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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Volcano Junior Amion makes a throw to first for an attempted double play in the Volcanoes game with the Hillsboro Hops Tuesday, Aug. 11.

Hops take series, 2-1

By **HERB SWETT**
For the Keizertimes

This three-game series belongs to Hillsboro. The Volcanoes threatened a few times in game No. 2 and were even tied with the visiting Hops for a while but never could get ahead, losing 5-4 Monday, Aug. 10.

The crowd of 1,990 saw a few bright spots, such as a 3-for-4 night for CJ Hinojosa that included a home run and a triple; the thwarting of three stolen-base attempts by catcher Fernando Pujadas; and effective relief pitching, especially by David Owen. The fans were hoping for one of Drew Leenhouts's typical pitching starts, but he did not last through the first inning.

Hillsboro took charge in the first. Fernery Ozuna doubled to center field and went to third base as Luis Veras grounded out. Alexis Olmeda, on a 3-and-2 count, got Ozuna home with a single to left center and stole second base. Trevor Mitsui walked, and Stephen Dezzi struck out in the final out of the game for Leenhouts.

Nate Irving singled to center, driving in Olmeda and sending Mitsui to third. A throwing error by center fielder Ronnie Jebavy put Irving on second. Jake Peevyhouse singled to center, scoring Mitsui and Irving. Sergio Alcantara singled to right, moving Peevyhouse to second.

Eric Sim came in to pitch and retired the side.

Salem-Keizer, facing a strong Hillsboro starter in Cody Reed, responded with one run in the same inning. Junior Amion doubled

Please see SERIES, Page A9

Blue Day marks turf unveiling



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
A work crew from FieldTurf stretches out a section of artificial turf at McNary High School's Flesher Field Tuesday, Aug. 11. A dedication ceremony is planned during McNary's annual Blue Day celebration Saturday, Aug. 22.

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

For Danielle Bethell, president of the McNary High School Athletic Booster Club (MABC), McNary's new artificial turf field is less about sports and more about the individual students who will end up using it.

"Every kid that puts effort into one of the groups using the field puts something on the line for someone else to see, and we need to be there to support them through that," Bethell said.

Whether those students are on sports teams, in the band, or part of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps is secondary to her idea of what the new field represents.

On Saturday, Aug. 22, Bethell is challenging other Keizerites to attend the annual Blue Day celebration and BBQ at the school and support McNary students.

"It's about rallying the community and I want people to come out and watch the kids and engage them," she said.

In addition to a planned dedication ceremony for the school's new artificial turf field at noon, scrimmages by McNary area football teams, the high school soccer and lacrosse teams as well as demonstrations by the band and color guard are slated.

The fun kicks off at 10 a.m. and is expected to wrap up by 2 p.m. A community BBQ will feature a hamburger or hot dog, chips, salad, dessert and water or lemonade for \$4.

The Dodge Gridiron Challenge will be on-site to help raise funds up to \$5,000 for the turf project. All eligible drivers 18 and older will be able to test drive a Dodge of their choice around a short course in the parking lot — no strings attached — and the Celtic football program will receive \$20.

Bethell is hoping fundraising during the event will get the MABC even closer to closing the gap for funding the turf project. Organizers are just \$32,000 shy of fulfilling their \$500,000 cash goal.

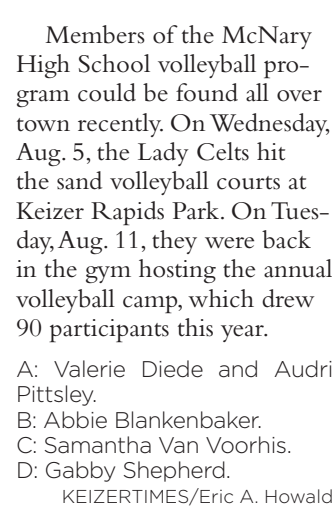
Another half-million in in-kind donations has made the turf a reality for McNary.

After two months of prep, crews were installing the actual turf this week, a process that involved laying down turf like carpet, stitching it together and then stretching it out.

One popular fundraising device for the turf project is through purchasing of yard signs with messages rallying for McNary for \$20. For the first time, beginning this Blue Day, athletic supporters will be able to order sport-specific signs for families with students participating in everything from band to lacrosse to bowling.

Bethell is resting somewhat easier with the fundraising goal in reach, but she and the MABC board are pushing to close the gap before October to prevent using money raised at the McNary Sports Dinner and Auction for the turf project.

"We've promised to hold onto those funds until everything is paid for, but we would like to put those funds toward sports-specific needs," Bethell said.



Members of the McNary High School volleyball program could be found all over town recently. On Wednesday, Aug. 5, the Lady Celts hit the sand volleyball courts at Keizer Rapids Park. On Tuesday, Aug. 11, they were back in the gym hosting the annual volleyball camp, which drew 90 participants this year.

A: Valerie Diede and Audri Pittsley.
B: Abbie Blankenbaker.
C: Samantha Van Voorhis.
D: Gabby Shepherd.
KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Miguel Gomez heads for first after putting the ball in play Tuesday, Aug. 11. He was thrown out, but advanced a runner to second.

S-K splits week with 3-3 record

By **HERB SWETT**
For the Keizertimes

The Volcanoes had a 3-3 record for the week just before the Keizertimes went to press, ending with a shutout of the Hillsboro Hops.

Aug. 6: Volcanoes 3, Eugene 2

Salem-Keizer opened this road series with a well-pitched game that ended with a great bit of fielding.

Eugene came close to tying the score in the bottom of the ninth with Ian Ralco on first base and Tyler Alamo on third. Helping Caleb Smith get his sixth save, third baseman Jose Vizcaino Jr. deflected a ground-toward second baseman Junior Amion, who fired the ball to first baseman John Riley.

Michael Connolly, the Vol-

canoes' starting pitcher, became the winner at 3-1 by pitching six innings and striking out three. Cory Taylor pitched two innings with four strikeouts before turning the ball over to Smith.

Eugene scored in the third when Keivonte Mitchell came home on a double play and in the sixth when Alberto Mineo's sacrifice fly drove in Frandy Delarosa.

The Volcanoes scored twice in the fifth, with Amion singling Riley home and coming in on an error. In the seventh, Miguel Gomez tripled Vizcaino home. Mark Malave was the losing pitcher in relief.

Aug. 7: Volcanoes 9, Eugene 2

Eugene led 1-0 until the Please see SPLIT, Page A9