

# Softball varsity fields getting new dugouts

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary High School softball fields are getting an upgrade thanks to a groundswell of community support. In the coming weeks, both of the existing dugouts at the varsity field are being removed to pave way for the new concrete structures that will sit level to the ground and have additional storage for field maintenance equipment. The roofs of the existing structures will be moved to the junior varsity field to provide shelter for the currently exposed benches.

"There will still be bleachers directly behind home plate. Some of the seating down the right and left field lines may change a bit as the dugouts will be somewhat larger than they are now," said Kevin Wise, McNary's head softball coach.

Many of the construction materials and boots on the ground are being donated to make the project a reality.

"The walls are being formed by Celtic Homes, the concrete is being heavily discounted by Castle Concrete,

we have had lumber donated from BMBC and quite a few volunteers stepping up to do the labor," said Joe Egli, an agent with R. Bauer Insurance and community partner helping coordinate the project.

The softball program has raised more than \$3,500 toward the out-of-pocket expenses and McNary's Athletic Booster Club has committed \$5,000 from its general fund to cover remaining expenses. Money from the booster club is raised through concession, sign and apparel sales as well as through its annual sports auction and banquet.

"The big items we need are chain link fencing and installation, metal roofing and fascia, and the steel doors," Egli said.

Both Wise and Egli said the facelift to the facilities gives McNary's athletes an added boost.

"Watching these girls sign letters of intent to colleges and getting scholarships is pretty amazing. Strengthening our program through better facilities is only going to create more interest in the program and create more opportunities for our athletes," Egli said.

Wise sees the benefit rippling through the program, especially given that the junior varsity players frequently resorted to stretching tarps over the benches to protect from the oftentimes moist Oregon sunshine.

"I would love for our fields to be used in the summer to host tournaments, possibly in conjunction with the Keizer fields," Wise said. "This is the sort of project that instills pride in our players, and it helps with their inner drive and desire to play."

"This is the type of project that instills pride in our players."

— Kevin Wise  
McNary softball coach

# CAVELL: 'He helps unite the group as a whole'

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Since joining the Celtic roster, Cavell has rarely been less than a standout. He's led the team — frequently entire games — offensively more often than not as a senior, but didn't take all the credit.

"It's awesome and it's affirmation that all my hard work has paid off a little bit," Cavell said of the Player of the Year honor. "But it's just as much a testament to my team. There are a lot of good players who don't stand out because of their teams."

Kirch said that attitude is what he's appreciated most about having Cavell as player for McNary.

"He's a mature kid with poise and a confi-

dent attitude that the other players in our program gravitate to," Kirch said. "He helps unite the group as a whole because his expectations mirror what we expect as a program."

Given his 6-foot-7 frame, basketball was something of a natural fit for Cavell, but he said he enjoys the sport because of its varied challenges.

"I can compete with myself to get better while I'm competing with other people," he said.

He's hoping his court skills carry him into college on a basketball scholarship, but no school has made the offer he can't refuse as yet.

"Beyond that, I'd like to play professionally whether it's here in the U.S. or overseas," he said.

# GIRLS: McNary hosts Newberg March 4

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great job penning and getting open. We've worked hard the past month or so on post-to-post passing and it showed up big tonight," Handley said. He credited senior Reina Strand with particularly outstanding play.

The win sets up the Keizer girls to host Newberg High School Friday, March 4. Newberg, which entered the tournament ranked 24th in the

state, upset No. 9 Clackamas High School on the same night the Celtics beat Century. Game time is 7 p.m.

Handley hoped the girls would continue to push themselves in practice as hard as they did in the week leading up to the first round.

"After the game, we talked about the difference between being happy and being satisfied. We're happy with the win tonight and we're excited that we got it, but we're not satisfied. We got a playoff win, but we haven't proven anything yet," Handley said.

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**10' x 10' vendor space is \$75— \$50 if paid by June 1, 2016**

Call 503-390-6840 or visit riverfairkeizer.com to get information or get a registration form.

RIVERfair is presented by Making Keizer Better Foundation, a non-profit organization

## Join the Beutler b-day bash

The public is invited to celebrate the 90th birthday of Lloyd Beutler on Saturday, March 5. The party will be held from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at Keizer Clear Lake United Methodist Church (Friendship Hall), 7920 Wheatland Rd. N, Keizer. The organizers ask you to dress causal and not bring gifts.

For more information, call Janet Beutler at 503-393-6551



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