



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
Leilani Salang celebrated with her family and representatives from Blanchet Catholic School and the Coast Guard.

Salang continues family tradition at Coast Guard

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Leilani Salang didn't know exactly what she wanted to do with her life but the Blanchet Catholic School senior and Keizer resident did know she wanted to help people.

The United States Coast Guard will train her to do that.

"I knew that I wanted to help people and I feel like the military is one of the best ways to do that," Salang said. "You get a good education at no cost to you. I feel like it was the best path for me."

Salang signed her national letter of intent and commitment papers on Wednesday, April 19 in the Blanchet library. Along with being a student, she will compete on the track and field team.

"I knew when I wanted to go to college I wanted to do track and field so it was definitely one of my deciding factors," Salang said. "I knew that I could participate in track there at the Division-III level."

For a four-year free education worth \$500,000, Salang

is committing to five years of service in the Coast Guard after graduation.

"All around I'm suited for the coast guard academy," Salang said. "Everything I want, helping people, saving people, getting an education for as little of a burden on my family as possible. I gave my college fund to my little sisters and they split it in two."

Coast Guard also runs in Salang's genes. Her grandfather, who passed away last year, served for more than 25 years and her father eight.

"We were pretty close," Salang said of her grandfather. "He was in my life since I was a baby. He told me about when he was on the ships and he was a cook and after hours he would make his Filipino food. He loved meeting people and cooking for people."

While Salang originally wanted to be a physical therapist to help recovering veterans, she's now turned her attention on being a helicopter pilot and rescuing people out of the ocean.

At Blanchet, Salang has impressed on both the track and field. As a junior, she was named the top Girls Field Event Athlete in the PacWest Conference by winning both the discus and shot put while placing second in the javelin. Salang then finished third in the state in discus and fifth in shot put and javelin.

In the second meet of her senior season, Salang set a new Blanchet record of 129-05 in the discus. She also has the shot put record of 37-11.

Salang runs as well, competing in the 100 and 4x100. The relay team of Salang and three underclassmen won the conference and placed sixth in the state while setting a school record last spring.

Salang considered staying in state at Linfield, where she practices hammer every Sunday, or Oregon State, and joining the reserves while in college.

However, the chance to continue the Coast Guard tradition was just too big an opportunity to pass up.

Celtics second in GVC

McNary's boys golf team shot 632 over two rounds to place second to West Salem's 608 at the Greater Valley Conference district tournament on May 1-2.

Playing at Quail Valley Golf Course in Banks, McNary sophomore Matt Langenwalter carded a 76 on day one and a 77 on day two.

The total of 153 was good enough to tie for second with West Salem junior Dylan Hadsall.

West Salem senior Andrew Eyre shot a 146 to earn low medalist.

McNary senior Teegan Papke finished tied for third with a 155 and freshman Joel Dutcher placed fifth with a 159.

Langenwalter and Papke qualified for the state tournament back at Quail Valley on May 15-16.

Seniors Casey Potmesil and Davis Kaiser carded a 170 and 171, respectively.

Forest Grove (690), Sprague (702), West Albany (702), McMinnville (706) and South Salem (720) rounded out the team standings.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
McNary sophomore Matt Langenwalter shot 153 over 32 holes to finish tied for second in the district tournament on May 1-2.



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