

CIVIL,

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"It's family reunion time," Catherine said. "I've always loved living history. It's history and camping and lots of friends to play with on a big holiday weekend. Wouldn't be anywhere else. This is where all our friends are. It's a nice escape. You get out here. You put away the modern devices and just get away from all of that for a while. In the evenings, it's candlelight and camp fires. It's a good way to get your head in a different time and place and play with the clothes."

Getting into character is easy for Gerald Hilchey who's plays a blacksmith both as a reenactor and in real life. Hilchey and his wife Cindy travel 7-8 months a year for reenactments in Oregon, Washington and California.

"It was a hobby so might as well share it," Hilchey said. "Not a lot of people understand it or know about it much so we try to share what we can. I'm just trying to show the techniques



of what was required and try to get them to understand in the 1860s you didn't have Lowe's, Home Depot, Ace Hardware, if you wanted nails to go fix your house, you had to go see the blacksmith. He made your nails, knives, forks, spoons, any-

thing that was steel or iron, you had to have a blacksmith for it. A lot of towns without a blacksmith didn't survive, especially out west when long distances had to be traveled. It was an important part of it and a lot of people don't know that."



A: Gerald Hilchey demonstrates Civil War blacksmith techniques. B: Mounted soldiers cross swords in the heat of battle. C: Soldiers on parade through the campgrounds at Antique Powerland. D: Troops prepare to fire a cannon.

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Toilets are a go at Keizer Rapids Park

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

There's finally going to be a flushing toilet in a Keizer park thanks to an Oregon Parks and Recreation Local Government Grant.

At the city council meeting Tuesday, July 5, Keizer Community Development Director Nate Brown announced that the city had received a grant to install an all-year restroom at Keizer Rapids Park. Also included in the grant are a fall protection surface for the The Big Toy and paved trails leading from the The Big Toy into local neighborhoods.

The grant will total about \$430,000.

"It's a significant award for us and it demonstrates the level of commitment to this park not only within Keizer, but from outside of it," Brown said.

The next phase of the grant process is working out a grant agreement contract sometime in August. Construction of any of the new facilities or trails is unlikely to begin before next summer.

The total cost of the project will be worth about \$1 million, but the city's portion has already been mostly paid for through previous land acquisitions that were included

in the grant application. About \$50,000 will come from system development charges paid by developers when new homes and apartments are constructed.

Initial estimates submitted with the grant called for \$223,000 for the restrooms — including the buildings, septic system and power. The new poured-in-place fall protection surface would cost about \$200,000. The pathway part of the project will be approximately \$83,000. Another \$1,200 was allotted for grab bars to assist disabled visitors to The Big Toy.

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