voters in 1993, prohibited the city from: extending minority status to individuals based on sexual orientation and expending funds that "promote homosexuality or express approval of homosexual behavior."

The effort to pass the measure in Keizer was a last-ditch attempt by members of the No Special Rights Committee and Oregon Citizens Alliance to put in place such language wherever they could. After

several attempts to have similar measures passed statewide, the groups targeted a more limited number of individual cities and counties where they thought the ideas might gain traction. Keizer was on the short list and didn't disappoint the idea's supporters when it hit the ballot box. Voters approved the measure with a 55 percent majority.

Councilor Roland Herrera remembered the era with some disdain.

"This always disturbed me. This was wrong back then, I was personally involved in fighting it and I was disappointed in Keizer at the time," Herrera said.

The Oregon Legislature had already passed a measure

making all such local provisions unenforceable. Legislators returned to the issue in 2017 with a statute putting any local government that tried to enforce on the hook for court challenges. Despite the neutering, the language has remained in the city's founding document for 25 years.

Councilor Dan Kohler delivered one of the strongest rebukes of Section 44 calling it a "blemish on the quality of the city. Keizer is a place where anyone ... should be able to thrive. [Section 44] is inconsistent with the Keizer way."



5 YEARS AGO
Worth the wait, Keizer man honored

In a special ceremony at the governor's office Feb. 21, an emotional Robert Robison was presented with two Purple Hearts. He survived two separate injuries during the Korean War.

10 YEARS AGO
Stimulus may bring new cop, sidewalks Street upgrades and a new police officer could be coming to town as a result of the recently-passed federal stimulus plan.

15 YEARS AGO
We're No. 1!
The McNary High School Lady Celts basketball team won the Valley League championship. It is the first women's basketball team in school history to win the title.

20 YEARS AGO
FEMA threatens to pull \$375,000 flood grant
Keizer could lose \$375,000 in federal money to help with flooding if it doesn't find a project soon that appeals to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Chemeketa hosts state robotics finale

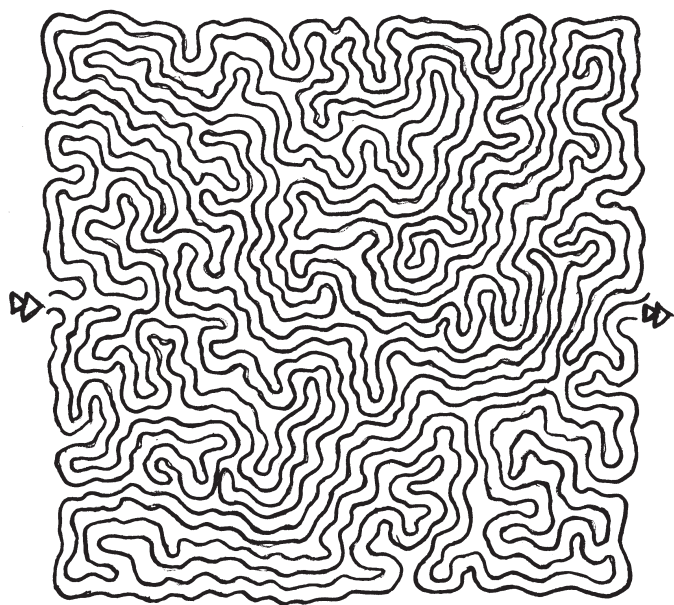
Chemeketa Community College will host the VEX Robotics State Finale on Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9. The event will be at the Salem campus in the Building 7 Gym starting at 5 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. on Saturday.

The public is invited to see middle and high school teams from across Oregon compete

to qualify for the VEX Robotics World Championship in April. Students compete by demonstrating their robot construction, technical skills, and teamwork abilities.

The event encourages schools and students to become a part of the solution for the growing need for robotic technicians.

maze



Maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

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THIS WEEK'S MOVIE TIMES

Vice (R) Fri 8:45, Sat 9:00, Sun 7:45
Mary Poppins Returns (PG) Fri 1:30, 6:10, Sat 12:00 2:30, Sun 12:40, 2:30, 5:00
Kid Who Would Be King (PG) Fri 3:35, Sat 2:15, 3:05, Sun 1:55
Bumblebee (PG-13) Fri 4:10, 6:30, Sat 6:10, Sun 6:25
A Star is Born (R) Fri 8:35, Sat 8:20, Sun 7:30
Fantastic Beasts 2 (PG-13) Sun 3:10
Instant Family (PG-13) Fri 5:50, Sat 4:30
Dogs Way Home (PG) Fri 1:45, Sat 12:20, Sun 12:00, 5:45
Mule (R) Fri 8:10, Sat 6:45, Sun 8:35
Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG) Fri 1:45, 4:00, Sat 11:40 1:50, 4:00, Sun 12:20, 4:15

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UFC 235
Jones vs. Smith

SATURDAY, MAR 2
21 & OVER
Live Fights at 5 pm - Tickets \$13
9 fights in all on the HUGE screen!
Reserved Seats Available Now Online

Saturday, Mar 9,
at 11:00 am
MOVIE: A Dog's Way Home [PG]

Sensory Sensitive Show ONLY \$4

Special showing for kids and adults with Autism or other sensory sensitivities.

OPEN CAPTION SHOWING

Vice (R)

Sunday, March 10
6PM, TICKETS ARE \$4/EACH.
Special showing with captioning shown on screen with the movie.

Today in History

Newly elected President John F. Kennedy issues an executive order establishing the Peace Corps. This force would be made up of civilians who would volunteer their time and skills to travel to underdeveloped nations to assist them in any way they could.
— March 1, 1961

Food 4 Thought

"Being 'at the mercy of legislative majorities' is merely another way of describing the basic American plan: representative democracy."
— Robert Bork, federal judge, born March 1, 1927

The Month Ahead

Continuing through Friday, March 29
The Keizer Heritage Museum is featuring an exhibit of Tammy Wild's glass collection including uranium glass, vaseline glass and canary glass among other types. Museum hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. keizerheritage.org.

Continuing through Saturday, April 20
Romance is the theme of the 9th annual Heritage Invitation Exhibit at Willamette Heritage Center at Mission Mill. Nine museums from around the region each have displays including Keizer Heritage Museum's unique Keizer family wedding socks (on loan from the Oregon Historical Society). To learn more visit willametteheritage.org.

Friday, March 1
Pentacle Theatre presents *Mamma Mia!*, the musical scored with ABBA songs. Shows through March 23. Visit pentacletheatre.org for show times and tickets.

Join Marion County Health and Human Services for a discussion of alcohol and young adults. Share experiences, thoughts and ideas about alcohol use and it's impacts on young adults living both on and off campus in the Salem area. Anyone who is interested in fostering a safe and healthy environment is welcome to come. Willamette University, Putnam University Center, 3rd floor, 900 State St, Salem, OR 97301, from 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 3
Jean-David Coen Concert. Coen performs music by Franz Schubert and Claude Debussy for the sixth concert in the 2018-19 Evensong Concert Series. Starts at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1444 Liberty Street SE in Salem.

Monday, March 4
Keizer City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road N.E.

Tuesday, March 12
Free admission all day at Hallie Ford Museum of Art, 700 State Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6
Claggett Creek Watershed Council meeting, Keizer Civic Center, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 930 Chemawa Road N.E.

Pentacle Theatre presents *Mamma Mia!*, the musical scored with ABBA songs. Special benefit performance for KMUZ, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 7
Southeast Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road N.E.

Saturday, March 9
Poetry Out Loud state finals, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Salem Public Library, 585 State Street S.E. in Salem. Loucks Auditorium.

Monday, March 11
Keizer City Council work session, 7 p.m., Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road N.E.

Tuesday, March 12
Willamette Valley Women's Military League holds it monthly meeting today at 11 a.m. at Danny's-on-the-Green Restaurant at Creekside Golf Club, 6250 Club House Dr. SE. Speaker: Stephen L. Bates, president of the Oregon Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

Keizer Parks Advisory Board meeting, 6 p.m., Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road N.E.

Friday, March 15
One night only—Improvising Folk at Rogers Music Center, Hudson Hall, on Willamette University campus. An evening of cool jazz by the Willamette Jazz Collective and guests, Little One. Tickets are \$10. willamette.edu/arts/theatre/

Add your event by e-mailing news@keizertimes.com.

sudoku

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Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.