

GRASSROOTS GOVERNMENT

The Keizer Planning Commission had its most recent meeting Wednesday, Feb. 12. Here is what was discussed:

- Approval of a development code amendment to pertaining to multiple accessory dwelling units on single access easements. With a new focus on ADUs throughout the state, Keizer is one of many cities making sure no one trips over unseen obstacles. The changes to the development code would prohibit ADUs from being classified as dwelling units within an easement. For example, if a easement qualified for three single-family homes and one owner hoped to build an ADU, it wouldn't be allowed under the current code. The change prevents that from happening.
- A second change approved at the meeting lowers the requirements for streetscaping. Currently, the city requires two trees on any lot of 45 feet or more,

but it has proven to be a challenge on some lots due to interference with neighbors and utilities. The approved change required only one tree on lots with less than 60 feet of frontage. Commissioner Frank Hostler asked for a friendly amendment to attach a list of approved trees for streetscapes. "The reason I ask is that, as it moves forward, there is the potential of trees being added that lift the sidewalk and then the home owners are hit with the bill," Hostler said. The motion maker and second, both declined. "I have nightmares about the government telling private property owners what they can and cannot plant," said Commissioner Garry Whalen.

Board approves student investment account spending despite protests

By **HERB SWETT**
Of the Keizertimes

An estimated \$35 million in Student Investment Account funding, with minor adjustments in funds from the first reading a week earlier, was approved by the Salem-Keizer School Board on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

The vote followed a series of protests by audience members that the funding would be used to add support staff where more teachers were needed in order to reduce problems of unfair treatment of students by reducing class sizes.

As approved by the board, the plan calls for adding 84 licensed teachers in classrooms and 98 licensed and classified staff supporting students.

All board members, except Paul Kylo, voted for the staff-recommended plan.

Those who spoke from the audience urged that more of the added personnel be teachers, and Kylo agreed with them.

Superintendent Chris-

ty Perry had reminded the board of the April 15 deadline to submit the application for state funding and had recommended action at the Tuesday meeting.

Director Satya Chandragiri said the board had its first such opportunity and needed to approve it at once.

"I would like to look at this next year," he said. "We have to start somewhere."

Jesse Lippold, board vice chairperson, argued that the board was going to receive a limited amount of money to solve big problems.

Director Danielle Bethell said, "Next year, we'll do this again with more money available than there is now."

Breaking down the Student Investment Account, 35 percent will go for instruction and

content supports for teachers, 28 percent for building-based licensed staff (teachers, counselors, and special education instructors), 13 percent for direct service to students, 12 percent for direct service to families, 9 percent for curriculum materials, 3 percent for administrative support at the district level and 1 percent for administrative support for buildings.

In other business, the board held the first reading of a transportation infrastructure proposal. Mike Wolfe, Chief Operating Officer of the district, recommended that the board authorize general obligation

bonds up to \$65 million to build a new transportation facility and replace 195 small and large buses. He said that the recession had forced the district to severely reduce vehicle replacement from 2009 to 2014.

Wolfe said 70 percent of the costs of the vehicle would be spread out over 10 years and 70 percent of all interest expenses related to purchased vehicles would be reimbursed annually.

The new facility, he said, would be a 33,000-square-foot area on Gaffin Road and hold the large buses, with the small ones on the current Hawthorne Avenue lot.

Mentors needed at MHS

By **BROOKLYN FLINT**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School's college and career center is in need of volunteer mentors.

Those who volunteer are paired with students and help them explore careers, colleges, find scholarship opportunities and help students stay on track to graduate.

Mentors must go through the ASPIRE

Mentor Training and complete a SKSD background check before they begin mentoring. ASPIRE training can be completed online with continuing education opportunities.

Volunteers meet frequently with local students to encourage them to think about their future and to help them get there. For more information contact Rochelle Farris at farris_rochelle@salkeiz.k12.or.us

Celtic One Acts take stage

McNary High School is holding their seventh annual One Act Festival. Performances will continue at Feb. 28-29 at Ken Collins Theatre at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. McNary students will be performing 10 original "one acts." All productions are written, directed and performed by students.

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LET'S MEET Brooklyn Flint

Intern Journalist (Born: Keizer, Resides: Keizer)

EDUCATION:
Junior in high school

MY ROLE:
Traffic and police reports, cub reporter, helping around the office

WHY THE KEIZERTIMES?
The *Keizertimes* reports on news and brings justice to people living in Keizer. Without the news, we are living on false accusations and rumors.

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talents to be recognized. It allows people to be heard.

MY PASSION:
I do nail art in my free time.



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