

WMS enrichment offerings cut

School will rely on teachers, volunteers to fill in gap

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

For nearly a decade, Michele Husseman ran the Enrichment Academy at Whiteaker Middle School, through the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation (SKEF), which provided kids the opportunity to participate in after-school activities that often involved sports, science, art and entertainment.

But due to significant budget cuts by the foundation, Husseman won't be able to return to her role.

SKEF announced in December that Whiteaker, along with Crossler, Leslie, Judson, Walker and Straub would no longer have Enrichment Academies available at their schools after winter break, meaning that Husseman, along with 22 other part-time staff members that ran the program, would be laid off.

Husseman is still employed



Members of the Root Beer and Reading Club raise a can. After school enrichment program run through SKEF are being cut. Submitted

at Whiteaker as an instructional assistant, but was disappointed with the decision.

"I was very sad when I found out that the funding was going away. I'm sad I'm losing the income as a second job and I will miss being able to interact with the kids on that level," Husseman said.

The six Salem-Keizer middle schools losing their Enrichment Academies were serving around 800 students.

Four middle schools in the Salem-Keizer area — Claggett Creek, Houck, Stephens and Parrish — will continue to operate under SKEF because the majority of the costs

are covered by a grant from the Oregon Department of Education according to SKEF executive director Kelly Carlisle — a former Salem-Keizer administrator who took over the position in August.

While Carlisle explained that the cuts were a difficult decision, and shared that the

SKEF needed to come up with a strategic plan to deal with the financial issues they were facing. He also said that SKEF was losing more than \$100,000 per year on the Enrichment Academies.

"Unfortunately, the expenses of the programs far

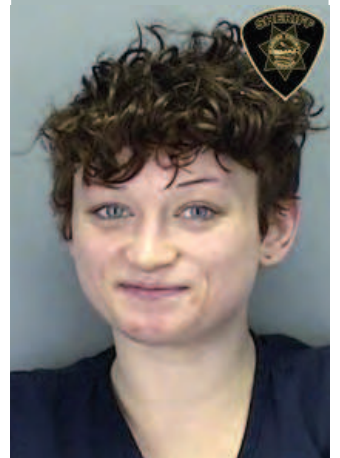
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PGA pro joins McNary Golf Club
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St. Monica, one year later
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Cuffed in Keizer
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Celts earn first conference dual victory
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Traffic troubles

By **ERIC A. HOWALD** | *Of the Keizertimes*

Residents see speed, enforcement as the problem

A resounding theme from meetings of the Keizer Traffic Safety, Bikeways and Pedestrian Committee in 2019 was that Keizer residents were concerned about traffic speeds in neighborhoods throughout Keizer.

In southwest Keizer, complaints arose about speeds and pedestrians on 5th Avenue North between Hollyhock and Dennis Lane. In southeast Keizer, the long corner signaling the change from Manbrin Drive to Thorman Avenue was the target of complaints stemming from lack of visibility and speed. In northeast Keizer, residents of Harmony Drive took issue with their street being used as a thoroughfare.

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Police do what they can: 'Problems' are frequently in the eye of beholder

"Racetrack" is a word that Lt. Trevor Wenning and Officer Martin Powell are used to hearing when residents describe the traffic flow on Keizer's streets. More often than not, data collected by Keizer Police Department doesn't back up the perception of citizens.

Martin cited a recent example where the complainant did everything the police needed to capture a snapshot of a perceived problem area. It was around one of Keizer's schools and the resident said a straight stretch of road was experiencing a lot of speeding, by teenagers, between 11:30 a.m.

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Council confronts the costs of growing city staff

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer City Council got a somewhat bleak accounting of where the city stands on staffing needs and its inability to fund them at a work session Monday, Jan. 13.

In total, department heads presented their cases for roughly six additional employees throughout City Hall, but it took City Manager Chris Eppley about an hour to dump a bucket of cold reality on all of the discussion.

"In most cases, these [positions] are purely aspirational

because our financial picture is not changing. Unless something drastic happens, none of these positions can be funded in the next or any future budget. The majority of them are

[paid for out of the] general fund and that is our most constrained fund,"

To illustrate the point, Keizer Finance Director Tim Wood said the city is struggling to maintain its existing

staff and replacing an officer for the Keizer Police Department is on hold. Tax revenues are currently about \$80,000

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"None of these positions can be funded in the next or any future budget"

— Chris Eppley,
City Manager

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE:

How much council crime is too much?

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

The city's Charter Review Committee spent part of its meeting January 7 determining an acceptable level of crime for Keizer's elected officials.

The section of the charter that prompted the discussion involves the creation of mayoral and city councilor vacancies. The language in the existing charter states that a vacancy is created upon an elected official's "conviction

of a felony, other offense pertaining to his or her office; or unlawful destruction of public records." Language suggested by the League of Oregon Cities, which is being used as a guide, simply states a mayor or councilor's seat is vacated upon "conviction of a misdemeanor or felony crime."

Committee Member Broderick Pack suggested removing the misdemeanor portion and limiting it to felonies.

"I would like to remove

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