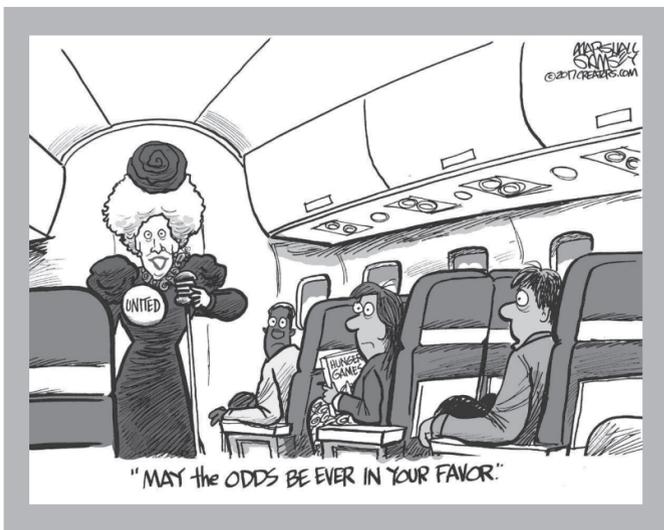


# KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM



## Why McNary Klostet matters

McNary Klostet was unveiled at McNary High School last week to much fanfare. The Klostet is open and serving students who are in need.

The project came from the collective minds of Audrey Butler and Stephanie Witman of the Keizer Network of Women (KNOW) a Keizer Chamber Foundation group along with counselor Kim Pittsley and assistant principal Rhonda Rhodes at McNary.

Ms. Butler intended to donate some unused clothing to a consignment shop but she said something told her to call the school before proceeding. She asked the school if there was a need for clothing and found there is a great need for clothing for students in need. And the clothing was just the start.

McNary Klostet is now housed in a former teacher's lounge in a school that is bursting at the seams. Though space is a premium at McNary the Klostet will put that space to good use.

The McNary Klostet is a cupboard for students who are in need of a piece of clothing or two. Besides clothing the Klostet also offers food and snacks and, importantly for students, toiletry items.

Any visitor to the Klostet on opening day saw racks of jackets, pants, shirts, tops, a few pairs of shoes, tooth brushes and paste and other personal items and food—a meal or a snack.

The unfortunate reality is that there are students in our community that face shortages of the basic needs of daily life. McNary Klostet is not a 'come anytime' place, it requires a request and an escort. That's not to limit who uses the room but to protect the dignity of the recipients of its bounty.

McNary Klostet is a low-cost way to provide for those who are in need through no fault of their own. The project is not tax-payer supported and is not victim to any bureaucratic maze—it is the result of caring and sharing Keizerites and school officials.

It is important that students have every opportunity to focus on their studies while at school. Grumbling stomachs and cold shoulders impeded the education process. McNary Klostet should know no season except the school year. There is no short-term coat or food drive to fill its shelves and racks. Donations are always accepted.

The Keizer Chamber of Commerce office and the Keizer branch of Willamette Valley Bank are drop-off sites for slightly used clothing, new personal care products and food.

McNary Klostet matters because it helps our kids from our community. When a coat or a snack is given, the donor can be confident that someone who lives in the neighborhood or is friends with their own child, is getting something that can turn a world around.

—LAZ

our opinion

## Parks fee

To the Editor:

The headline for this article is very misleading. The headline states "Parks fees get majority support". The article goes on to state that there were 1,102 surveys returned from Keizer's "roughly" 14,300 households. Using these numbers that is a return rate of less than 8% of the total households. Marion County Elections reported on March 8, 2017 that Keizer had 19,483 households which takes the return rate down to 5%. Marion County also reported that Keizer has 23,357 registered voters. I can not understand how this survey would represent the majority of Keizer.

Jim Keller  
Keizer

## Rep. Post is not doing his job

To the Editor:

The founders of American government, in their wisdom, gave us a representative system. A system in which the voting citizen has a voice in government policy through a representative in the legislature. This is a contract between the elected official and the citizens of a district. To be their voice. Representative Bill Post has broken that contract.

It is the job of a representative to represent, not make excuses as to what he cannot do. The representative needs to get the job done. After all it was Mr. Post that asked for the position in the first place. He says he has no ability to craft legislation on the budget, transportation, or funding for veterans, but he does not say why. Is he inept, or has his monolithic ideology moved so far to the right that even talking to a Democrat is beyond his ability?

letters

It was Mr. Post's lack of knowledge on the transportation package that I found the most disturbing. It is bizarre because it is happening in his own district and that he has put no effort to find out what transportation package entails. Has Mr. Post forgotten that St. Paul is in the district that he is bound by oath of office to represent? And that representation is not prescribed by the Constitution nor state law to be extended to only one ideology. A corrupt politician is bad and a representative that does not represent is just as bad.

Mr. Post has given up on being our representative when he calls on us to do his job for him. Then I ask why are we paying him a government salary? He must think it is nice to have a government job in which he is being paid to do nothing.

David McCall  
Keizer

## Vote for Bateman

To the Editor:

I urge the election of Mark Bateman to the Satem-Keizer School Board. I have known Mark for several years. I have served with him and observed his performance on various committees and boards at the First United Methodist Church in Salem. Mark is a problem solver and is well prepared for this position. His previous experience with a variety of organizations and the financial challenges facing each have all contributed to his preparation to serve on the school board.

John Joelson  
Keizer

## McNary eases scholarship search

By ROCHELLE FARRIS

Funding a vocational or college education is not a cheap venture for students and their families. The path seems daunting for many and often there is confusion in the application, scholarship and financial aid process.

In the past, parents and students may have felt alone in navigating this important path. McNary High School recognized the importance of having this kind of support for our students. This year families have a resource available to them to answer questions and minimize the confusion and complexities of the college application and scholarship process while supporting students by helping them become both college- and career-ready.

The McNary High School College and Career Center opened this year in October. Since that time, I have had the privilege of walking alongside our students and families helping them navigate the pathway opportunities available to them after high school. I get to meet with students one-on-one and in classroom settings, while also providing evening events and college and career presentations throughout the year.

The College and Career Center is open to students during our school day, before school on Mondays and after school Tuesday—Friday. I have worked tirelessly to provide information to our students about local scholarships available in our community while also informing them of the larger state and national scholarship options. I also have provided workshops throughout this academic year on college and scholarship organizations and "How to Write Scholarship Essays That Get Noticed."

Students at McNary get many opportunities to hear presentations from local career professionals who are invited to present about the

fields they work in. This year we have had health care professionals, business owners, software engineers and many others present. This gives students the ability to explore career options and get questions answered about a particular field of interest.

The College and Career Center has its own webpage ([mcnary.salkeiz.k12.or.us/activities/college-career-ready/](http://mcnary.salkeiz.k12.or.us/activities/college-career-ready/)) within the McNary High School website that provides great information for our students and their parents.

Recognizing not all students will choose to attend college after high school, there are many opportunities for students that do not include post-secondary education. I also act as a resource to these students. Exploring career opportunities through apprenticeship, military or on-the-job training opportunities that will also lead to successful careers. Our College and Career Center also provides resources for students looking for part-time jobs and community service opportunities. Building resumes, writing cover letters and preparing for interviews are also areas that I get to support.

While I realize it takes time to build awareness of McNary's College and Career Center offerings, I have been working diligently to get the information out to our students and families. The benefits and results of the College and Career Center have been significant even after only being open for six months. McNary High School has already increased the rates of students applying for the Free Application for Federal student Aid (FAFSA). Last year at the end of the school year (June 2016) there was a total of 192 students who had completed the FAFSA. Currently, in April, we have 227 that have completed applications and I continue to follow-up with seniors who may need additional help finishing their applications. In addition, we have

one student at McNary who recently accepted her Act Six Scholarship which is a full-tuition, full-need community leadership award to attend Warner Pacific University for all four years. We also are excited to have our first Ford Family Foundation finalist who will be interviewing in May for a scholarship that pays 90 percent of the cost of attendance to any college in Oregon for all years he attends post-secondary education. Scholarship awards keep coming in and we are excited to get to celebrate with our senior students.

Additionally, McNary High School is working toward becoming the first AVID Demonstration High School in Oregon. I coordinate with AVID teachers who are dedicated to the successful implementation of the AVID College Readiness System. Freshman through Seniors learn about college preparation, which includes researching post-secondary academic programs, applying to colleges, and completing financial aid and scholarship applications. This year McNary AVID seniors have already received nearly \$500,000 in scholarship awards.

The College and Career Center will hold an event Tuesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m.: Junior Jumpstart, is a college planning event for current juniors and their parents to get some helpful step-by-step college information to help prepare for your senior year. Preparation is the key.

During this event attendees will receive helpful hints on ACT/SAT testing, completing college and scholarship applications and understanding the financial aid process. NCAA athletic eligibility information will also be presented in an additional presentation at 7:30 p.m. for those interested.

(Rochelle Farris is the coordinator of the College and Career Center at Keizer's McNary High School.)

## Change how colleges do business

By GENE H. MCINTYRE

Through creative problem-solving and thinking outside the proverbial box, it's possible to come up with ways and means to address Oregon's public college and university costs outside of double-digit tuition increases. What comes to mind is relief by way of college sports, administrative costs, and Oregon legislative action.

Let's begin by looking at the history of American colleges and universities. There was a time when people attended an institution of higher education mainly to acquire further education beyond secondary school to earn a degree and realize the opportunity to work in the field of their choice. Back when it was possible to earn, during summers and part-time school year jobs, to meet all costs through graduation. This writer was one who accomplished that feat.

What has been noticed most poignantly nowadays is that college and university costs come not only from the traditional expenses, like tuition, books, room and board, et cetera, but also a school's participation in sports programs. Sports were once extracurricular for fun and exercise or played by in-state participants motivated by athletic prowess and school spirit.

Just one facet of what's going on in college-level sports is the extreme and excessive salaries, bonuses and perks paid to coaches as well as their subordinates. One example among many can be cited recently from the University of Oregon where it was announced that a UO football assistant coach, a "defensive coordinator and linebackers coach," will be paid \$1.15 million per year. While there are many assistants for different team functions at UO alone, the head football coach at UO, Willie Taggart, now owns a 5-year contract worth \$16 million while, in basketball, head coach Dana Altman possesses a 7-year contract at \$18 million. Then there's track and field, baseball and a whole host of other sports for men and, since Title IX, women, also.

Without an encyclopedia of higher education costs for administrators, let a couple of examples

serve to enlighten. University of Oregon President Michael Schill receives an annual base salary of \$798,400 plus a free car, free housing, a spending allowance and other perks. Meanwhile, just a few miles up the road, Oregon State University's president, Ed Ray, comes in at an annual \$699,876. Their support staffs are also paid handsome salaries along with many an enviable perk.

There could be efforts made to reform the way Oregon's higher education schools conduct business. What stands in the way of direly needed improvements and reasonable costs are the persons who serve on their governing boards: many know little from personal experience about the financial plights of the average Oregonian seeking a college education. The presidents and other managers (deans and department heads) often receive six-figure remunerations that are far removed from the Oregon families that send their sons and daughters to them. Sports are managed and controlled almost exclusively these days by coaches seeking the highest paycheck with no loyalty involved.

The Oregon Legislature could do a lot to make college costs more affordable by keeping tuitions low. How so? They could reform the state's tax structure so that the corporations making huge profits in Oregon would have to pay their fair share of education costs at all levels, a condition they've escaped by the reduction creep of lobbyists' activity. Too often, unfortunately for Oregonians, it's become

apparent, too many Oregon legislators are more interested in keeping their political job than behaving like statesmen and are beholden as virtual servants to the corporations that contribute to their campaign chests. One fact, though, that ought to catch the attention of our legislators is the PERS consequence for these obscene and solvency-busting salaries.

Back to the future. Oregon's youth and young adults want a chance to embrace the American dream. To accomplish an opportunity for more among us to attend and graduate, there's a need for heroic leadership efforts by those in power positions willing to fight for sane paychecks in sports and administrative positions, now having gone stratospheric. However, as long as Oregonians are willing to accept everything currently going on without protest, then those who benefit from what's happened will continue without a second thought because in no way will these people with pockets full ever be self-correcting.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)

guest opinion

## Share your opinion

Email a guest opinion (550 words) or a letter to the editor (300 words) by noon Tuesday.

Email to: [publisher@keizertimes.com](mailto:publisher@keizertimes.com)

# Keizertimes

Wheatland Publishing Corp. • 142 Chemawa Road N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303  
phone: 503.390.1051 • web: [www.keizertimes.com](http://www.keizertimes.com) • email: [kt@keizertimes.com](mailto:kt@keizertimes.com)

Lyndon A. Zaitz, Editor & Publisher

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:

Keizertimes Circulation  
142 Chemawa Road N.  
Keizer, OR 97303

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

One year:  
\$25 in Marion County,  
\$33 outside Marion County,  
\$45 outside Oregon

### PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Publication No: USPS 679-430

Periodical postage paid at  
Salem, Oregon

