

Central school budget up about 2 percent for 2016-17

By **Emily Mentzer**

The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — The Central School District's budget for 2016-17 is up from last year by 2 percent overall.

The district is expecting a \$198,000 loss after the state makes adjustments for enrollment and property taxes collected, but the impact

should be softened by the positive enrollment and average daily membership numbers, said Cec Koontz, district finance manager.

The district plans to hire four new people: three teachers on special assignment to focus on student behavior and improved performance of English Language Learners at the elementary schools, and one full-time social stud-

ies teacher at Talmadge Middle School.

Part of the reason the district is doing well is because of increased development in the county, which means more property taxes.

Still, Koontz said the state adjusts for that, meaning Central will get less money from the State Schools Fund because property taxes are higher.

Even with a planned increase to Oregon's Public Employee Retirement System, Central should be OK, Koontz said.

"We feel really confident with our PERS reserve," she said. "We were able to do that last year. If these look backs settle out, we hope we can store away more in there."

In 2017, PERS alone will

cost the district about \$600,000 more per year for all employees.

The district's total budget is \$47,820,213, with a general fund of \$35,641,107. The district will have 6.5 percent in operating contingency, depending on how the state determines enrollment this month.

In 2016-17, Talmadge Middle School will expect an

increase in students because of an exceptionally large fifth-grade class. School leaders expect 785 kids next year, up from 729.

Enrollment throughout the district has been high, in part because of full-day kindergarten.

The next budget meeting will be on May 23 at the Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St.

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Gynecological care is available in Dallas at the West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic. **Gynecologist Keita Sakon, MD**, specializes in gynecology exams and procedures, including hysteroscopy and laparoscopy, as well as family planning, abnormal Pap evaluation, treatment of pelvic pain, symptom control for menopause and abnormal periods. Dr. Sakon works in Dallas on Friday afternoons from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. seeing patients at the clinic and performing gynecological procedures in the West Valley Hospital surgical suites. New patients are welcome! West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 for an appointment. Visit westvalleyhospital.org/specialtyclinic.

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• **WEST VALLEY SURGICAL SPECIALTY CLINIC** podiatrists **Dr. Ruben Pollak** and **Dr. Scott Berg** see patients at West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic and provide procedures and surgeries for feet, ankle, bunions and plantar fasciitis at nearby West Valley Hospital's state-of-the-art surgery suites. Request one of these podiatrists and get your surgical care done locally. Dr. Berg sees patients at West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic on Wednesdays, 8 a.m. - noon. Dr. Pollak sees patients on Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Visit salemhealth.org/specialty.

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