# District likely will have to cut some programs, services

#### Academy from Page 1A

weighted cost per student. For example, kindergarten students are counted as half, and special education students, in effect, count as two students. The department determined Seaside's weighted rate for the purpose of financing the charter school to be about \$7,270 per student for 2015-16; based on state law, the academy would receive at least 80 percent of that, or \$5,816.

The district is requiring the academy to have a minimum enrollment of 44 students for the 2016-17 school year, which amounts to an approximately \$256,000 contribution from district funds in the academy's first year of operation. When the enrollment increases to a capacity of 85 students — the academy's goal — the district will have to divert about \$494,000, Dougherty said.

The district is phasing in grade levels at the academy so the other schools do not take as large of a financial hit at a single time. The board of directors is aware Seaside likely will have to cut some programs, services or teaching positions at its existing schools.

"It's going to give up something," board member Hugh Stelson said. "There is not a lot of money running around." The Seaside School District's primary source of revenue is from local property taxes collected each year.

The State School Fund does not contribute to Seaside School District, only one of five districts in the state that does not receive money from the fund. The department uses a complicated formula - which takes into consideration revenue sources, student ratios, poverty levels, transportation costs, transportation reimbursements from the state, teacher experience and other factors — to generate an annual total formula revenue based on equalization. If a district's local revenue equals or exceeds the formula revenue calculated by the state, as Seaside's does, then the district does not receive contributions from the State School Fund.

"Seaside has enough, if not more, local revenues than their formula revenue," said Michael Wiltfong, the director of school finance for the Oregon Department of Education.

The Seaside district does, however, receive revenue from the Common School Fund and state-managed timber resources.

# Lessening the financial hit

Phillips agreed that, with the arrival of the academy,

there will be some cuts, adding he does not "want to go down too far in the discussion."

The district will "look at attrition first," as it has when making reductions in the past, Dougherty said. If teachers or other staff members are retiring or leaving the district at the end of the 2015-16 school year, "there are possibilities" to use that to balance the budget, Dougherty said.

"It sort of depends on how the district is looking from year to year," he said. "We try to look at all possible situations within the district,"

The primary reason for the district setting the academy's class size at a minimum of 22 students is to allow the district to reduce a teacher for each grade level at one of the existing elementary schools.

"If they only took 15 students, that would not allow the district to make those reductions," Dougherty said.

The academy decision comes on the cusp of a special election Nov. 3 to determine if Seaside School District 10 will renew a local option tax for five years starting with the 2016-17 school year. The rate is set at \$0.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The local option tax, in place since 2000, helps fund the district's operations by generating approximately \$1.2 million per school year.

# Loser was surprised to be given award

#### Chamber from Page 1A

Loser also volunteers for the Providence Festival of Trees and the Miss Oregon Pageant. Steve Wright, president of the Seaside Museum and Historical Society Board, said Loser "has been an integral part of making Seaside's Fourth of July Parade a success." Loser helped the Seaside Police Department and Seaside Public Works staff place cones, barricades and routes along the 1-mile route during the day before and early morning of the event to block traffic from using the route, according to Wright.

"Words don't adequately describe the intricacies or physical labor entailed," he wrote in his nomination of Loser, made on behalf of the museum's board.

Until this year, the museum sponsored the parade. When the responsibility was transferred to a community committee, Loser "was right there to continue his commitment to the community," Wright said. Loser assisted with organizational tasks, managed route set-up and control and offered his knowledge to the group. Loser "sees a need for help and he pitches in," Wright wrote. "He doesn't shirk responsibility and doesn't ask for big kudos. He has been a selfless volunteer. throughout many years, to the Seaside Museum and countless other organizations, setting a fine example for us all."

SDDA Executive Director Tita Montero, who submitted a nomination on behalf of the association's board, said Loser has been "an unfailing volunteer at most of SDDA's numerous events for many years." He helps with registration at the biannual Downtown Wine Walk; volunteers for the Muscle and Chrome and Wheels and Waves car shows; assists in placing the Community Flower Baskets downtown; and serves as a committee member for the annual Hot Rod Classic Charity Golf Tournament and Auction Dinner, sponsored by SDDA and Seaside Kids.

"He just pitches in for any event or activity where he sees the help is needed," Montero wrote.

Loser was surprised to be

"People enjoy what we do for the community and they look forward to it," he said.

The Byron Award, created in 2001, was named and dedicated to the memory of Byron Meek, a man "who knew all about volunteerism," said Sandy McDowell, of the chamber and a past Byron winner.

"He was a man who wanted it to be a win-win in every situation," she said. "It's such a wonderful thing to be called a Byron."

A new recipient for the award has been picked each year since 2001 and announced at the chamber's banquet and awards ceremony. Mary Blake was the winner last year.

## Seaside Chamber of

# Middle school introduces new bully prevention program

#### Unite from Page 1A

During the assembly, Seaside police officer Johannes Korpela, the school resource officer, and Rusk gave a presentation for students that focused on three main points: students, teachers and administrators must take responsibility to keep their schools safe; reporting is not snitching; and everyone needs to work together to build a better school and community.

The middle school introduced a new bully prevention program this year, called the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. The program is more up to date on methods for dealing with cyberbullying and other issues prevalent among youth today.

"I think it's been real positive on our students," Principal John McAndrews said.

### The rise of cyberbullying

Social media, cellphones and the Internet are notorious venues through which young people bully others or engage in illicit or dangerous behavior, because they are easily accessible and difficult for authority figures to monitor.

Korpela and Rusk went to a training in Eugene earlier this year and also researched their own material on Internet safety to share with students. The presentation was meant to educate students on the risks associated with social media services, as children's Internet access is increasing, Korpela said. More and more students have smartphones, which are functionally tiny computers.

While websites, applications and cellphones help people build friendships, connect with others, network and explore shared interests, they also can lead to inappropriate texting, gossip, cyberbullying, invasion of privacy, harassment and even more serious consequences.

Because of the nature of technology — others can screen-shot pages and pictures or save texts and online chats — correcting mistakes is difficult, and completely erasing the information from memory is impossible.

"Once it goes out there, it's there," Rusk said, adding later, "a lot of (students) don't realize once they submit something, it lasts forever" in some form.

Also problematic is the degree to which it is easier to threaten or insult others online, either because of anonymity or the sense of not having to physically face consequences, Rusk said.

"It's easier to do it online, than person-to-person," he said.

Korpela addressed how negative online or technological behavior can become criminal. What some people see as harmless comments or actions could be prosecuted as defamation of character, disorderly conduct or invasion of privacy. Law enforcement officers can obtain search warrants to review every aspect of a person's online profile — including seemingly private messages or deleted content, Korpela said. He told students having a criminal record as an adult often makes it more difficult to get a job, go into the military, play sports on scholarship in college and other activities. He urged the students to not create situations that require him or other law enforcement officers to get involved and press charges. McAndrews said the students need to understand that message to help prevent them "from making mistakes that might negatively impact them in a big way in the future," he said.

#### No more snitching

One issue school administrators encounter is some students, and even parents or guardians, struggle with reporting incidents of bullying, because snitching is stigmatized and the two concepts often are confused, Rusk said. As opposed to snitching, done solely to harm someone or get them in trouble, reporting is about making a negative behavior stop, he said to students.

"Snitching" is not a word to be used, because it's not used correctly, he added. "We want to make sure this environment is a happy place to be."

Korpela agreed.

"Somebody has to have some integrity and stand up and stop this," and that's where reporting comes in, he said.

Students have several options to report: They can talk to parents, teachers or other trusted adults. They also can stick a note in a designated, secure locker that is checked solely by the school counselor.

The school is working with the local Peace Builders Club and businesses to create specific "Bully-Free Zones," where students can safely socialize. McAndrews said they will work with law enforcement to make sure the businesses are appropriate and safe settings for students.

The business owners or staff members would alert the school of any incidents of bullying.

"We just need more reporting happening," Rusk said.

# Increasing parent involvement

Students are banned from using their phones during instructional time throughout the school day, which means they can use them only before classes start and after they end.

"The school will handle a situation if it's affecting a student at school," Rusk said.

Other than that, administration and teachers want to work closely with parents and guardians to prevent or stop problems that take place at home. Authority figures face the difficulty of keeping up with what social media sites or applications are relevant and used by youth.

"Every week there is something new," Korpela said.

Police officers get involved in situations as soon as a teacher or parent calls the department; they do not wait for someone to formally press charges, Korpela said. Rarely does law enforcement step in at the elementary school level. More problems tend to arise at the middle school and high school levels.

"It gets a little more serious as the teens get older," he said, adding negative behaviors have more impact and greater consequences.

given the award, he said. He originally was not going to attend the banquet, because he planned to volunteer for Seaside Kids' annual Pancake Feed fundraiser, also scheduled for Tuesday night. Through some "sneaky" maneuvering, he said, the chamber staff convinced him to be at the banquet instead.

Ever since he can remember, he has enjoyed volunteering and giving back to the community. In particular, he likes "watching people enjoy themselves" at community events — festivals, car shows, golf tournaments and parades.

# Commerce 2015 award winners

• Board member of the year: Robin Knoll

- Volunteer of the year: Ruth Swenson
- Business of the year: Seaside Brewing Company
- Corporate business of the year: Seaside Lodg-
- ings • Building blocks: Sea Star
- Gelato; Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers • Chamber ambassadors
- of the year: Dolores and Bob Tomasso
- Lifetime member award: Don Larson

In general, Korpela maintains a presence at the schools and contact with the students so they feel they can come to him with a problem or report an incident of bullying.

"A lot of what I do is informal," Korpela said, adding the assembly presentation was one of the more formal activities he has done for students.

He and Rusk plan to do a similar presentation at Seaside High School at some point this school year, but with information and topics tailored for that age group, such as sexting, sending or posting graphic photos or being aware of online predators to prevent kidnapping.



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