

Keizertimes

SECTION A

NOVEMBER 13, 2015

\$1.00

Mysterious flag returned to MHS

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The package arrived at the McNary High School Monday, Nov. 2, with a typed letter and an American flag, folded military-style, beginning to show its age.

"A long time ago I was a silly young and immature kid attending McNary," the letter states. "Contain(ed) within this package is a flag I took from McNary on my last day of school. I have had it for many years now and every time I move or encounter it within my (possession) I regret my actions.

"It was wrong of me to take this flag and I am sorry for taking it. I am returning to its rightful place. Please accept the returning of this flag as my acknowledgment of my wrongdoing and forgive my youthful actions that were wrong and stupid."

The letter was signed anonymously: "Ex-McNary Graduate."

Since its arrival, Erik Jespersen, McNary principal, has been pondering the flag's ori-

gin.

"No one that I've talked to remembers a missing flag," said Jespersen. "We really have no idea. We wish we did. I'd like to shake the hand of the person who sent it back."

One thing is certain, the flag has been around for a while. The white spaces are now weathered and off-white, a not inconsiderable amount of dust and grime clings to the whole thing.

While returning the flag may have closed a chapter in the life of one mischievous former student, its only generated a litany of questions for Jespersen.

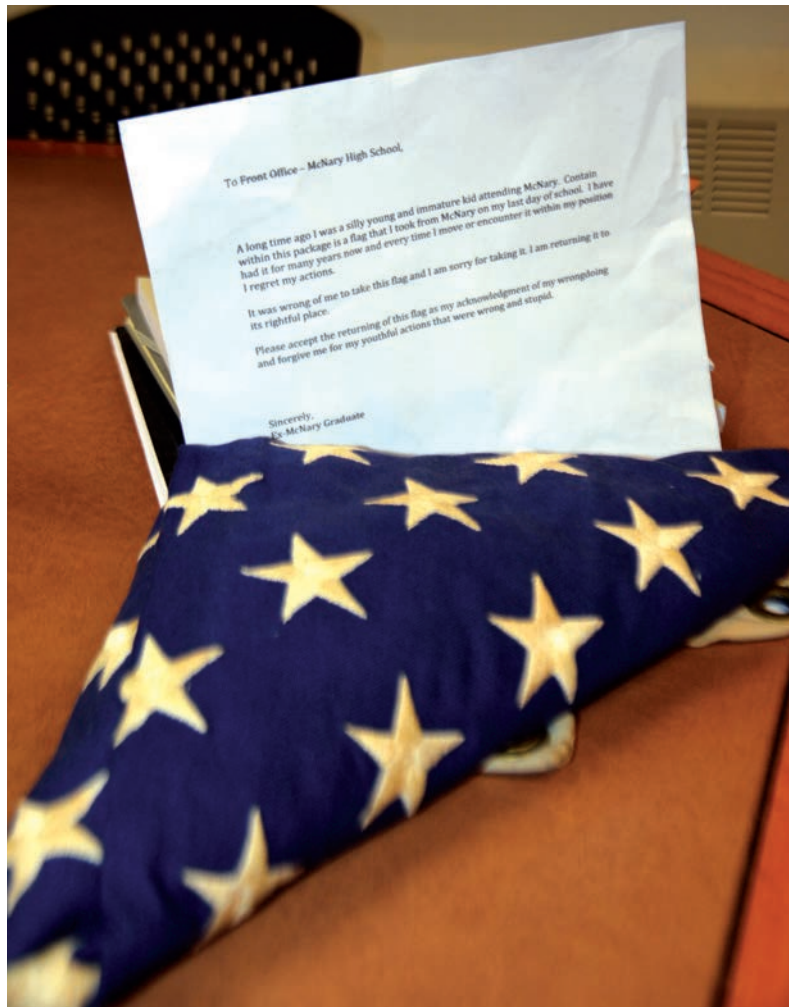
Please see FLAG, Page A12

Stories We Like

capitol auto group

Saluting the people that make us proud of our community

capitolauto.com



Last week, an American flag that no one knew had gone missing was returned to the McNary High School main office via the U.S. Postal Service. The package included a typed letter of apology from the Celtic grad whose guilt finally overwhelmed him or her. School officials are hoping the sender comes forward to identify themselves.

KEIZERTIMES/
Eric A. Howald

KPIC's flood of history
PAGE A3



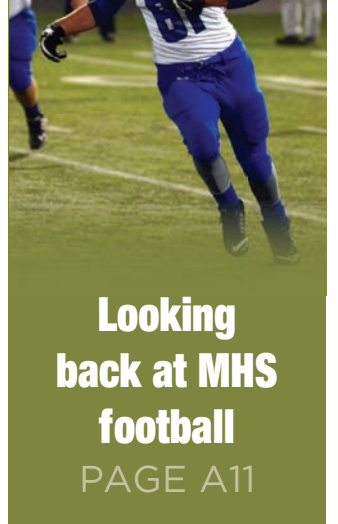
Beauty and the Beast
PAGE A5



Whiteaker unbeaten
PAGE A10



Looking back at MHS football
PAGE A11



0 88267 02324 6

Saluting veterans



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Veteran Jesus Montes is escorted by a Claggett Creek Middle School student into the gym for a Veteran's Day assembly Tuesday, Nov. 10.

'She did not want to die'

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

If need be, Sue doesn't mind being blunt when it comes to drugs.

"If you gave people a loaded gun and told them to put it to their head, they wouldn't do it," Sue said. "But that's what they do with heroin. It's the same thing."

Unfortunately, Sue has some experience with the topic. Her daughter, Peggy (both names have been changed for this *Chasing Dark* story), died this summer after an infection from needles. Peggy had heart issues and used drugs for years, in particular heroin.

In last week's *Chasing Dark* story with members of the Keizer Police Department's Community Response Unit (CRU), there was an emphasis on how addicts have to be willing to make the choice to get clean before any change can be seen.

"If you're an adult, are you ready to stop? You can tell me 'I'm a drug user,' but if you don't say 'I'm done with this,' you are not ready for treatment," CRU member James Young said. "Until they're ready,



See page A2 for another story in the series.

they're not going to go."

Rehabilitation is also seen as a key way to help addicts, especially once they express a desire to get better. Sue questions the part about waiting for addicts like Peggy to indicate a desire for change.

"Rehab is a complete joke with heroin addicts," Sue said.

"I know for a fact she scammed her way through rehab with her meth addiction. She would have her kids pee in a cup to pass the UA (urine analysis). She was good at that.

"In rehab, they say you have to hit your bottom," she added. "Peggy didn't have a bottom. We were sure she would reach the point where she would do the work (to get better). Losing her children wasn't her bottom. Having open heart surgery wasn't her bottom. Knowing she would die from this addiction was not her bottom. Waiting for them to ask for help isn't the answer. Being she was dying in the hospital, we said goodbye to her three times. That wasn't enough to keep her clean. That wasn't enough."

Peggy's addiction got so bad, the state stepped in and removed her children from her home.

"When her kids were taken away because of the heroin, Peggy had a year to get clean," Sue said. "It took her months to even get in the game to schedule the first visitation, because she wasn't ready. That was the heroin talking. She was the most devoted mother when Please see HEROIN, Page A12

Laying down Celtic tracks



Faith Zamora, Zena Greenawald, Juan Fonzeca, Jessica Moore and Jonathon Wheeler at work in McNary's Studio M.

KEIZERTIMES/
Eric A. Howald

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School senior Jonathon Wheeler got his first wireless microphone when he was in fourth grade.

He connected it with his keyboard and it worked beautifully. Eventually though, it gave out. When he returned to the store for a replacement they only had wired mics.

He brought one home and plugged it in only to discover that one wouldn't work.

"My mom took me to Uptown Music and Shane Hall showed me the equipment that I needed. So I got a small mixer and it had all these knobs and I just got into it by experimenting with it," said Wheeler.

Wheeler is now one of three students – seniors Juan Fonzeca and Jessica Moore are the other two – at the school whose contributions to the fine arts go largely unseen but effect the overall quality of ev-

erything from theatre productions to concert performances and podcasts to music albums.

"I've always loved music, but I've never considered myself a star. With this, I'm still enjoying doing what I love and I just work behind the scenes," said Fonzeca. "The concert wouldn't be the concert and the musical wouldn't be the musical if it weren't for us."

Please see MUSIC, Page A6

Parks district in Keizer's future?

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

An old topic was brought up again Tuesday.

Through much of 2013, members of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussed various ways of securing more funding for Keizer parks.

At the end of the year, then-mayor Lore Christopher splashed cold water on the idea and implored Parks Board members to focus on the Big Toy play structure project and updates to the Keizer Rapids Park master plan.

Now, talk of more funding for parks has come up again.

The idea was brought up during the Parks Board's annual Parks Tour with Keizer City Councilors in early September. Councilor Marlene Parsons talked about the idea at Tuesday's Parks Board meeting, sharing information she learned at a recent conference.

"Springfield and Bend have special parks districts, like we do here with the Keizer Fire District," Parsons said. "It would be a special district, with its own board of directors and staff to take care of the parks. It would be a separate entity from the city, like how the fire district is separate."

Parsons said the Bend Parks and Recreation District and the Willamalane Parks and Recreation District in Springfield work for those cities.

"They have beautiful parks," Parsons said. "They know they're getting that money every year, instead of bond or levy money that can run out. They are very excited about it and have enough money to keep the parks up. It's something you can ponder as a group. It's not a lot of tax money, but it is another tax."

Parsons noted she has some friends in Bend.

"The people I know in the Bend area rave about their parks," she said.

Staffing and equipment questions would have to be worked out, with Parsons suggesting the Parks Board hold a couple of work sessions to tackle those details.

"They all have very nice parks," Parsons said of the other areas. "I haven't found any negatives. I talked to Bend and Willamalane both and found nothing negative."

Parks Board member J.T. Hager noted the details would be the key thing.

"I'm an advocate," Hager said. "My only question is the process. Most of the staff and

Please see PARKS, Page A6

EVERY F-150 ON SALE

NEW 2015 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW
4x4 XLT, MAX TOW, ECOBOOST
UP TO \$10,000 OFF MSRP

Donofrio's Skyline-Keizer Ford
www.skylineforddirect.com

NEW 2015 FORD FOCUS
4 DR SE AUTO, SYNC
\$199 PER MO 36 MO LEASE
\$1000 DUE AT INCEPTION

LOWEST PRICE CLEARLY POSTED! NO NEGOTIATIONS ARE NEEDED!
PICK YOUR NEW FORD ONLINE OR AT THE DEALERSHIP!

Friends & Neighbors PRICING EVENT
OFFERS EXPIRE 11/31/15

INSIDER DEALS NOW FOR EVERYONE!