



## THE SPECIALISTS AT FORD

**Your One Stop Shop  
for Brakes, Tires & Batteries.**



**Quick Lane**  
TIRE & AUTO CENTER

3555 River Rd N, Keizer • (503) 304-7555  
www.QuickLane.com

**BUY FOUR SELECT TIRES,  
get up to**

# \$130

in rebates by mail  
when you use the  
Ford Service Credit Card.



**We service all makes & models. No appointments needed.**

# KeizerSports

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Saxons fend off Lady Celts 2nd time



McNary's Paige Downer slips between two Saxon defenders in the game Tuesday, Feb. 2. The Lady Celts lost 67-51.

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

When the McNary High School girls varsity basketball team met South Salem High School Tuesday, Feb. 2, nothing less than a piece of the Greater Valley Conference title was on the line.

A 67-51 win for the Saxons means they now sit alone atop the GVC pile. McNary settles into second on the loss.

Aside from a brief 2-0 lead to start the game, McNary found itself playing catch-up the rest of the night.

The Celtics' first possessions of the game were troubled, but not disastrous. More than once, one of the McNary girls attacked the

Saxons' zone defense and got tangled up in traffic, leading to turnovers. When the Keizer team tried attacking from the perimeter, the shots wouldn't fall. The result was a 29-15 lead for South by the end of the first quarter.

South Salem's lead was cut to eight points, 36-28, by halftime, but McNary would never get any closer. The loss snapped a six-game win streak for the Celts.

Senior Reina Strand led the team with 15 points. Madi Hingston had 11.

The Lady Celts set the stage for the showdown with South Salem by taking a pair of wins over North Salem and Forest Grove high

Please see GIRLS, Page A13



Celt Alex Martin faces down a North Salem High School player in the game Tuesday, Jan. 26. The Celts won 61-34, but it was the team's only win of the past three games.

## Losses douse boys' GVC title hopes

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

Forest Grove High School's boys varsity basketball team stunned the Celtics with a 59-51 win Friday, Jan. 29.

"It was good to have a couple of days off after it happened," said Trent Van Cleave, a McNary senior. "We're all right, and it may help us in the long run."

The loss to the Vikings, coupled with a 53-52 loss to South Salem High School Tuesday, Feb. 2, means the Celtic path to sharing the league championship is now in the hands of others, and more than a little unlikely. The Saxons would have to lose three of their remaining games and McNary would

have to win out the season.

To be sure, the Celts gave the Saxons a run for their money. McNary trailed 15-6 after one quarter and had only just begun to chip away at the lead by halftime. In the third quarter, the Celts rallied and outscored South 18-11 to take a 39-38 lead.

With the score achingly close, South outshot McNary 15-13 in the final period to take the win.

In the game with Forest Grove, the Celtics had things going their way through three quarters. McNary leapt out to a 14-4 lead after the first frame and was ahead 46-35 at the top of the fourth quarter.

"In the first half, we were being the aggressors, then we stopped and let (Forest

Grove) pick the tempo," Van Cleave said.

The Vikings caught fire and began shooting out the lights in the fourth quarter.

Celt Alex Martin said part of the blame fell on Celtic shoulders.

"Being tentative led to turnovers and fastbreak points for them," said Martin.

At the final buzzer, the Vikings had outshot the Celts 24-5 for the quarter and walked away with the win.

Forest Grove's spark caught the Keizer team off-guard, said Ryan Kirch, McNary head coach.

"That put us on our heels and suddenly we were playing not-to-lose as opposed to playing to win," Kirch said. "We

Please see BOYS, Page A13



Celt Brayden Ebbs tries to switch North Salem's Adan Ramos to his back during the dual meet Thursday, Jan. 28.

## Mat squad wins heated dual

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

McNary High School's varsity wrestling team was hoping for a big night Thursday, Feb. 4.

The Celtics were set to host Forest Grove and Sprague high schools in a three-way dual meet that was also the last of the season before the district competition.

"We need to be on our game or Forest Grove will find a way to beat us," said Jason Ebbs, McNary head coach. "The flip side of that is, if we win, we turn around and face Sprague for the league title."

The Olys and Celtics were the only two undefeated teams in the Greater Valley Conference headed into the big event.

They'd also met at the Oregon Classic a few weeks ago and Sprague came out on top.

"That was a tough tournament and I don't think we had our best line-up on the mat," Ebbs said. "We'll be making some changes this time around in hope of turning around the results."

Confidence was going to play a big role in the outcome said Celt senior Kyle Bonn.

"People look at Sprague as one of the toughest teams around, but we need the confidence to look at them as just another group of high school guys like us. We have the ability to beat them on any day," Bonn said.

Please see MAT, Page A14

## Titans escape with pool wins



Above: McNary's Evan Alger swims the 200 free in competition against the West Salem High School Titans Thursday, Jan. 28. Below: Celt Kylie McCarty en route to winning the 200 IM.



The McNary High School varsity swimming teams put up valiant efforts in a meet with West Salem High School Thursday, Jan. 28, but stacked and talented Titan teams won the day.

The Celtic girls lost their side of the meet 92-78 and the McNary boys lost 93-76.

Race wins were few and far between for the Celts, but the teams picked up enough points down the stretch to keep it

from being a blowout.

Winning swimmers for the girls were: Kylie McCarty in the 200 individual medley (IM) in 2:33.83; Marissa Kuch in the 50 free in 25.35 and the 100 free in 1:03.08; and Sarah Eckert, Samantha Williams, Abby McCoy and Kuch in the 400 free relay in 4:06.37.

Second and third place finishers were: Anjelica Glassey, Kiana Briones, Emily Alger

Please see SWIM, Page A13