

Keizertimes

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By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Town and Country Lanes already has the coolest looking sidewalk in town.

So hey, why not have a large mural painted on the long north wall?

That's what is expected to happen this summer, as long-time owner Don Lebold gave his blessings to a plan proposed by former mayor Lore Christopher and Jill Hagen on Feb. 20.

If the idea sounds a little crazy, well, Lebold said that's only fitting because he's been crazy enough to own a bowling alley for 48 years.

Lebold couldn't believe the fortuitous timing, since Christopher's proposal came shortly after he'd talked with manager Mardi Smith about such a thing.

"I was thinking two weeks ago we need some kids to do a public mural," Lebold said, motioning to the north wall of his business, located at 3500 River Road North. "I mentioned it to Mardi. I said we need to have some high school kids paint a mural on the north wall."

Just like that, Christopher proposed exactly such an idea, which would be Keizer's second public mural following the one dedicated last October at Keizer Florist.

"I'm telling you, God is on our side," Christopher exclaimed. "McNary High School kids will do the background. Everyone will have a chance to do it. We'll have handprints, for something like \$5 per hand. Then we'll use that money for the next project. We've got the money for this project. The Oregon Community Foundation gave us \$2,500. This will be super fun. We will be doing it this summer."

As Christopher and Hagen showed him a rendering of what the mural would look like, Lebold's grin widened.

"This is a super vision," he said. "I love it, I love it. This is an answer to what I was envisioning."

Christopher feels the large wall is a perfect canvas.

"I drive down by here every day," said Christopher, who like Hagen is involved with the Keizer Art Association and the Keizer Arts Commission. "This wall really stands out and says, 'Paint me.' We had the \$2,500 for a mural. We were looking for the perfect spot and this is it. I wanted it on the south side of Keizer, since they sometimes feel left out. And I wanted to support Town and Country."

That's only fitting, considering how much the business has supported the commu-



Jill Hagen, Lore Christopher and Don Lebold discuss plans for a new public mural on the north wall of Lebold's Town and Country Lanes, seen in the background.

nity over the years, including events like the Turn Around Achievement Awards started by Lebold 20 years ago.

Hagen noted the north wall at Town and Country is larger than the one at Keizer Florist.

"This one will be larger, so it may take a month to do it," Hagen said.

As envisioned by Hagen, the mural will include pictures of grapes, filberts, trees, snowflakes, fish, cherries, peaches,

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Dislocated shoulder doesn't stop wrestler

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

SPRAGUE -- Thirty seconds into his finals match at the district wrestling tournament, Alvarro Venegas, a McNary High School senior, dislocated his shoulder.

"The best we can figure it, he had an underhook on me and when I tried to pry down it just popped out," said Venegas.

The match was stopped immediately and a trainer was able to pop his shoulder back into place. Venegas passed some quick strength tests and was talking with head coach Jason Ebbs about whether to continue.

"He told me it was my choice, that wrestling isn't everything, but this is something I've wanted since freshman year," Venegas said. "It was scary, but I wanted it so badly."

Venegas rode out the next 5:30 of the match to take the district championship in a 5-2 decision.

"It feels amazing, I was in the same match last year and lost. After it was over, I cried



McNary senior Alvarro Venegas decides to let his opponent in the quarterfinals of the district tournament escape and go for another takedown.

KEIZERTIMES/
Eric A. Howald

and hugged all my coaches," he said.

On Monday afternoon, Venegas – the top ranked wrestler at 195 pounds in the state with only one loss this season – was back on the mat preparing for the state tour-

namment slated for Feb. 27-28 in Portland. He's also running before and after school.

Venegas is one of seven wrestlers representing the school at the state tournament

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MHS scribes will see their stories on stage



McNary junior Morgan Hoag wrote one of the one acts to be featured in the Celts' upcoming One Act Festival. John Bryant, a senior, is directing the piece.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

In a couple of weeks, Morgan Hoag and Alohi Tombleson will be published playwrights.

Given that they are a junior and sophomore at McNary High School, respectively, this is no small feat.

"Ohmigosh, I feel like I'm going to die of happiness," said Hoag, who trembled with excitement when asked about how it feels leading up to the debut of McNary's One Acts Festival. "It feels awesome because a lot of times when you're writing, you feel like it's terrible, and then to have someone else enjoy it and pick it to be performed is amazing."

Hoag's story takes place in the aftermath of a fatal car ac-

cident as the main character struggles to move forward. Hoag and Tombleson both wrote one act plays as part of a playwrighting class last fall and were selected by Dallas Myers, the school's drama director, to have their work performed in the One Act Festival which debuts Friday, March 13.

Tombleson was an early selection for her script *The Courtroom* in which the main character ends up on trial by the four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

"We only had to include one of the horsemen for the assignment, but I read an article about another play that took place in a courtroom and that opened up the possibility of using all of them," Tombleson said. "I'm overjoyed, I im-

mediately told my mom and my family and started writing another play."

In addition to student writing, McNary thespians are taking the director's chair.

Senior John Bryant said Hoag's script spoke to him immediately.

"I could have done a comedy, but I wanted something that could connect emotionally. I am trying to center all the visuals around Amber (the main character) and the isolation she's imposing on herself and struggle against recovery," Bryant said. "I told myself last year when we did the one acts that I wanted to direct this year, but now it's exhilarating and nerve-wracking all at once."

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Parks Board talks budget

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The recent spring-like weather is a reminder things are picking up in Keizer's parks department.

Another reminder about things picking up: it's budget

season at Keizer City Hall, meaning discussions of priorities for parks, as well as other departments.

Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for Keizer, reminded members of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory

Board, of the topic during the most recent meeting for the board. Lawyer has been going over the budget with Robert Johnson, Keizer's Parks and Facilities supervisor.

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No more laps here...



The 50-year-old Palma Cea Swim Club is no more. Last week, crews dismantled the clubhouse and the pool will soon be history. Celtic Homes is building three homes on the land, with scheduled completion for early summer.

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