

# KPD's Blast Camp returns next week for second trip

The Keizer Police Department is hosting its second annual Blast Camp June 16 through 19 for boys and girls entering grades 3 through 6.

The camp is designed to bring local law enforcement and youth closer together.

Children attending the camp will receive safety information, observe public safety demonstrations and much more. Kids will also be able to participate in several different relays and sporting activities.

Registration for the camp is free and is available at [www.keizerpd.com](http://www.keizerpd.com), on a first-come, first-serve basis.

In order to allow more children to participate in this event, the Keizer Police Department is seeking donations to help offset the costs. To donate, or if you have questions, please contact Lieutenant Andrew Copeland at 503-856-3463 or [copelanda@keizer.org](mailto:copelanda@keizer.org).

In addition to Keizer Po-

lice Department, participating agencies include Keizer Fire District, Salem SWAT and Bomb teams, Marion County Search and Rescue, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marion County Marine Patrol and ODOT Bike Safety team.

Last year, the KPD received an overwhelming response from the local community, with approximately 200 children registering for the educational camp.

## Haggen meets the community...



Above: Darren Dye, store manager of the Keizer Haggen, presents a check for \$1,000 to Curt McCormack with the Keizer Community Food Bank recently (photo submitted). Left: Haggen officials talked to community members in a meeting at Keizer Civic Center last week.

KEIZERTIMES/  
Lyndon A. Zaitz



Above: The Big Toy site is ready to go on Tuesday evening. Left: Mike Ficek uses a saw to cut some boards Wednesday morning as Garry Whalen assists. Find more photos on our Facebook page.

KEIZERTIMES/  
Craig Murphy

## BIG TOY, continued from Page A1

circular saw – get red name tags, while “unskilled” volunteers get blue. Volunteers are put together in groups of three, with at least one skilled person.

Hanauer encouraged construction captains to keep an eye out for trouble.

“Everyone shares in the responsibility,” he said. “We want you to watch. If you see anything you think is unsafe, just stop them. Also, use the right tool for the job. Sometimes you’ll see people sawing a board between two saw horses. If you see that, stop them. If they get into an argument with you, come get Dave and he’ll straighten them up.”

Johnson noted the work is different from what most people are familiar with.

“We have volunteers not used to working outside all day long,” he said. “The same may be true for you. Don’t be afraid to take breaks. Stay hydrated. If you’re not going bathroom enough, you need to be drinking more water. Runners will be bringing water.”

Beth Melendy noted the Keizer CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trailer has air conditioning and people can lay down inside if necessary.

Sunscreen will be available at the volunteer sign-in area. For safety, no open toed shoes or flip flops will be allowed.

Dave Bauer said he has food lined up for each day (see related story, pg. A5), with the goal of getting everyone fed in 30

minutes.

What if too many volunteers show up?

“We’ll deal with it,” Hanauer said. “It’s the nature of these things.”

Project general coordinator Mark Caillier said fences, poles and posts went in quicker than expected last week, thanks in part to good soil and plenty of volunteers.

“This has come together really well,” Caillier said.

Hanauer has been overseeing such builds for more than 20 years and estimates he’s been part of 230 builds.

“This is extremely well organized,” Hanauer said. “You guys did a good job getting ready.”

Having such an experienced consultant is a comfort for Caillier.

“Doug’s done literally hundreds of these,” Caillier said. “You can’t put a value to it. What’s new to us is routine to him.”

With enough material on hand to build the equivalent of two homes over the five day period, tents are set up in various areas. Most building-related activities take place at or near the actual Big Toy site, while the eating area and children’s area are by the amphitheater.

One unique aspect of the site is the trailer filled with tools donated by Makita.

“Eight years ago my son needed to meet someone at the Atlanta, Georgia airport while in his uniform,” Caillier said. “This guy sees the name and says ‘We’re probably relatives.’ It turns out we’re talking to Randy Caillier, a vice president at Makita. We had no contact for years. Rob Miller thought he had a couple of lines for tools on this project, but they fell through. I told Rob I have this long lost relative. I introduced Randy to Rob and the next thing you know, Makita sponsors our tools.”

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