

Traffic Safety Committee discusses possible solutions for red-light runners

BY JOEY CAPPELLETTI
Of the KEIZERTIMES

The Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee discussed at their Aug. 19 meeting the possibility of installing red light cameras in Keizer to address complaints of drivers running red lights, especially along River Road.

"I came tonight to fully support red light cameras," said Carolyn Holman, the president of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association. "I've seen many instances of people running red lights and last fall I was a victim of a driver ignoring a red light at Sunset and River Road."

The discussion of red lights followed a July 15 meeting, where another Keizer resident requested that the city install red light cameras at intersections on River Road to "curb the ongoing problem of drivers running red lights." At that meeting, the estimated cost for red light cameras was between \$15,000 and \$30,000.

Sgt. David LeDay, police liaison to the committee, said that he dove into statistics since he's a "data driven kind of person instead of an emotional person," following the July meeting.

Sgt. LeDay said what he found was that there have been only 22 crashes at red light intersections in Keizer the past five years. Of those 22, injuries occurred in only five of the accidents. With numbers that low, LeDay said violations most likely wouldn't cover the cost of installing the cameras and monitoring them.

One less costly solution city council liaison Ross Day suggested was installing signs before intersections that displayed fines associated with running red lights. The hope would be that by listing the consequences, drivers may



be more alert when approaching the intersection.

Ross mentioned that he'd recently been to a town where the city had installed similar signs.

"The city believes that just putting those signs up helped dramatically decrease the number of red light runners," said Ross.

The committee decided to look into the costs of installing either metal signs or reader boards before making a recommendation to the city council at

their meeting in September

In attendance at Aug. 19 meeting:

- Michael DeBlasi
- Hersch Sangster
- David Dempster
- Rick Kuehn
- Wayne Frey
- Ross Day, council liaison
- Sgt. David LeDay, police liaison

Not in attendance:

- Steven Wolf
- Jamie Davis

OFFICIALS, Continued from page A1

significant pushback to an announcement that masks will be required to be worn inside all K-12 schools.

This Aug. 24 Salem-Keizer School Board meeting was cancelled over concerns of clashes between anti-mask protesters and counter protesters. The cancellation followed a contentious Aug. 10 school board meeting that was stopped multiple times to address outbursts between anti-mask and pro-mask attendees.

"At our last board meeting, we witnessed disrespect, racial and transphobic comments, and a disregard for health and safety protocols. We believe

our communities of Salem and Keizer are better than this, and board leadership does not want any person to be in an environment where they will not feel safe or welcome," read a statement released by school board leadership on Aug. 18.

Danielle Bethell, the Salem-Keizer School Board Director for Zone 6, was more optimistic about the Aug. 10 school board meeting.

"I thought it went better than expected," Bethell said in an email to the *Keizertimes*. "Leading up to the meeting, days before and hours before, there was much community unrest about the governor's mask mandate for schools. I felt those who attended the meeting delivered their emotional messages as best they could considering the climate."

Bethell added that she doesn't agree

with the governor's mask mandate and said that while case rates among children are increasing, "hospitalizations continue to remain rare."

Bethell also doesn't agree with the governor's most recent decision to mandate vaccines for school employees.

"Vaccines are an important tool that protect the health of our community, but it's wrong to force someone to get an injection against their will," Bethell wrote.

McNary High School is preparing for school to start Wednesday, Sept. 8 and Principal Erik Jespersen said he is still waiting on more guidance from the state before figuring out how to enforce the new vaccination mandate.

"There's 164 (staff members) at McNary and we have people that I'm sure represent all levels of the spectrum in terms of their feelings about

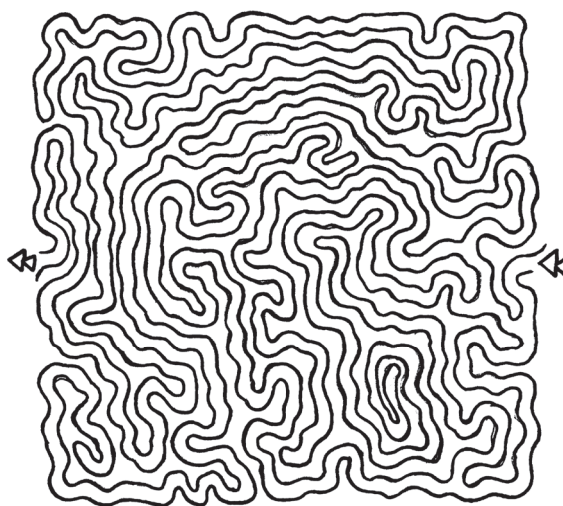
COVID," Jespersen said in an interview on Friday, Aug. 20. "The reality is, we are in a wait and see. Staff members have reached out and I've said let's wait and see what our guidelines are."

brain food

sudoku

	9		7		6			8
	7	8	2					5
4					3			
	3	9				1		
			9		4			
		5				8	3	
			3					7
5					2	9	8	
7			4		9		6	

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maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

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

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