

CTEC getting ready to start



John Honey, principal of the new Career Technical Education Center, gave a tour to Keizer City Councilors and others on Monday.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

John Honey and Chuck Lee are used to the start of a school year.

After all, the two men have about 70 years of experience in the education field. Honey was principal at McNary High School until his current gig, while Lee recently won his third term on the Salem-Keizer School Board.

But this is a little different. The two veteran educators have been putting together the school district's new Career Technical Education Center in the former Neilsen Manufacturing building at 3501 Portland Road NE in Salem. Honey is principal of CTEC, while Lee is president of the Mountain West Career Technical Institute. Mountain West entered into a partnership with the school district to develop and operate CTEC.

When CTEC opens next month there will be 180 students – 42 of whom are MHS students – and two programs: manufacturing and construction.

Lee and Honey are scrambling to get the building

ready. A prime example was seen Monday as Keizer City Councilors and several citizens came for a tour: the dead brown grass was being spray painted green.

"When we're at capacity we'll have 10 programs, 1200 kids and 65 staff members," Honey said, noting that is expected to happen in five years, with two programs added each year. "This will never be a school; it will be a program. Students will never get diplomas from here."

Instead, juniors and seniors in the program will still be enrolled in their regular high schools. A CTEC bus will provide transportation. Students will spend two days a week taking classes at the CTEC location, but will still be able to participate in regular school activities as well.

"We want those McNary High School kids to do football, cheerleading, French or anything else at school," Honey said. "On the other days they'll come here and get what no kids in the Salem-Keizer area have ever gotten."

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Post talks about first year in Capitol



Dan Clem (top) from the Keizer Chamber of Commerce jokes around with Rep. Bill Post during a luncheon on Tuesday.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Even though he was a freshman serving in the state legislature, Rep. Bill Post of Keizer had some idea what to expect during the session.

After all, the Republican visited area lawmakers like Sen. Kim Thatcher (who formerly held the House District 25 seat Post defeated Chuck Lee for in 2014) a number of times and hosted a radio show from the Capitol in Salem many times.

"There was nothing that really surprised me, but then again I had a little more insight than the average citizen," Post said following a Keizer Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Keizer Quality Suites on Tuesday. "But I was shocked by the absolute volume. More than 4,000 bills were introduced and about 900 new laws were passed. I don't know if I was surprised or shocked, but I couldn't believe the volume."

Post said he got some good advice from veteran lawmakers.

"Some of the old members said wait until the end," he said.

That was certainly the case this year as about 100 laws were passed at the end of the

session after Sine Die was declared by the Democrats, who controlled the house and the senate.

"It's a tool to get done what they want at the end," Post said. "Republicans have done it, too, when they were in control. The bills kept coming so fast."

During his speech to the three dozen present for the luncheon, Post expanded on the hectic ending.

"You have several days for a bill to be introduced and talked about," Post said. "With Sine Die, you have one hour. Some of them weren't given in writing. We didn't know what we were voting on. One was a budget bill with 147 budgets in it. I wanted to vote on each one separately. I couldn't because I had to vote on the overall bill, so I voted no. The majority party uses (Sine Die) as a tool. If there was a Republican majority and this happened, I'll still stand up and say this is wrong."

Post predicted the short 2016 session won't be pretty.

"When we voted in 2010 for annual sessions, the law said it was to revisit and balance the state budget only," he said. "It said nothing about introducing new bills. Then the

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A look at hazelnut growing

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Can hazelnuts in the orchard at Keizer Rapids Park be grown without chemicals?

According to the executive director of the Oregon Hazelnut Growers Association, the answer is yes.

"There are growers farming hazelnuts organically," Michael Klein told the Keizertimes. "It is not an easy endeavor but it can be done. It requires a lot of extra work, expense and may use chemical sprays approved for organic certification."

As mentioned last week in the Keizertimes, Kevin Schurter with Schurter Enterprises LLC submitted a proposal in July to farm the 22 acres of filbert orchards on city-owned property at KRP. Tony Weathers had done the harvesting previously, but cited possible litigation for using pesticides in the vicinity of the Big Toy – built within the orchards in June – as the reason for wanting out of his contract.

Weathers was paying the city \$9,000 a year in rent. Schurter has proposed paying no rent but giving 15 percent of his proceeds to the city instead. The Keizer City Council last week voted to allow City Manager Chris Eppley to strike a deal.



The hazelnut orchard at Keizer Rapids Park will be harvested again soon, but this time chemicals won't be used.

"The council authorized Chris to proceed without further council action and the lease will likely be signed very soon," city attorney Shannon Johnson said Aug. 6. "Orchard work could begin very soon."

The health of the trees has been a concern for years, with most projections being less than 10 years before all of the trees will have to be taken down.

"The non-use of chemicals will speed up the death of the trees, but it is hard to say exactly how long they will last," Schurter wrote in his proposal. "Hazelnut trees of that variety and age suffer from Eastern Filbert Blight, and spraying and pruning is the only effective way to combat it. Pruning will hold it at bay, but they will

eventually succumb."

Klein said trees with heavy blight infection will indeed continue to deteriorate.

"There's little that can be done if that's the case without severe pruning and repeated sprays in coming years," he said.

Klein noted the issue is common.

"There are no plans to initiate research on untreated orchards as there have been hundreds of others seen in the last 20-plus years suffering the same fate. Everyone in the industry is aware of what will occur over time," he said.

It's been mentioned several times recently a lower hazelnut crop than usual, particularly due to issues in Turkey,

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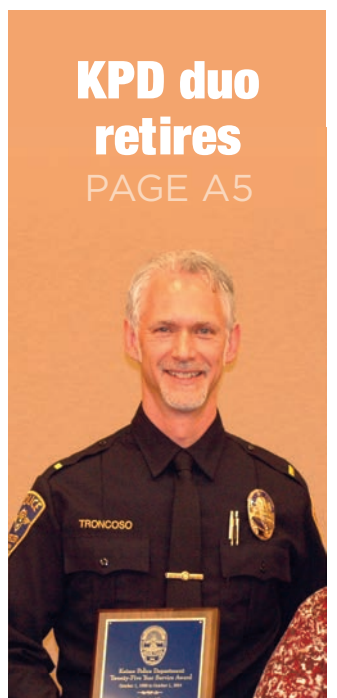
There's something on your face...



Keizer Police Department cadet Giancarlo Marcelo (left) poses with KPD Lt. Andrew Copeland (right) after winning the grudge match pie-eating contest at RIVERfair Aug. 8. For more photos from the day, please see pg. A10 and our photo gallery on Facebook.



MHS turf field update
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KPD duo retires
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Hops beat Volcanoes
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Big Toy funding hits goal
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