

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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Matching grants spared cut



Photo courtesy Clint Holland

Funding was not cut from the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's matching grant program on Tuesday night, meaning projects like Jerry Nuttbrock's amphitheater work can continue.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

A matching grant program was spared a big cut Tuesday night.

Members of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board were faced with the possibility of having to cut \$9,000 out of an already limited budget for their matching grant program, which matches dollars and labor put into projects at parks around Keizer.

When Tony Weathers recently got out of his contract to operate the filbert orchards at Keizer Rapids Park, the \$9,000 in rent he paid the city annually to use the city-owned land had to be removed from the parks budget. As mentioned previously in the *Keizertimes*, Weathers was concerned about potential litigation of pesticides sprayed on the orchards wafting onto the Big Toy, which was built last month by community volunteers in part of the orchard.

One possibility was for the funds

to come out of the matching grant program, now in its second year. Parks Board members have pushed hard to increase money for that fund and ended up with \$15,000 for this fiscal year. Of that total, \$5,000 has already been pledged to the sand volleyball courts being built at KRP by Hans Schneider, leaving \$10,000.

At their meeting Tuesday evening, Parks Board members didn't even discuss the idea of cutting \$9,000 from that fund and instead focused on other places to make the cut.

Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said he had some ideas of where to cut, but didn't want to steer Parks Board members toward a particular decision. J.T. Hager opined the need to cut was being unfairly placed on the laps of Parks Board members.

"What's our time frame?" Hager asked Lawyer. "This is a blindsight thing. I saw the figures in the budget,

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Art as an ad?



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

Boucher Jewelers has proposed putting this large diamond ring from May's Iris Festival Parade outside their store.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Could public art be construed as illegal advertising in Keizer?

That question has come up regarding a proposed piece of art for Boucher Jewelers, located at 4965 River Road North.

Lore Christopher, chair of the Keizer Public Arts Commission (KPAC), said the longtime business had a float with a large ring in May's Iris

Festival Parade and would like to now have that artwork in front of its business. The issue has been discussed at the last two KPAC meetings.

"It's really kind of cool," Christopher said at last month's KPAC meeting. "It has a shaft, big diamonds and prongs that hold the diamonds. It's a cool sculpture. I told them it could not advertise their business; it's just a giant diamond ring with an eight-foot base. They want

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Couple needs help after fire



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

Debbie and Randy comfort each other while standing in the midst of what used to be their home just outside of Keizer. A fire on June 20 caused the couple to lose everything.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Randy Wilson broke the promise he made on his wife Debbie's birthday.

Randy often tells his wife to hurry up or move faster. The day before her June 20 birthday, Debbie mentioned her birthday wish: for Randy to not tell her once on her birthday to hurry up.

Randy agreed, but ended up breaking the promise the next day.

For good reason, however: he discovered their house was on fire and wanted to get out alive.

The Wilsons were getting ready to go to lunch on June 20 when disaster struck. They had noticed what seemed to be a lot of flies, so Randy went to the back of the 115-year-old home just outside of Keizer to investigate.

"The fire was covering over the back porch and

flames were coming out of the pump house," Randy said. "The basement and attic were engulfed and we didn't realize it. It was already beneath, above and behind us. I opened the back door and the windows blew out. I told her to hurry up. I got the dogs out. Within one minute, it was all we could do just to get out."

Debbie, Randy and their two dogs got out safely, though Randy had to go back in a couple of times since one of the dogs kept going back in.

Several fire departments responded, but the relative remoteness of the location — the Wilsons live about a half-mile off Highway 99 — meant the initial responding hydrant truck had trouble getting water on the fast-spreading fire.

Making things worse, Randy had a number of lawn mowers and weed whackers full of fuel, which only accelerated the blaze. Worse yet,

Randy had collected a number of firearms and knives plus inherited a large collection from both his father and grandfather. Emergency crews kept their distance in fear of the constant popping noises being live ammunition, though Randy said that was actually the transformer popping.

"I just watched my house burn down," Randy said. "It was burning so quick, I couldn't believe it. The house was 115 years old, so it was like dry hay. It was the worst monster you could face."

The Wilsons were safe, but lost everything. A Randy and Debbie Wilson relief fund has been set up at Wells Fargo. Even a safe with valuables was charred, since the door wasn't latched all the way. Among the items lost were two ice cream birthday cakes for that evening.

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That's a nice trailer...



KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon A. Zaitz

Bob Gallagher shows off his 1955 Airflow to Tammy Wild at the vintage travel trailer show at Willamette Lutheran Retirement Center Thursday, July 9.

Come spend a night among the fairy-folk

KHT's *Dream* hits KRP stage

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Audiences will have four days only to catch Keizer Homegrown Theatre's production of Shakespeare in the Park product of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this month.

Performances are at the Keizer Rapids Park amphitheater on July 22 through 25 at 7 p.m. each night. The performances are free, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

"For people who are not familiar with the show, they'll be surprised with what Shakespeare came up with. Most of

the time he was writing about characters that are historical or could be historical and here you have fairies running around the forest. People of all ages will enjoy the story," said Lyndon Zaitz, who plays Puck in the production.

The story is set in the days immediately preceding a royal wedding. A daughter rebels against her father's wishes for her marriage, and craziness ensues in the forest as she attempts to elope. In the meantime, there is discord in the fairy world which spills over into the world of mortals. The lovers and a band of players preparing for the nuptial entertainment are caught in the middle.

For those expecting a run-of-the-mill production, KHT's is anything but. In di-

rector Linda Baker's version of the play all of the characters have been age-swapped. The eloping lovers in the play, who are traditionally played by younger actors, are residents of a retirement community.

Meanwhile, the parts usually going to older actors have been taken on by some of the younger members in the KHT cast.

"We have grumpy old Puck who doesn't care, and I think it's fantastic. It adds a whole new layer to the character and to the show," said Jeremy Clubb, who plays Oberon, king of the fairies.

The fairy-folk even have their own flutist in Sherry Lanning, a veteran performer of events such as the World Beat Festival.

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Tatiana (Asel Swango) and Oberon (Jeremy Clubb) dance in rehearsals for Keizer Homegrown Theatre's annual Shakespeare in the Park production.

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