

# Girls tennis looks to build on 2015 successes

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

In 2015, McNary High School sophomore Hannah Childress finished fourth in the state in doubles tennis alongside her big sister, Sandy.

With Sandy graduated, she's now out to make her own mark.

"I'm really working on being more confident. Playing doubles was really fun because my sister was there, but now I'm on my own and I'm trying to build confidence so I play well," said Childress.

While she's somewhat nervous taking on a new role as the No. 1 singles player, Childress said she's more excited about the opportunity to square off with some of the Greater Valley Conference's top talent one-on-one. Players for West Albany and West Sa-

lem high schools top her list.

Her goal is to win all her matches this season, but realizes that, despite her age, she's going to be someone others on the team seek to emulate.

"I want to show the girls a good example of work ethic and staying positive because practicing like that pays off at the end," she said.

Some teammates are already setting their goals based on the strength of the Childresses and other recent graduates. Senior Tayler Rains is eyeing potential spots at No. 1 or No. 2 doubles and she's setting the bar high.

"Both of those doubles teams were strong teams last year and I'm trying to hold myself up to those standards," Rains said. "In practice, I'm working on having the same power serve and power hits

that those teams had last season."

A new head coach, Garrett Jensen, is also reshaping how the team approaches every match. Jensen is a self-proclaimed advocate for conditioning as much as technique on the court.

"We're learning that tennis is more of an endurance sport and we'd never really approached it that way before," said Rains. "As a senior, I want to make sure that's the way all the girls think of it."

Senior Krissy Kelty said she's already feeling the weight of her new role as a leader on the team.

"The younger players really do watch us and it's up to us to make sure we're playing our best," Kelty said. "We all have our own goals we are working on, but we're also



McNary's Krissy Kelty returns a volley in the 2015 season. Kelty is ready for her senior season with the girls varsity tennis team.

trying to be stronger mentally as a team."

On a personal level, Kelty expects to be playing singles

this season and has a plan for clearing her own obstacles.

"I've picked up some new ways to hold my racket for

serving, I want to be a lot quicker on my feet and generally more prepared than

was last year," Kelty said.

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## Celt soloists, ensembles claim four district titles

McNary High School hosted the annual district solo and ensemble competition Saturday, March 12, and the Celtics ended up with four district championships and a slew of other award winners.

Hyrum Kohler was the district winner in viola and was recommended by judges to compete at the state level along with Arianna Pippert, who placed second in mezzo voice, and Michael Araiza, who placed second in trumpet.

Other individual awards went to: Noe Aguilar-Lopez, first alternate in tuba; Ryan Lopez, first alternate in viola; Hunter Davis, first alternate in rudimental snare; Abby Johnson, first alternate in trombone; Gabriela Monroy, first alternate in french horn; Elizabeth Wenger, second alternate in low saxophone; Gary Zhen, second alternate in clarinet; and Haley Guptill, second alternate in flute.

In ensemble performances, McNary had three district winners. Marissa Lane-Massee, Greg Eggleston, Kohler, Beau Reitz, Drew Faatz, Nicole Ecklund and Lopez followed up a state title in string ensemble by winning again at the district level. Aguilar-Lopez, Andrew Melting, Michael Aiza, Abby Johnson and Monroy won in brass ensemble. The women's vocal group of Emma Blanco, Ella Garro, Sofia Zielinski, Madi Zuro, Veronica Reyes, Sydnie Gould, Grace Condello, Jaden Brunhaver, Camryn Ronnow, Ariana Pippert, Mari Martin and Mary Dolenc also won a district title.

Rachel Posterick, Mireille Martinez, Johnathan Anderson, Chris Scofield, Baker and Elizabeth Wenger are first alternates in sax ensemble. Guptill, Sarah Peton, Rose Lelack, Cassidy Steckmann, Sydney Snapp and Victoria Kuzmenko are second alternates in flute ensemble.

## Donate to Rotary food drive

The Rotary Club of Keizer kicked off its annual food drive with a presentation by Marion Polk Food Share on the importance of cash and food donations to feed hungry people.

Several sites in Keizer are collecting food through the next two

weeks: Keizer City Hall, Keizer Fire, Boucher's Jewelers, R. Bauer Insurance, Oregon State Federal Credit Union, Loren's Sanitation and First Tech Federal Credit Union.

Anyone wishing to make a donation of nutritious packaged food can do so during business hours.



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