

Fire from 1A

"We're going to have better locations and better coverage," Tipler said. "We're doing everything we can to try to beef security up."

Approximately \$16,000 worth of valuable equipment was stolen between 11 a.m. Nov. 1 and 7 p.m. Nov. 2.

Everything stolen was labeled. "Since then, somebody has opened a closed shed door, so some burglar has been nosing around again," Tipler said. The SVFR board will meet next on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

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City from 1A

"We went through a fairly extensive review process," Henry said. "Each councilor completed a five- or six-page evaluation, ranking different areas of her performance as it relates to the city work plan, management of staff, stakeholder and community relations and a number of other things. Each councilor ranked her 'outstanding' overall."

The city council voted unanimously to approve the

evaluation. Councilor Joshua Greene said, "I'd just like to add that we all are very in agreement and unanimously impressed with the work that Erin has done, and how she has stepped up to take on so much on her plate to keep all the departments moving in the (right) direction. She accomplished so much of what we all agreed to do in that period of time. ... We are very fortunate to have her doing good work."

The next city council meeting is Monday, Jan. 11.

Voicing their holiday spirit



COURTESY PHOTO

Alice Brauer Christian Preschool recently held its first Christmas program at New Life Lutheran Church. Twenty children sang and danced to Christmas favorites and entertained more than 100 audience members.

Drill from 1A

we still have all the pertinent information like parents' names, phone numbers and who else we can release the students to. We write in there who the student was released to," Harklerode said.

Elementary and middle school Assistant Principal Andy Marohl said, "We are not going to let process get in the way of common sense. Our secretaries and teaching staff know a lot of our parents so it will only be a small handful that we will need to see some form of identification."

A staff member, designated as a runner, took half of the form back to where the students were, located the appropriate student and escorted the child to a separate reunification area. The parent was there with the other half of the form. The runner then checked both halves to ensure a match. Harklerode acknowledged

that in an emergency situation, the unanticipated might become the norm. He shared some examples.

"In the event there is no communication, if we have a father come and pick up the kids and then the mother comes sometime later, we can tell the mother that the children were safely released to their father," he said.

"The parents might have to send an emergency contact person to the school, someone we are less familiar with, like a grandparent or a neighbor, someone they are approving, but we don't have a record or documentation of."

"This was a part of the discussion after the drill," Harklerode added. "We could snap a cell phone picture of a grownup that was here to pick up a student and bring that picture to the backyard to see if the student is indeed familiar with that person. We want to make sure we are not releasing students to anybody we shouldn't be."

The drill went smoothly and all students were successfully matched with the proper adults.

Harklerode does not see a need to repeat the drill anytime soon.

"Drilling for this event will not be a regular thing for us. We needed to nail down the process of how this would work. The process is mobile, even if the reunification were somewhere off campus. If it was not here at school, but some other place, we could follow the same procedures and the same processes," he said.

Marohl would like to see a multi-school drill at some point so all three schools would have a similar protocol in place.

"It felt good to finally take this out of the theoretical and actually do a real drill," Harklerode said. "I appreciate the parents who did accommodate us by having their students stay after school, and the work of all of the staff."

Grant from 1A

Mapleton High School was built in 1948 and the elementary school was completed in 1957.

"The funds from the bond can only be used in buildings that are currently being primarily used in educational activities," O'Mara said. "Unfortunately that means we can't use the funds to fix the pool or the middle school building, because the majority of it is used for the Watershed Council."

The district has begun the bond process by creating a bond steering committee.

"The bond steering committee is made up of school board members and staff as well as our architecture firm, Pivot Architecture, out of Eugene,"

McEldowney said. "Once we figure out the improvement designs, then Pivot will figure out the cost."

"It's kind of a catch 22," O'Mara said. "You want to be able to go to the community and say, 'this is how much it (the bond) is going to cost you,' but first, we have to prioritize the list of improvements. That will tell us how much we need, which will then tell us how much we need to go out for."

The deadline for the grant application is the week of Jan. 15. Fortunately, Mapleton can receive grant approval before knowing the amount the district needs.

O'Mara and McEldowney feel that the district can present a stronger case if they have the approved grant in hand while proposing the

bond amount to district voters.

"The bond rate is usually based on a dollar amount per \$1,000 of assessed property value," O'Mara said. "Our intention is not to overtax our community, because we do know that we have a lower income community here. We are aware of that and we are sensitive to that."

According to O'Mara, at the Jan. 13 board meeting the board will review the design cost estimates submitted by Pivot to determine the rate to set.

"We are hoping to go to the community with at least a couple of options for the bond and to say, 'here is what it will mean to the typical homeowner,'" she said. "'Would you support that? Here is another option. Would you support that?'" so we can get an idea. We don't want to overburden.

"We will be going to the community for input in late January or more likely early February. We are planning on having meetings out in the community, Deadwood, Swisshome and Mapleton," O'Mara added.

After a decision has been made on the amount of the bond and the cost per thousand, then the district will go out into the surrounding areas and seek support, prior to the May 17 Primary Election.

"A lot of districts want to go out for bonds because of this new grant program, but they are waiting until the November election," O'Mara said. "We want to take advantage of the fact that it is new and not as many districts will be out for it in May."

O'Mara feels confident that Mapleton will receive the grant because Mapleton is a rural school and has several million dollars of deferred maintenance that has accrued over the past 15 to 20 years.

"But we only get the grant if the bond passes," she added. "It is a great opportunity."

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WORD ON THE STREET


What is your favorite part of Christmas?



"All the Christmas lights and decorations."
 —ADDISON, 3RD GRADE



"My favorite part of Christmas is that my family lives far, far away and I only get to see them on Christmas."
 —NOAH, 5TH GRADE



"Getting to say happy birthday to Jesus."
 —LILYAN, KINDERGARTEN

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 —Zig Ziglar

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