

HOTEL,

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mentioned several times in the last few years as getting a hotel.

However, none of the previous plans have gotten to this point.

"The property has changed hands," said Nate Brown, director of Community Development for Keizer. "I do feel optimistic. We're talking big dollars here. No one is going to sink that money in without a definite plan. We have worked out most of the details with the architect. I'm very optimistic. It's not a permit by any means, but it's certainly significant."

Tzeo, who acknowledged he was surprised the space was empty, gave a timeline for his hotel, which will most likely be a four level structure with 80 rooms.

"Currently I'm waiting for the design department to finish the drawing," he said. "I would like to start it in June. It will be nine or 10 months for construction."

The space almost wasn't empty for Tzeo, according to Yarbrough.

"He's going to build a hotel and operate it himself," Yarbrough said. "He knew some of the same people I did.



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
The hotel lot at Keizer Station has long been vacant, even as the area around it has developed. Now a developer has announced plans to build a hotel at the site.

He had already done his due diligence. We were going to go with Marriott. My thought is he's going to start pretty quickly, to take advantage of the spring and summer. He doesn't seem like a guy that is going to slow down.

"The sale came out of the blue," he added. "I was getting ready to build it myself, but I have a landfill project in Idaho. I decided not to split my time. I had a realtor (Rushing) get ahold of me. I was preparing to build it myself. I was just getting started, but I couldn't do both adequately. I would have liked to own it and build it."

As Rushing talked with Yarbrough, she became worried that would indeed happen.

"Cheo contacted us and was looking for hotel sites,"

she said. "Jack was almost going to do it himself. But Cheo was on the ball. He's a really interesting guy. They have bought and worked on apartments and hotels. Now they have enough so they can do something like this. They are the nicest people you'd want to meet. I showed the property to him. He really liked the site and so did Holiday Inn Express. It moved pretty quickly."

Yarbrough was impressed by the job Rushing did, as well as the Tzeo family.

"Pam Rushing did a very nice job," he said. "She came over, we did a few negotiations and I decided to sell it. I also met Cheo and his wife and their two children. I thought they were honorable people. You could tell they were hard workers."

In many ways, Destiny's career is just beginning, but her mom, Veronica, said she's already seen positive effects.

"She used to be really shy about wrestling. It wasn't the first thing to come out of her mouth when people asked her if she played sports," Veronica said. "As time has passed, she's gotten better and her self-esteem has gone up. Her sense of responsibility

and self-control has also gone up. It's taught her a lot."

Aside from the acclaim (and numerous trophies, plaques and medals), Destiny said she likes traveling to compete.

"We got to go to Colorado and I met Adeline Gray, she's a world champion," she said.

If things go well, Destiny has her sights set on achieving the same level of success.

Parks Board still looking at various funding options

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Just how will parks in Keizer get more funding?

Members of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board are still looking at options. A committee has been set up and met briefly before the April 12 Parks Board meeting. Jim Taylor noted he met with city manager Chris Eppley and that mayor Cathy Clark also wants to be involved.

"There are four options," said Taylor, the former Keizer City Councilor now on the Parks Board. "The first option is to do nothing. There is a parks district, then a five-year levy and then the last option is to do a parks fee on all properties in Keizer. Council could do that (last one), but I can assure you they won't. We will look at the options at our next meeting and then come back."

Taylor would also like to see more funding for the Parks Board matching grant program.

For this fiscal year \$20,000 was allotted, but all of the funding has been pledged with the last \$10,000 going to Keizer Little League Park work. Taylor would like to see \$25,000 or \$30,000 in the fund next year.

Clint Holland feels the work on the first field - Field 3 - will lead both to more people helping out on other fields and tournaments returning to Keizer.

"KLL thinks they will have other people step up," Holland said.

Holland pointed out proj-

ects like the sand volleyball courts and the amphitheater patio at Keizer Rapids Park are visible examples of work done thanks to the matching grant program.

"Jerry McGee asked for that accounting last year," Richard Walsh said. "Maybe we can get the whole list of things done. Jerry wanted that before committing to another year. That's our best argument for getting the money allocated."

In response to a budget question, Robert Johnson, parks supervisor for Keizer, said he has a status quo budget for next fiscal year.

"We look at all the things we need to fix," Holland said. "We've got to get the revenue side up."

Taylor said the needs - such as safe equipment - have to be met first.

"It's important for this go around to go with our absolute needs and not wants," Taylor said. "The needs have to be met."

Parks Board members talked about going to the Keizer Budget Committee meetings which start on Tuesday, May 3 (see related story, pg. A1) and asking for more funding to pay for improvements in Keizer's parks.

In other Parks Board business:

- Usually the approval of minutes is a brief affair with no comments. At the April 12 meeting, however, Parks Board members reacted to a request from Eamon Bishop to change some of the wording.

J.T. Hager moved to eliminate a paragraph and replace it with the wording "Keizer parks are in need of repair," with Bishop's complete comments attached. Richard Walsh, meanwhile, wanted a different section to be amended by adding that staff was looking into issues raised at the March Parks Board meeting by Bishop.

The amendments were approved unanimously.

Later in the meeting, Johnson again referenced concerns Bishop had raised previously.

"I did reply to him," Johnson said. "We've taken a close look at all the parks, at many of the concerns he had. We did find a few issues. There were a few loose or missing fasteners. On any slides with possible water build-up, we drilled holes so the water would drain out."

Parks Board chair David Loudon noted he would be at Keizer Rapids Park for a boy scout camporee at the end of the month.

"Do you need any painting or picking up things?" Loudon asked. "We're good at both."

Johnson was appreciative of the offer.

"Excellent," he said. "I will have a big list for you."

Johnson said four boat ramp floats were expected to be put out at KRP the day after the meeting.

"I look at the river levels almost daily," he said. "If we see a major issue, we can maybe remove two of them. We have fishermen down there already, antsy to get their boats in. It's absolutely time."

STAR,

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she's won the Triple Crown.

She prepares for matches by listening to music and thinking about her strategy. Survivor's Eye of the Tiger and Alicia Keys' Girl on Fire are two of her favorite pre-match tracks.

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