

Keizertimes

SECTION A

MAY 27, 2016

\$1.00

MHS boosters fund gym floor makeover

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School's Athletic Booster Club (ABC) has another big project in the offing this summer: a renovation of the school's gym.

The project includes repainting all three levels of the gymnasium and refinishing the main gym's floor to include a McNary "M" logo.

The final cost of the project is expected to be somewhere between \$25,000 and \$32,000, and is set to begin in June.

McNary's ABC is kicking in \$20,000 toward the overall cost of the renovation, and it means the group's upcoming

dinner and auction is all the more important.

This year's benefit is slated June 4 at the Log House Garden at Willow Lake, 5655 Windsor Island Road N., in Keizer. Tickets are \$35 per person, \$360 for a reserved

table for eight or \$500 for a sponsored table. Tickets can be purchased at mcnaryabc.com. The event begins with a social hour at 4:30 p.m., and tickets include dinner and a bidder paddle for silent and oral auctions.

Danielle Bethell, ABC president, said the gym renovation project came about largely as a result of the successful turf project.

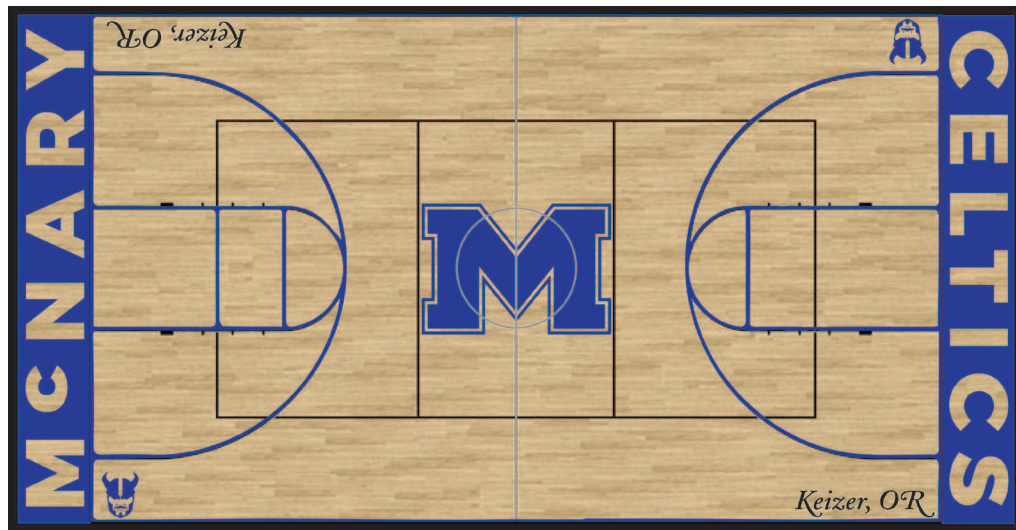
"We developed a great relationship with Salem-Keizer School District

through that project, but we also realized that the outside of the school had been getting most of the attention," Bethell said. "We approached the school district with a proposal for the gym and were able

Please see FLOOR, Page A11

"We approached the school district with a proposal for the gym and were able to make it part of the annual floor refinishing that would be happening anyway."

— Danielle Bethell,
McNary Athletic Booster
Club President



McNary new gym floor will feature the school's "M" logo and deeper baselines.

Submitted

Students honored for turnarounds
PAGE A5

Iris Fest in the books



TOP: Melody Reitzer and Chance Davenport wait for the start of the Iris Festival parade. LEFT: Funtastic employee Rene Clapper strikes a dramatic pose. RIGHT: Briana Renea performs in the Keizerfest Tent Friday, May 19. For more photos, see pages 2-3, and visit the Keizertimes Facebook page.

Celts reap benefits of free college tuition

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

When the McNary High School class of 2016 takes the graduation walk June 10, about one out of every 10 students will have qualified for two years of free education at one of Oregon's community colleges.

The Celts are taking advantage of Chemeketa Community College's Scholars program, which offers students with a 3.5 grade point average or better the opportunity to attend the Salem-based school free or two years, and a new program, Oregon Promise, which offers any student graduating with at least a 2.5 GPA the opportunity to attend any of the state's community colleges free for two years.

According to Chemeketa's James McNicholas, the school's recruitment manager, McNary typically leads Chemeketa's tri-county area in the number of students applying for, and accepted to, the Scholars program. With 43 students qualifying in 2016, this year is no different, but the Celts also led in Oregon Promise applications and acceptance.

That is by design, said Julia Tejada, a McNary office specialist, who has made it a mission to get information about the Scholars program into students' hands for the past four years.

"Instead of just advertising it to the student body, we decided to call down every student who met the qualifications to the office and talk to them individually," Tejada said.

Students were presented with applications to fill out and Tejada answered any questions. Even when students balked at completing yet another college application, Tejada pushed forward.

"We have a lot of students that have a plan, but I encourage them to complete the Scholars application, too, because even the best plans have a way of falling through," Tejada said.

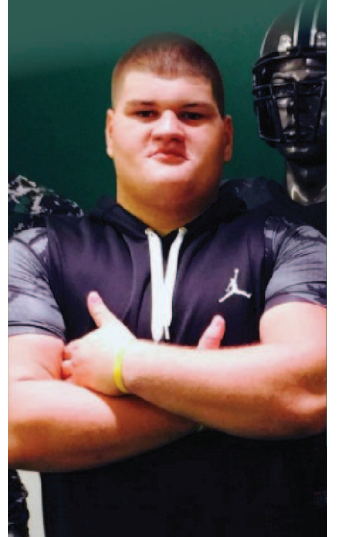
Instructional Assistant Cathy Walker spearheaded the effort to get Celtic students signed up for the Oregon Promise scholarship. When she started at the school this year,

Please see TUITION, Page A9

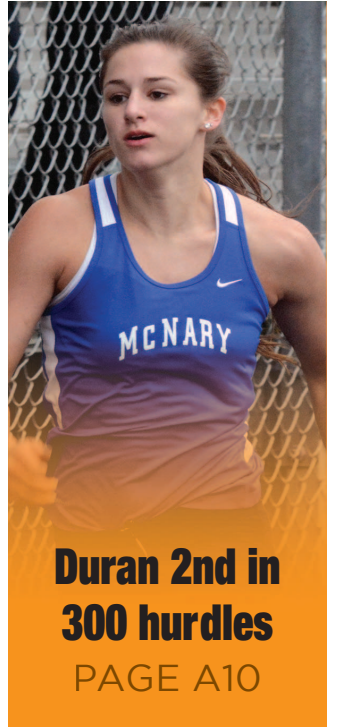
Pedestrian obstacles studied if grant gets nod
PAGE A6



Sperle commits to PSU Vikings
PAGE A10



Duran 2nd in 300 hurdles
PAGE A10



Parks Board eyes funding options

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Ways to bring in more parks funding were tossed around during a lively 90-minute discussion at the May 10 Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

A Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) consisting of Parks

Board members Matt Lawyer, Jim Taylor and Donna Bradley was recently formed to take an in-depth look at the issue and to come up with potential ideas for more parks funding.

The city has approximately \$350,000 in the budget for parks each year, including two full-time employees, to take

care of Keizer's 19 parks. Since the funding comes from the same general fund that pays for other services — mainly the Keizer Police Department — Parks Board members have twice in recent years looked at ways to find new revenue streams.

While options explored

have included forming a new parks district, similar in concept to both the Keizer Fire District as well as several parks districts around the state, Lawyer said the PAC set an initial goal of using a utility fee for funding. The goal would be to create enough

Please see PARKS, Page A9

LifeSource Natural Foods

2649 Commercial St SE
503-361-7973
LifeSourceNaturalFoods.com
Open 8am-9pm, even Sundays!
Eat Well Be Happy!

Look for the logo on our shelf tags!

Huge Selection of Gluten Free Foods

GF

Katie & Amy - Customer Service

