

Keizertimes

SECTION A

JUNE 12, 2015

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Turf field project in end zone

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary High School turf field project got the green light from the school district Monday, June 8.

The immediate future of replacing the existing grass field at the high school was in question until that afternoon because fundraising the \$500,000 cash needed stalled out with approximately \$130,000 still needed.

"We ended up getting some support from a local donor who offered us a \$100,000 no interest loan for five

years," said Danielle Bethell, McNary Athletic Booster Club president. "But the goal is for us not to need that loan."

Last-minute funding pushes also helped with some of the cost.

"Aug. 22 will be one of the biggest days for the school..."

— Danielle Bethell

Bethell stressed that fundraising efforts will continue throughout the summer in hope of covering the entire cost.

"We are working with the Big Toy project to get some of our information out during their build and we plan to have student-athletes going door-to-door this summer

reminding people of the need," she said.

Volunteers will likely be needed in the coming weeks to help spread gravel. Project organizers are still looking for \$2,500 in diesel fuel donations and donors interested in helping lay the foundation for a new scoreboard.

"We need to put in three large I-beams so that, when the time comes, we can put up a new scoreboard, too," said Bill McNutt, the project manager.

Bethell urged those thinking about even a small donation to consider the big picture.

"This field is going to be here for 10 to 12 years, so if someone has a student coming through the school in the next decade they will benefit



Submitted

Plans for a new turf field were in doubt until Monday, when the Salem-Keizer School District gave the go-ahead for the project.

from it. A \$25 donation to our gofundme (www.gofundme.com/MCNARYTURF2015) account will go a long way if we can get several hundred families to do that," she said.

Bethell herself doesn't have any children attending McNary. Her oldest attends Whiteaker

Middle School.

There was one caveat to getting district officials to sign off on the deal: Bethell had to agree not to use any of the \$35,000 raised in the booster club's May dinner banquet.

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Caillier recognized for efforts
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Big Toy build underway at KRP



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

Rob Miller, in charge of tools for the Big Toy project, hauls some equipment Tuesday evening at the build site. Building began Wednesday and should conclude Sunday. For a story on feeding volunteers, see page A5. Check out Keizertimes on Facebook and YouTube for photos and videos throughout the building process.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The big week is here for the Big Toy.

Hordes of community volunteers started showing up at the play structure site Wednesday morning, in the filbert orchards at Keizer Rapids Park.

A playground was part of the KRP Master Plan approved in 2008. The idea for what became the Big Toy was brought up at a Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting in late 2012, with a Community Build Task Force formed shortly after.

After a couple of delays, including one while the final site had to become part of the city through an Urban Growth Boundary process, all of the months of planning are set to come to fruition.

Construction started at 8 a.m. Wednesday and goes until 9 p.m. through Saturday, plus

most of the day Sunday. A soft opening of the play structure is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday evening.

On Tuesday evening, the 15 construction captains met with the three consultants from project consultant Leathers and Associates. Doug Hanauer, Dave Johnson and Aaron Chandler each arrived in Keizer on Tuesday at different times.

Hanauer emphasized the need to effectively utilize volunteers.

"Once you learn our idiosyncrasies, it will be the same thing over and over again," he said. "You'll learn what

to do with fasteners, what to do with corners. You learn all that stuff, then if you show three crews of three volunteers, it will be faster than you doing it yourself. Remember to delegate."

Skilled volunteers — those who can cut a line with a

Please see BIG TOY, Page A8



Grads urged to be sweet

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Drawing on personal experiences and events during the past 12 months, McNary High School language arts teacher Dan Borresen urged McNary's graduating class to act on generosity more than self-interest.

"It's your turn. It's not your turn chase your dreams, it's not your turn to succeed, it's not your turn to shine. It's your turn to give," Borresen said. "The difference between the phase you are moving from to the one you are going to is that, for the past 18 years, people have been giving to you. Now, you're going to step out into that big world and you're going to give."

Borresen delivered the keynote address to McNary's graduating class Friday, June 5. He was preceded by student speaker Khwater Hussein whose speech about balancing the freedom to do things vs. actually doing them made for an excellent pairing.

"Don't try to squeeze yourself into the box of what you think adulthood is," Hussein said. "Don't force relationships. Don't give anyone a reason to discipline you. Take chances, never forget your roots. Don't act like someone you're not and don't try to find yourself. Don't put yourself in a crate for no reason."

There is a difference between acting on impulse and making decisions to be regretted later, and living a full and exciting life, Hussein said.

"Right now, I want to be 12 and 22 at the same time. I want life to be filled with excitement and with the ex-



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

After making the big walk, Celt Tevita Ma'ake was wreathed and wreathed with treats and cash by family and friends.

traordinary," she said. "The older we get, the world is less black-and-white and more 50-shades-of-who-knows-what. Nothing will last forever, but nothing will last forever. It's a double-edged sword. Now, let's go out and conquer adulthood."

Borresen drew upon recent experiences with a friend battling ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), which dominated the national conversation at the beginning of the seniors' year.

"A friend I sat with during our graduation and I swore we

were not going to lose touch. When we graduated we talked about our dreams and we said we're going to stay connected. We're going to make it stick. We saw each other less and less and before we knew it we hadn't spoken for 20 years. Last year, I found out he had ALS and it is rapidly deteriorating his body," he said.

Borresen flew to reconnect with the friend last year and said he was nervous in the moments leading up to the reunion.

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Neighbors want Palma Ciega saved

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Just the thought of Palma Ciega Park possibly being sold has made some people unhappy.

As a result, three people came to the Keizer City Council meeting June 1, asking for the park to not be sold.

The idea of the city selling the one-acre park at 900 Cummings Lane North by the Willamette River had been discussed recently at a Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. The idea was also brought up last September when Parks Board members hosted city councilors on their annual Parks Tour.

"This park won't be good to develop," Parks Board

member Clint Holland said at the time, noting the distance and hill to get to the river. "Let's think about selling it to the neighbors."

In April, Parks Board members noted the lack of accessibility to the river lowered the value of the park.

"The park is questionable in accessibility," William Criteser said. "It's not on any agenda to improve. It's not accessible to the river. There are so many negatives, we ought to put it up to sell to adjacent landowners."

Parks Board chair David Loudon liked that idea.

"I'd say go to the highest bidder," Loudon said.

Please see PALMA, Page A9

Digging a hole...



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

City Public Works crews have been putting in new water lines in anticipation of a roundabout being installed next year at Chemawa Road and Verda Lane.



MHS grad going to Kansas
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Awards, pics of MHS graduates
PAGES A11-12



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How was your day at work?



"I felt good at the end of the day. I made a difference."
Aimee, registered nurse

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