

Keizertimes

SECTION A

MARCH 11, 2016

\$1.00

\$10K approved for one KLL field



"We're trying to take one field per year, bring it up to modern specifications so we can eventually bring tournaments to the park..."
— Tony Cuff

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

For the record, the three dissenting votes in no way indicated dissatisfaction with the project.

Members of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on Tuesday approved a request to use up the remaining \$10,000 in matching grant funds to help pay for the redoing of Field 3 at

Keizer Little League Park.

The vote of approval was 6-3. The three members voting against the motion made it clear their only reservation was not having money left for other groups who might request funding by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Chris Argue and Tony Cuff, who have been putting plans together to redo one field each year at KLL Park (see the Feb. 19 issue for more details), presented their plans to do nearly \$100,000 in renovations this year on Field 3. Other fields will be redone in subsequent years, one a year. The hope is new fields will draw in tournaments, with money from

that helping to pay for future work.

"We're trying to take one field per year, bring it up to modern specifications so we can eventually bring tournaments to the park and bring revenue back to the program," Cuff said. "We can't generate any more revenue because the fields are on a little bit of the downside. It can't compete with newer facilities to bring in revenue."

Cuff, a grass farmer from Woodburn, said safety is a key concern with current field conditions.

"I coach Little League and I'm trying to teach (the players) Please see FIELD, Page A7

Chris Argue (second from left) and Tony Cuff (second from right) brought forward a proposal for Keizer Little League Park this week.
KEIZERTIMES/File Photo

Dieker stays as chamber leader, for now

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

And the new executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce is...

Actually, it's still Christine Dieker for now.

Dieker announced during the monthly chamber luncheon on Tuesday at Keizer Quality Suites a person was offered the position, but was retained by her current boss.

"You get me for another couple of months, maybe three," Dieker said. "I want to thank you for the wonderful experience. The executive director that she decided upon got an offer she couldn't refuse from her current employer, so we are restarting the process."

Dieker and Bob Zielinski, president of the Keizer Chamber Board of Directors, both declined to name finalists when asked after the luncheon. Zielinski gave the same story as Dieker.

"We made our decision," Zielinski said. "She had accepted our offer and she walked into her boss's office to resign. Her company wanted to keep her and made her an offer that made her decide to stay. We are starting over."

Dieker said there were 20 applicants the first time around, with eight or nine of those people getting interviews. There were two finalists decided upon, with one getting the offer.



Giving it away

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Lorena Eschliman, with the American Red Cross, checks in on McNary High School student Chris Scofield as he donates blood during the school's annual blood drive Tuesday, March 8.



Christine Dieker
"She was a great person, but she got a better offer where she was. She's a real asset for them," Dieker said.
The executive director job has been reposted on

the chamber website at keizerchamber.com. The deadline to apply is Monday, April 4.

There are two key differences with the job listing this time, with the most obvious being the pay.

"There's an increase in pay, and we wanted to clarify how the insurance could be broken out," Dieker said.

The pay is listed as \$62,000 which includes an optional \$7,000 health insurance stipend if desired. There is also a \$60 monthly cell phone stipend.

Please see LEADER, Page A7

Revenue is good at Keizer Civic Center



KEIZERTIMES file/Craig Murphy
Business has been good lately at the Keizer Civic Center, as more rental fees have been coming in this fiscal year.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

In the last couple of budget cycles, serious concerns were raised about rental revenue of the Keizer Civic Center.

A new Event Center Coordinator position was filled by Kristian Bouvier in January 2014, with the hope being revenue would be greatly boosted and less general fund money would have to be used to help run the building.

When that didn't happen by last spring, there were serious concerns expressed about the economic viability of the position during the budget

meetings. After all, revenue was expected to jump from \$98,000 a year to \$170,000 a year, but instead went up just \$1,700.

It appears a year can make quite the difference.

Tim Wood, who was recently named Finance director for Keizer, requested a supplemental budget for the community center during Monday's Keizer City Council meeting – which was held in the Robert L. Simon Council Chamber inside the community center.

The 2015-16 community center budget was based on Please see REVENUE, Page A9

Faces, faces on the wall

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The plan is for plenty of faces to be on the next public mural, being painted this summer on the north wall of Town & Country Lanes at 3500 River Road N.

Just not as many faces as some would like.



Plans have been discussed at length during Keizer Public Arts Commission (KPAC) meetings and were again on Feb. 23. As envisioned, there will be 21 faces on the mural, which will have an overall design depicting the Keizer Iris Festival Parade.

Christine Dieker, executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, sent an e-mail to KPAC members on Feb. 18 requesting for more faces to be put on the mural in honor of this year's 30th anniversary of the Iris Festival and the 66th anniversary of the parade.

"There has been a tremendous amount of volunteer service given by the Keizer Iris Festival chairs," Dieker wrote in her

e-mail. "We appreciate your consideration to having their 'faces' on the mural."

During the Feb. 23 KPAC meeting, Jill Hagen – who is in charge of the mural project – and Lore Christopher clarified the 21 faces being done for the mural.

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Spring ahead this Sunday
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Demand to close parks is made
PAGE A2

MHS Talent Show
PAGE A5

Lady Celts in Elite 8
PAGE A10

Donofrio's Skyline Keizer Ford

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