

# 25 Fields for Oregon expands its scope

By CRAIG MURPHY  
Of the Keizertimes

It all started with the seemingly simple idea of adding much-needed soccer fields.

But the 25 fields for Oregon project has expanded far beyond that.

Carrie Cool, executive director for the project launched in late 2012, had originally hoped to have 25 soccer fields open by the start of 2014 on 195 acres of land along Chemawa and Portland Roads, approximately across I-5 from Volcanoes Stadium.

"We're still working on it," Cool told the Keizertimes earlier this month. "We will see it through. It's a whole process. It's not easy."

That's because Cool and other 25 fields project leaders have been forming partnerships with members of the agricultural community, with a focus on research that can be done. That has included conversations with people like Steve Reid, a researcher at Oregon-based DLF Pickseed.

"We talked about the implications for chemical research like fertilizers used on all parks," Cool said. "There are implications for using better and less chemicals. We talked about machinery research. Then we talked about public education and more. We talked about all of these potential uses for the fields. There's nothing like it in the world to have a living laboratory for a sports field. (Reid) said it is like a researcher's dream come true."

Cool has also had conversations with officials at Oregon State University regarding turf management. Two project members have made trips to Washington, D.C. to give public education infor-

mation to people in the seed and turf communities about what the project could mean.

In addition, there have been conversations about the site being the future home for OSU Extension Service in Marion County.

"They'd like to be in Marion County where farmers can more easily access it," Cool said. "Partnering with us, they can have the acreage they need for incubator farms and exhibits."

Having 25 fields would allow researchers to try different techniques and see what the results of each would be.

"There isn't anywhere in the world that there's a living laboratory for the study of impact on sports turf," Cool said.

"They don't have anyone running on it before and after the rain, they don't have chemical research. With this, they could do different blends (of chemicals) to see how that would work. There are all of these different aspects now how we can join with the agricultural community, which is something we've been looking at for a long time. It's a win-win situation. It has really started to gel."

Different fields could have different seed blends, irrigation protocols or turf management techniques. Reid has joined the 25 fields of Oregon board to help.

"We understand the sports club side of things, but to manage all of this scientific stuff would be another entire education for me," Cool said. "We're bringing in people that get this. They all seem genuinely excited about our idea."

Based on earlier timelines coming and going, Cool is hesitant to give an estimate on when the fields might be open. Besides, she is wrapped up with the project's growth at this point.

"All along we've had to have strong relationships with Oregon stakeholders," Cool said. "Did we realize there was this ripple effect and all of these positive things? We thought there must be something, but we had no idea it was this big. To possibly give Marion County Extension a home, we didn't realize that was possible or how important it could be."

"We were looking for agricultural stakeholders ties, but we didn't realize to what extent we could really partner with them," she added. "We didn't grasp what the agricultural community needed. This is big and really cool. We haven't met a stakeholder yet that is negative on it. We have a positive impact on everyone we've met with."

Cool is fine with the expanded scope of her project. "It's going to be really rewarding to have this facility that started as a youth sports park and is now so much more," she said. "It's not just for Keizer, Salem or Marion County, it's for the Oregon agricultural community."

# Exceptional athletes



Submitted  
Marion County Special Olympics took a contingent of more than 10 athletes to the Oregon State Games in Newberg July 11 and 12.

"We will see it through. It's a whole process."

— Carrie Cool

## LOSS: 'We've just got to put this behind us'

(Continued from Page A10)  
Pino replaced Paniagua on the mound.

Ty France reached first on an error by left fielder McCall, with Tidwell and Boykin scoring. Urena went to third on the play and scored on a wild pitch.

Griffin Russell relieved Lockett at the start of the fifth and allowed the Volcanoes a run in the seventh. Vizcaino walked and scored on a double to left by Hinojosa.

Trevor McGill pitched the eighth and ninth and got his first save but not without allowing the Volcanoes their last run. Chris Shaw hit his second homer of the season over the right field fence.

Eric Sim pitched the eighth and EJ Encinosa the ninth for Salem-Keizer.

"Sometimes your negatives cancel out your positives," Volcano manager Kyle Haines said. "We've got to play a complete game."

"We're definitely going to be punching back," was Vizcaino's observation. "We need to communicate more on defense."

Duggar, who has not let a hitting slump affect his fielding, said, "We've just got to put this behind us, just keep trying to win the first game of a series."

Two players and an umpire were knocked down by foul balls in the game, but they all stayed in. In the third, Hinojosa hit himself. Allen was hit by a foul off the bat of McCall in the fourth. A ball Francis hit in the sixth knocked plate umpire Drew Boatman to the ground.

## SWEEP, continued from Page A10

Moss singled and went to third base on a double by Steven Duggar. Miguel Gomez drove both home with a single and went to second on a throw. CJ Hinojosa reached first on an error with Gomez going to third. Hinojosa moved to second as Chase Compton walked, and Julio Pena singled both runners home.

Vancouver's Andrew Guillette hit the only home run of the game with two out in the ninth, but that was as far as the Canadians got.

Nick Gonzalez, who was the opening day starting pitcher for Salem-Keizer, continued to have trouble and was relieved after one inning. Luis Pino, the second of four Volcano relievers, got the victory. Vancouver starter Clinton Hollon took the loss.

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE  
By Charles Preston

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8 The Annunciation artist  
15 Pyrenees native  
16 Mendelssohn symphony  
17 Spanish diacritic  
18 Le Misanthrope author  
19 Flower bed  
20 \_\_\_ culpa  
21 Storm  
24 Elects  
27 Margot Fonteyn, e.g.  
31 Publican's serving  
32 The Cyclists artist  
34 Doris nee von Kappelhoff  
35 Eliot's Silas  
37 Encourage  
41 Instrumental  
43 Swift heroine of Greek myth  
45 Shocks  
48 Sportscaster Berman  
49 Shoppers' guides  
51 Railroad unit  
52 Don't Look Back singer  
54 Louis foe in '41

**DOWN**

1 Bill's title: abbr.  
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4 Rebel  
5 Grain sorghum  
6 Java neighbor  
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8 Uncertain  
9 "\_\_\_ for Peace": Ike  
10 Singer Jerry  
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21 Aries  
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