

Keizertimes

Enrichment Academy at Whiteaker SEE PG. A5



Wrestler not defined by being second at state SEE PG. A10



SECTION A

MARCH 6, 2015

50 CENTS

Roundabout spun off to 2016

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

In between Groundhog's Day and April Fool's Day comes this update: a major construction project involving Chemawa Road in Keizer has been delayed.

Previously, the Chemawa Road Reconstruction Project from River Road to Keizer Rapids Park was delayed multiple times before finally being completed late last year.

Now, it's the roundabout at Chemawa and Verda Lane being delayed yet again.

The roundabout was originally going to be constructed last summer. That timeline was pushed back until this summer, but last week got pushed back another year.

Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for Keizer, announced the news via a faxed press release Friday evening, Feb. 27. The release was not posted on social media by the city. The issue was not brought up at Monday's Keizer City Council meeting.

Lawyer said the decision was jointly made between project leaders with the Oregon Department of Transportation, the city and the project's consultant. The bid opening date is now Nov. 19.

"Officially it changed the end of the week last week," Lawyer told the *Keizertimes*

on Monday. "There have been concerns about keeping the project timeline. We've been working hard to stay on the schedule. It just became very clear the original schedule, while it may have been possible, was becoming more and more unrealistic."

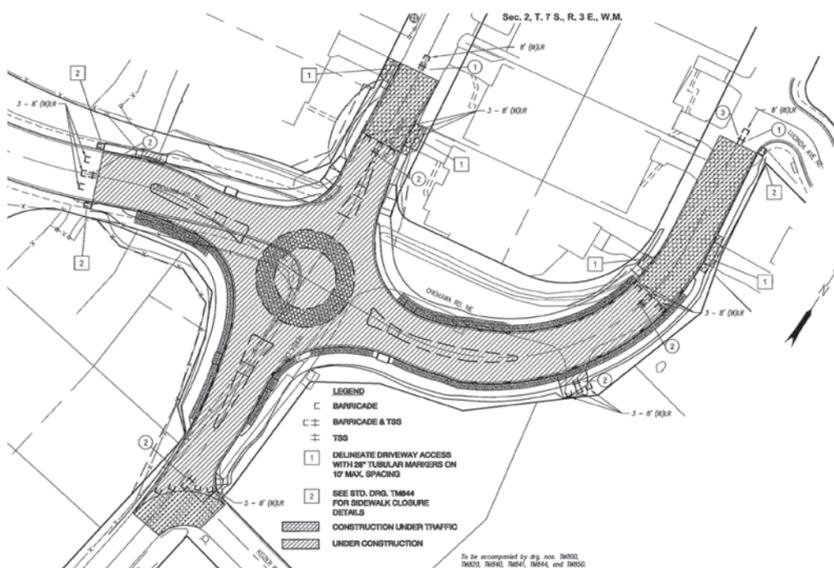
Prior to the delay, the most recent schedule had called for bids for the approximately \$2 million project to be opened on May 21, with construction starting in early July and being completed in about three months.

In light of the most recent delay, Lawyer said the hope is to get the project started sometime next spring.

"The goal is to have it done by the time school starts," he said. "Construction next year will most likely begin in June but we are a little early in refining the start date right now."

In January, a date change for an Intergovernmental Agreement for ODOT's property acquisition for right-of-way acquisition and transfer to the city pushed the date back from the end of that month to the end of 2017. Despite that change, Lawyer said in February the project was still on track for this year.

"They are looking at September or early October for the project to be complete,"



The roundabout at Chemawa Road and Verda Lane, shown here in a draft engineering version, has been pushed back to 2016, after originally being planned for last year.

Lawyer said at the time.

Lawyer said on Monday more meetings led to the decision for the delay.

"Things have changed for this project," he said. "The team diligently worked to keep the project on schedule for construction this summer and as of three weeks ago the team thought that would be realistic."

Please see DELAY, Page A8

Auvinen new football coach

At a team meeting Monday, March 2, Jeff Auvinen was announced as the Celtic football program's new head coach.

Auvinen, 48, has taught at McNary High School for 25 years and coached at some level in many sports for 23 of them.

In football, Auvinen has served as varsity defensive coordinator, defensive back coach, head junior varsity coach, junior varsity off-

sive coordinator, freshman offensive coordinator and freshman head coach.

He also led the Lady Celt softball team for six years, assistant coached the junior varsity basketball team for four years and was head coach of the Lynnwood High School



Auvinen

baseball program for a year.

McNary administrators received applications from as far away as Montana and Nevada before selecting Auvinen.

"From that we found a candidate that we felt strongly about and it was a unanimous decision by the interviewing committee," said Erik Jespersen, McNary principal.

For more on the new coach and player reaction, please see the full story on Page A10.

inside

Eruption in recent Big Toy activity (Page A2)

Two garage sales, one day (Page A3)

MHS boys go to next round (Page A10)



Submitted

Big Toy site gets cleared



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

Jerry Nuttbrock grabs a tree and moves it out of the way Feb. 26 while clearing the site in the orchard at Keizer Rapids Park for the Big Toy community build playground project.



Photo courtesy Clint Holland

After four days of volunteer effort, much of the work was done and a sign was erected to denote the Big Toy location.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Even while taking down 198 trees last week, Jerry Nuttbrock could see what the orchards would soon look like.

Nuttbrock was recruited by Clint Holland to help clear out space in the orchards at Keizer Rapids Park, where community volunteers are expected to build the Big Toy play structure over a five-day period in June.

Though the construction itself won't be happening for another three months, the area has to be prepped for the work. Holland long ago pledged a team of volunteers to help get the ground ready.

"Whatever Clint tells me to do, I do," Nuttbrock said with a grin on Feb. 26. "I'm removing the trees for the Big Toy. I will later bring in an-

other machine. For the trees that are close together, I can carry two at a time."

While the machine Nuttbrock used last Thursday morning – rented from Hertz Equipment Rental in Keizer – picked up the trees like they were Lincoln Logs, he brought in a different Caterpillar machine later to push all items toward a big pile.

Cutting nearly 200 trees may sound like a lot, but the orchard has far more trees than that. Mark Caillier, general coordinator for the Big Toy project, marked all the trees for Nuttbrock to cut while Tony Weathers trimmed the trees, following a suggestion from Robert Johnson, parks supervisor for the city.

"Trimming of the trees was done in the last three weeks," Caillier said later in the morn-

ing. "They made a special effort to make sure our area was done for this. This phase is Clint's baby."

Nuttbrock said volunteers from the Salem Alliance Church's Royal Order of the Red Suspenders were on tap to cut the trees up for firewood.

"They will chop it and haul it out," Nuttbrock said. "It's a win-win deal."

Holland has nothing but praise for the work Nuttbrock does.

"Jerry has the brain to see things other people just can't see," Holland said. "He brought the dirt in for the amphitheater to get that project going. I bring in the best guys for projects."

Nuttbrock enjoys doing such work.

Please see BIG TOY, Page A8

Knight of Arts



KEIZERTIMES file/Eric A. Howald

Shyleen Johnson kisses a boar's head held by Erik Gabarda at McNary's Knight of Arts 2014. The event returns Saturday, March 7.

BY ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

When it comes to sports, any number of teams take videos of games and races to allow students to tweak their techniques.

The McNary High School Fine Arts Department is hoping to do the same with per-

formances using proceeds from Knight of Arts Saturday, March 7. The department hopes to install up to five closed circuit cameras in the Ken Collins Theatre.

"If we had those cameras we can get almost instant feedback where students can see what they are doing and

come back to class the next day with a critique of their work," said Jim Taylor, choir director. "Their feedback now is all based on what instructors see and what we say."

Knight of Arts, which features student performances

Please see KNIGHT, Page A9

We see what's on the inside
So you get back in the game

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING of SALEM
YOU HAVE A CHOICE

1165 Union St. NE #100 – Salem
503-588-2674 • www.salemimaging.com/keizer.php