

Keizertimes

SECTION A

SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

\$1.00



MURAL ACCOMPLISHED

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

More than a year of work on the Iris Festival Parade mural – all 1,400 square feet of it – was brought to conclusion at a dedication ceremony Saturday, Sept. 10.

“The great thing about it is that (the mural) has history already,” said Jill Hagen, the project coordinator. “More

than 1,500 hours went into the painting, 190 kids left hand and footprints, and we had some special things happen like Lorna Sulgit, a professional sign painter, pulling up to the site one day and offering to paint the lettering on the banner. She was a godsend.”

About 75 people attended the dedication ceremony,

some of whom have their likenesses painted into the mural itself. The mural features 27 identifiable likenesses ranging from Keizer’s mayors to the owner of Town & Country Lanes, Don Lebold, and a special appearance by Albert Einstein.

The mural was a joint project of the Keizer Art

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

TOP: Project coordinator Jill Hagen pays tribute to the numerous artists who worked on the mural. LEFT: Lore Christopher and Don Lebold, owner of Town & Country Lanes, tell the story of their part in the process. RIGHT: Keizer resident Carol Rakocy in front of her mural portrait.

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City leaders got a closer look at four of Keizer’s 19 parks during a city council work session Monday, Sept. 12.

Conversation ran the gamut of lowlights and highlights, with one concern repeated over and over again: the longer the wait, the more repairs are going to cost.

The first stop on the city council’s tour of parks was Chalmers Jones Park, behind Keizer Civic Center, with a focus on Carlson Skate Park.

“The biggest thing to notice is the cracks. Eventually, we are either going to have to make the repairs, or we will have to close it down because it’s a liability,” said Richard Walsh, a member of Keizer’s Parks Advisory Board. “It will cost more if we keep deferring it again and again.”

The park sees frequent if sporadic use throughout the year. While councilors were inspecting the site, about two dozen locals were out on skateboards, scooters and BMX bikes. However, cracks are starting to appear throughout the park,



Council gets boot-on-the-ground view of park troubles

KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson

City Councilor Bruce Anderson surveys large potholes in the south parking lot at Claggett Creek Park.

especially in the bowl.

Last year, a local man approached the city about taking on an overhaul of the park. He was awarded a \$5,000 matching grant to work with another organization in hope of tending to its needs, but

whatever plans were in the works fell apart earlier this year. The grant money has been rolled over to this year’s grant-matching program.

Robert Johnson, Keizer’s

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River Road safety study committee’s top priority

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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The Keizer Traffic, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (TBP) set its priorities for the coming months last week, and a safety study of River Road is topping the list.

River Road North safety was the easy favorite of committee members from a list of six options that included installing a bike repair station; a speed study of Wheatland Road; outreach to businesses for bike-friendly designations; and others.

Committee member John Maurice said, given the higher

volume of crashes, the River Road study should be a top priority.

“I think it rates high in terms of need,” Maurice said.

In addition to less disastrous events, two pedestrians – one of them 8 years old – have already been killed on River Road this year.

Committee Chair Hersch Sangster said reducing injury accidents across the board should be the priority.

While the committee is far from determining details of what the study would

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“It’s going to involve an investment and the city might be able to go after state or federal money.”

— Pat Fischer

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Band Day
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Lady Celts get big win on pitch
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