

KeizerCommunity

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District champs highlight choir concert

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Fresh off winning a pair of district championships and acceptance to the Rose City Sing-Off, McNary's girls and boys a cappella groups, Something Blue and Dangertones, will take the stage in the high school's spring choir concert, Take Me Home, on Monday, March 20 at 7 p.m. in the Ken Collins Theater.

Winning district wasn't a surprise for Something Blue after capturing the Oregon Music Education Association state title in female vocal ensemble last year but they did feel the pressure to repeat.

"It made me more nervous," Ella Garro said. "We won last year so we've got to do just as good."

Madi Zuro, who is also in Something Blue, was a first alternate in soprano voice. The rest of the a cappella group includes Sydnie Gould, Carina Hodson, Veronica Reyes, Grace Condello, Camryn Runnow, Ingrid Dunn, Regann Donahue, Kennadi Thomas, Mary Dolenc and Jaden Brunhaver.

They performed Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus* and *This Little Babe* by Benjamin Britten.

"She (the judge) said that she really liked our blend, which is what a lot of people say," Garro said. "That's our strength. She also loved our sopranos."

Dangertones, which didn't even compete at districts last year, were surprised to win male vocal ensemble.

The group, which includes McNary students Casey Potmesil, Briley Hill, Ashton Thomas, Logan Boga, Austin Deng, Kyle Wetz, Erik Halvorson, Drew Faatz, Matthew Albright, Jacob Fritts and Dominique Williams performed *Ave Maria* and *Ring of Fire* by Johnny Cash for the judge.

"You're supposed to have two pieces and we had *Ave Maria* but we could not find another one and we were already working on that (*Ring of Fire*)," said Potmesil, who was also first alternate in bass voice.

"Traditionally, you wouldn't do anything like that for solo ensemble but he (McNary choir director Joshua Rist) felt it meshed all our voices good enough. We'd only ever done pop literature. We hadn't done classical stuff that you do for a contest like this. We didn't expect to make it to state."

Hill said it was Rist who encouraged the boys to compete at districts to begin with.

"This is our first year branching out," Hill said. "It was Mr. Rist pushing us to do more. This year I feel like our potential shot through the roof, probably because of his support and us striving to do more."

The OMEA state competition will take place April 28-29 at Pacific University.

"I guess we're just going to see what happens," Potmesil said. "We don't really have any specific goals and we're not



McNary's boys and girls a cappella groups, Dangertones and Something Blue, will both perform during the high school's upcoming choir concert on Monday, March 20 at 7 p.m. in the Ken Collins Theater.

going to be sad if anything happens. We're just going for the experience, I guess."

Dangertones and Something Blue are just two of nine teams that will perform in the Rose City Sing-Off on April

8 at Imago Dei Community in Portland, and the only school with multiple groups.

McNary's a cappella groups will each perform three songs during the spring concert. The boys are doing *My Girl*, *Ring*

of Fire and *Right Round* while the girls will perform *This Little Babe*, *Bubbly* and *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*.

McNary's concert choir, Elektra, Celtic Men's Chorus and the Classics will also per-

form a wide range of songs.

"In the program for the concert we're just looking for an interesting arc of styles and feels and moods so we're touching a little bit of everything," Rist said.

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School board hears from facilities task force

By HERB SWETT
Of the Keizertimes

Salem-Keizer School District buildings in their present form will be short of space for 741 students in 2020, 1,307 students in 2025, and 1,861 students in 2035, School Board members heard Tuesday.

Those are the projections

at which a citizens' facilities task force arrived for a presentation to Tuesday's board meeting. Michael Wolfe, district chief operating officer, opened the presentation, in which two other task force members, Mark Shipman and Lisa Harnish, participated.

The report, which board members are studying for fur-

ther consideration at a special meeting Tuesday, March 21, was discussed in detail for the McNary High School attendance area in several stories in the March 10 Keizertimes.

Next week's board meeting will be at the usual time and place, 6 p.m. at the Support Services Center, 2575 Commercial St. SE, in Salem.

Initial cost estimates for meeting future capacity and core infrastructure needs total \$443 million: \$128 million for elementary schools, \$49 million for middle schools, and \$266 million for high schools.

For elementary schools, the task force has found that 22 sites need capital construction additions and improvements for capacity and core infrastructure.

The infrastructure issues involve cafeterias, gymnasiums, common areas, libraries,

and end-of-life (EOL) portable classrooms.

Eight middle school sites were found to need capital construction additions and core infrastructure improvements. Replacement of EOL portables at three schools is recommended.

For high schools, the task force recommends increasing the capacity of each comprehensive high school to 2,200 students except for 2,000 students at West Salem High School. This was found preferable to building a seventh comprehensive high school.

Other initially projected costs are:

- \$123 million for building maintenance needs, accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and possibly consolidating administration functions on one campus.
- \$12 million for moving

the district's data center out of a flood plain and expanding wireless networks.

- \$37 million for safety and security.

- \$56 million to \$151 million for upgrading school buildings to meet seismic standards.

The task force recommends a general obligation bond as the best possible funding source.

In other business, the board approved eight grants, seven from the Oregon Department of Education. The remaining grant, \$82,236 from Nike, is for AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) expansion in McNary and other high schools.

The board approved contracts for many teachers and administrators in the McNary and other attendance areas.

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