

# SOFTBALL,

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South Salem and Forest Grove high schools and ranked 16th in all of Oregon. Forest Grove was just one slot ahead at No. 15. The Celtics are slated to face both teams next week.

"We're taking it one inning at a time right now, we know were a good team when we focus. When we don't the errors get in our way," Ebner said.

With all the movement, Witt said it's nice to have reasons to be excited.

"It's really good. Knowing that we could be the team to beat is cool," she said.

# TRACK,

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athletes headed to the district meet in the top 10 of their events. Many of them found themselves in different events last week as the team began tapering off in preparation for the big event. It likely contributed to losses for both the boys

# Postal workers collect food Saturday

On Saturday, May 9, carriers with the United States Postal Service will help stamp out hunger by collecting bags of non-perishable food from their customers.

The USPS is asking its postal customers to fill a bag with food items and place the bag by their mailbox on Saturday, May 9, for their carrier to deliver to a local food bank or pantry.

Most desired food items are canned meats, fish, soup, juice, vegetables, pasta, cereal, peanut butter and rice. They ask that no food in glass containers be donated.

# Sign up for rock music camp

RiverCity Rock Star Academy's Rock Star Summer Camp is for ages 9 to 17 and open to all skill levels.

There will be two sessions - June 22 to 26 and July 27 to 31, both 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All other eligible discounts also apply. Regular enrollment will continue through July 24.

Sign up at: [www.rcrockstaracademy.com/rockstarsummercamps](http://www.rcrockstaracademy.com/rockstarsummercamps)

# Hoop camp begins June 15

The McNary High School boys basketball program is hosting summer camps for boys in June.

The camps are planned for Monday, June 15, through Thursday, June 18. Incoming third through fifth graders will meet from 9 a.m. to noon and incoming sixth through eighth graders will meet from 1 to 4 p.m.

Camps will focus on developing fundamentals like footwork, shooting technique, passing and catching, dribbling and rebounding. Cost is \$55 and includes a t-shirt. Send registration forms and payment (checks payable to McNary Boy's Basketball Club) to: McNary High School, c/o Boys Basketball, 595 Chemawa Road N., Keizer, OR 97303.

For more information contact Ryan Kirch at 541-908-1609 or rkirch@hotmail.com

and girls in a meet with North Salem High School Wednesday, April 29. The boys lost 93-51 and the girls lost 96-52.

Event changes for the athletes did allow a number of Celts to rise up and meet new challenges.

For the girls, event winners were: Hali Thurston in the 200 meter in 28.24; Annabel Gup-till in the 800 meter in 2:31.29; and Amanda Vergara in the pole vault clearing 8-06.

For the boys, event winners were: Marcus Bracamonte in the 200 meter in 23.74; Angel Goemaere in the 400 meter in 55.61; Wilder in both the 110 and 300 hurdles with times of 15.19 and 42.17, respectively; Austin Brown, Van Voorhis, Moore and Torres in the 4x100 in 42.76; and Austin Verboort in the pole vault clearing 9-06.

"Teamwise, everyone is out here doing the best they can do. Now it's just toughing it out, working on technical stuff and hoping that what we've done to this point is enough," Wilder said.

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# PARKS,

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least doubling the return on investment. The program was originally cut from the 2015-16 budget but was later restored, albeit at only \$10,000.

Walsh noted his opinions were his own and didn't represent the Parks Board. He also referenced visioning projects from the past such as Keizer Compass.

"The vision included more than just police," Walsh said. "It included good, cool stuff in this town. You'll hear about must haves and want haves. It's important to keep it in perspective. Yes, police officers are more important than parks. I get that. But a city is not just about officers and administrators. You have to go beyond the basics.

"Keizer fails as a city if people grow up here and regret it," he added. "It's about having a great town. Where you can have the greatest impact is in the parks, especially the matching grant program. We morphed the money for Keizer Rapids Park into millions. When you put money into police or an administrative position, I challenge you to find the same multiplier effect. I challenge you to find greater

oomph than the matching grant program."

Walsh noted the matching grant program currently has more applications than it can fund, with projects like a patio at the amphitheater at KRP on hold due to a lack of funds.

"What a waste of opportunities," he said. "You cut it from \$14,000 (this year) to \$10,000 and we're lucky to get the \$10,000. We fail as a city if we don't make it a great place to live. If there's no place for families to go outside and play or have a picnic, they're going to regret being here. If you find any extra budget, I challenge you to think if it's more important anywhere else than multiplying it in the parks department."

In contrast to Walsh, Rhonda Rich asked for less funding for the West Keizer Neighborhood Association (from \$900 this year to \$500 next year) while Daisy Hickman and JoAnne Beilke talked about the need for additional funding for the Keizer Community Library to compensate for rent increases.

City Manager Chris Eppley, per usual at the first budget meeting of the year, gave his overview and budget message. The total proposed 2015-16 budget is \$38,028,800, an increase of 3 percent from this fiscal year.

# IRIS,

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was occupied by a new bank. The event then moved to the parking lot of what's now the Keizer Quality Suites, where future president Barack Obama enjoyed a hot dog while on a campaign swing.

The Iris Festival then returned to Keizer Station, but kept moving as more and more space got filled in by new development. The last move came when REI moved into the former Circuit City building.

"When REI came in, we needed to move for sure," Dieker said. "Last year, we had to be out of there."

Dieker remembers having a conversation with Mary Bauer Opra about the festival needing a home when the event was moved downtown from Volcanoes Stadium.

"It's in a really nice spot now," Dieker said of the current location. "Cherry Avenue is not the prettiest place. It needs some renovating. This will help with getting the focus of a Urban Renewal district. Places like JC's Pizzeria have talked about getting sidewalks fixed. Urban Renewal funds could be put into that."

Even if the surroundings aren't top-notch, Dieker finds the positives and feels the Iris Festival is settling back in downtown.

"We're still very excited about having it in the core of Keizer," she said. "This is where the first festival began. That and with our local attachment with the breweries and local bands, I think we are getting excited about the fact this is truly a Keizer celebration. This is kind of neat. I like the idea that people can walk to it. So far, so good. We're anxious to do it this year, after what we saw last year."

Eppley said highlights of the budget include adding a traffic officer for the Keizer Police Department, augmenting Keizer Community Center rental revenues with transient occupancy tax revenues and putting in the \$10,000 for the matching grant program for parks.

"This year is going to be counterintuitive for most people," Eppley said. "Most people are feeling better about the economy. The city was two years behind the rest of the world heading into the recession and two years behind heading out. (Factors) are improving, but still cause us to be cautious.

"Last year was a big year for us as we added a lot of services," he added. "This year what you're going to see in terms of budget is us taking a big breath to allow us to absorb those expenses and to allow revenues to catch back up with us. In the future years we look stable but this year we need to be careful and cautious, to make sure trends continue."

Eppley noted the budget is largely status quo in most departments.

"There's nothing worse than adding services that you have to turn around and take away," he said. "You always try to be conservative about how you go forward."

Egli pointed to a key positive of having the festival in the same base location for a second year.

"It was a lot of work to keep moving," he said. "Every time we move this, it's extra logistics that takes away from the overall festival. That time and energy can now be spent on other things."

Egli heard more comments about the location last year than this year, but he points out that is the case for good reason.

"We had far more comments from citizens last year because it was a new location," he said. "We've had far more comments from the businesses this year. They love having it here. And for good reason. It really is the heart of Keizer. The parade starts one mile to the north of us and ends one mile to the south of us. Plus we've got Mr. Keizer's (Dave Walery) Christmas tree right there."

# NOTE,

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Next fall, Janssen is headed to University of Oregon where he currently plans to major in music, but said he's open to change.

"There is a great low brass studio as well as a great music


program there and it seems like the best choice for me at the moment," he said.

They may specialize in classical music, but McNary soloists were rocking it all last weekend.


In addition to Janssen's state title, Hyrum Kohler took second in viola; Taylor McCoin took second in bass viola; Noe Aguilar Lo-

pez took second in tuba; Josh Kuhl took third in saxophone and Anthony Tarter took fifth in tuba.


On top of all that, McNary's string ensemble took a state title. The musicians in the group are Kohler, Greg Eggleston, Ryan Lopez, Drew Faatz, Marissa Lane Masee, Rachele Austin and Cassandra Jones.



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