"I

# **BIG TOY: 'We can get it** done and built now.'

(Continued from Page A1)

Subtracting the \$105,000 means a total of \$311,509.80 would have to be raised. As of the Feb. 3 CBTF meeting, a total of \$205,948.86 had been raised.

"The poured in material could be added later," Richard Walsh said at the Parks Board meeting. "We can have the city apply for a grant for the pour-in-place cover next year. (The surface) is the largest ticket item. This makes the whole Big Toy project very doable."

Caillier said cost estimates from project consultant Leathers and Associates in late January had the engineer wood fibers costing about \$3 a square foot for the 15,000 square foot project, or \$45,000. A ground rubber surface was estimated at \$7 a square foot, while the pour-in-place surface was \$10 to \$13 a square foot.

"We had in our budget the \$45,000 for surfacing," Caillier said this week. "We raised it \$105,000 after getting some rough quotes (for the pourin-place surface)."

At the Feb. 3 CBTF meeting, Keizer Public Works director Bill Lawyer said the wood fibers would meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. He also noted a pour-in-place surface would need time to set.

"With poured into place, the playground will not be open when construction is done," Lawyer said.

Marlene Quinn, chair of the CBTF, liked the idea of going with the cheaper option and trying to get grants later for more.

"We can get it done and built now," she said. "I wouldn't be opposed to doing wood fibers now."

Caillier pointed out the pour-in-place surface also has to be cleaned every 30 days to keep the warranty valid.

Lawyer said city staff would not have time to apply for the grant this year.

"We're not going to be able to get it done," Lawyer said. "We don't have the time as staff to get it done."

Volunteers could pick up the slack, however. When Lawyer mentioned the staff time issue at Tuesday's Keizer City Council meeting, no fewer than three names of people who could help were suggested in the span of several minutes, with councilor Amy Ripp among those offering to help.

At last week's Parks Board meeting, Lawyer said if a grant is secured later for the pourin-place surface, the wood chips put down initially could be reused.

"If it is two years out, we can use those chips in other parks," he said.

Quinn, who also serves as the council liaison to the Parks Board, feels the pour-in-place surface is in the future for the Big Toy.

"It will happen, it's just a matter of when," Quinn said.

"There may have been some people really interested in it, hanging onto every tweet,"Thatcher said. "I wasn't. It wasn't distracting to me. It was a point of discussion and rumor. It was kind of a background chatter, about what was happening next. You kept up with it in learning what the next moves would be. You have to triage your activities. It

what I was doing at the capitol. I needed to be aware of the bills in front of me, their potential pitfalls and I had to point those out."

didn't seem too important to

Overall, the situation struck Thatcher as unique.

"I haven't seen anything like this, not in Oregon," she said. "I don't think a person in Oregon has seen something like this. It's such an anomaly. We're kind of wondering what's next. Kate Brown will be the governor, but who will take her place? Will that create another (Brown's agenda) would be that much different than John Kitzhaber's," Thatcher added. "I don't think whoever replaces the Secretary of State will be that different from the agenda Kate Brown has. It's probably not going to change things a whole lot. There's a set of bills I and my Republican colleagues feel are bad for the state, so we'll do our best to halt or change them and let people know what is going on so they can be activated."

vacancy in state government?

couldn't

# ABBAS,

continued from Page A1

Abbas has a 3.78 grade point average and balances that with working at Walgreens part time and other extracurricular activities. Teacher Dan Borresen said writing has always been a strong suit for Abbas. One testament to that was his inclusion in the annual anthology of student creative writing produced

by McNary's Write Club. "Zach has the ability to view concepts and reading activities from varying perspectives. This unique skill allows him to connect to ideas and the

claims of authors in a thorough and scholarly manner, making his insights and analyses incredibly thoughtful and perceptive. High school students often struggle when asked to consider other perspectives; Zach does it naturally," Borresen said. "I always enjoy reading his articles and essays."

This semester, he's taking three advanced placement courses in biology, European history and literature. Abbas is still taking stock of his options for college, but he has a fairly clear goal in mind.

"I always thought I wanted to be a doctor, but I started working at Walgreens and talking with the pharmacists and pharmacy techs. Conversations with them swayed me. Now I'm going to pursue a pharmacy degree. I think providing the medicine for patients will be just as interesting," he said.

With so many balls in the air already, Abbas is still making time to mentor younger students and imbue them with his interest in reading and writing.

"I've been working with a friend coaching an elementary school team for Oregon Battle of the Books. As a student, I took part in it as a member of a team, but it's cool to be on the opposite end of that," he said.

Abbas is the son of Janine and Dan Kidd and Harry "Leon" and Nanette Abbas.

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