

KeizerCommunity

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McNary grad earns music scholarship

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Miguel Araiza, a 2017 McNary graduate, got the most out of the trumpet he picked up in the fourth grade, playing in the school's marching band, basketball band, wind ensemble, brass quintet, jazz band, symphony and pit orchestra for the musical the *Adams Family*.

Now, Araiza is taking his talents to the University of Northern Colorado.

After auditioning in March, Araiza received a \$36,000 Music Award to go along with a \$8,000 provost and \$4,242,04 Lois J. Erickson scholarship. He also earned three \$1,000 scholarships—Keizer Rotary Wheat, LLC, Sheila Goodman Memorial and Withnell Music.

Araiza said all of the scholarships combined should pay

for a little over half of his college costs.

Araiza was introduced to Northern Colorado through his trumpet teacher, Jamie Hall, who he began taking private lessons with at the end of the eighth grade.

Araiza picked the trumpet because his father played the instrument when he was younger.

"I was okay in middle school and it wasn't until I started taking lessons coming into high school that I got a lot better," Araiza said. "About halfway through junior year is when I decided this is what I want to do. This is what I wanted to pursue. I like that it's a way for me to express myself and I feel like through it there's a lot of different opportunities."

During Araiza's senior year at McNary, the brass quintet

placed second at the OSAA/ OMEA state ensemble in April. The wind ensemble then finished fourth in the state in May.

At Northern Colorado, Araiza plans to major in music performance.

"My main goal at this point is to not be a middle school or high school band teacher but I'm going for performance because my hope is I want to be a performer with a professional group," Araiza said. "I know through that there's plenty of opportunities, that many professional players now they teach. That's when you can have opportunities to teach at universities or teach privately. I know I'll still be able to get to teach and impact other people while performing, which is what I like to do."

While McNary has given



Miguel Araiza, a 2017 graduate of McNary High School, has received a music scholarship to the University of Northern Colorado.

Araiza the opportunity to play all types of different music, his favorite is classical and orchestral.

Northern Colorado is lo-

ated in Greeley, Colo., about 60 miles from Denver.

"I really liked the feel of the campus, the community," Araiza said. "A lot of the stu-

dents I met were really nice and friendly. They have an amazing faculty there. They were all really nice and seemed interested in me going there."

Whiteaker choir helps family

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During the last week of school, the Whiteaker choir set a goal of collecting \$200 and 200 cans of food, one for every student, for a local family in need.

But the kids went above and beyond, raising \$885.40 in cash and gift cards, 368 food and household items to go along with 44 articles of clothing.

The Whiteaker Choir Booster Club is also sending the two girls, rising fourth and sixth graders, whose father is disabled and mother is battling cancer, to choir camp this summer for free.

"I wasn't even done talking about it (service project) and kids were pulling money out of their wallets and pockets," said Sonya Blair, booster club president. "The



Submitted RIGHT: Whiteaker Middle School's girls choir made cards for a local family in need.

outpouring of support was amazing. Kids have so much compassion."

Each student in the girls choir also made cards for the family while all three choirs brought in goods all week.

"We want to produce good singers and citizens," Blair said.

"The leadership of Mr. (choir director Andy) Thomas makes booster club really easy."

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McNary Class of '67 reunion Aug. 11-12

The McNary High School Class of 1967 is holding its 50th reunion on August 11-12.

Attendees will tour the school on Friday at 4 p.m., followed by a reception at McNary Golf Club.

A meet and greet at Keizer Elks Club is scheduled for Saturday at 5 p.m., a class photo at 5:45 and then dinner (prime rib, baked codfish, chicken coron bleu or vegetarian) at 6.

Cost per person is \$50 for both nights, \$20 for Friday only and \$40 for Saturday only.

Advance ticket sales only. No tickets at the door. Deadline is July 1.

Send checks, payable to McNary Class of 67, with dinner choice to Kathy Grosso at 4387 Ermine St. SE, Albany, OR 97322.

Email questions to judy.m.hall@comcast.net.

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