

KeizerCommunity

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Whiteaker Middle School will get a new gym floor, a general classroom transformed into a science lab, seismic upgrades and other improvements next summer.



Whiteaker greenlit for summer construction

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

So far in 2019, five schools in the Salem-Keizer School District, including Gubser Elementary and McNary High, have received seismic improvements thanks to the bond measure that was passed in May of 2018 — which has grown from \$619.7 million, which was the original base amount, to \$667.7 million, without adding costs to taxpayers.

Next summer, Whiteaker Middle School will be the next school in line to receive benefits from the bond.

Whiteaker will receive a gym floor replacement and roofing improvements, as well as improvements to the front office space to increase visibility and control of the front entry.

The front entry will include a secured vestibule, which means that when visitors are buzzed in through the main door, they will enter a secured space that leads them directly to the school office to check

in. After being approved by office staff, a visitor will be buzzed through a second set of doors into the school.

The purpose of the new design is to provide line of sight visibility of visitors and increased control of the front entry. The building will also have increased badge access card readers and other security upgrades around the school.

“The safety and security improvements at Whiteaker, including the secured front entry and electronic badge access system upgrade, give office staff better ability to control who enters and exits the building,” said Karma Krause, the Capital Projects Public Engagement Specialist for the district. “This creates a safer physical and psychological environment in the school, which keeps the focus on learning.”

Additionally, Whiteaker will also have one general education classroom turned into a science lab.

“I’m excited to have a classroom converted into a fully

functioning science lab. As our enrollment increases, this addition will provide for future science classroom needs,” Whiteaker principal Julia DeWitt said. “Moreover, it supports our ongoing commitment to increasing STEM education through elective offerings, an interdisciplinary/applied approach to learning science, technology, engineering and math.”

Multiple Whiteaker staff members met with members of the district’s construction services staff at the end of last school year to go over the needs of the school and helped make plans for the design — which will be drawn up by BBT Architects.

Construction is scheduled to begin in June and is expected to be completed before the 2020-21 school year. Just over \$2.1 million will be invested into this project.

“We’re very grateful to the voters of Keizer and Salem for next year’s upgrades,” DeWitt said.

Share ideas for increasing student success in SPKS

Salem-Keizer Public Schools is slated to receive more than \$35 million from the Student Success Act. Annually, this student investment account can only be used to meet students’ mental or behavioral health needs and increase academic achievement for students while reducing academic disparities.

The district convened a student investment account task force in September and the group wrapped up its initial phase of work sessions on October 28. Made up of almost 40 members of the community and employees from across the district, the work group honed its focus on specific community teams to address the needs of students who are economically disadvantaged; (Native American, English learners, black or African

American, those experiencing homelessness, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders and those receiving special education services).

During November, the district will go out to the community through forums and focus groups to gather more feedback about how to invest funds in the student investment account. The student investment account task force will take the information gathered to make its final recommendation to Superintendent Christy Perry in January.

The community forums will be held in Keizer at McNary High on Monday, Nov. 18 and in Salem on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at South Salem High. Both meetings take place from 6-8 p.m. Free dinner and childcare will be provided.

Poetry in spotlight at Chemeketa

The final event in its 2019 Poetry in Performance series, hosted by the Mid-Valley Poetry Society, is Sunday, Nov. 17.

A program titled *Because a Poem Breathes* will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. in the TV Studio in Building 9, Chemeketa Community College.

Between sets by the featured performers, there will be an intermission with refreshments, followed by an open mic. Admission is free. Poems by Oregon Poet Laureate Emerita Paulann Petersen and by local poets Eleanor Berry, Jade Rosina McCutcheon and

Penina Ava Taesali will be interpreted through voice, dance, music/sound, and lighting.

Performing the poems will be Charlotte Headrick (reader), Tiffany Watson (dancer), and Jade Rosina McCutcheon (music/sound).

The 2019 Poetry in Performance series is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Marion Cultural Development Corporation, and by audience donations.

Holiday bazaars coming to McNary, Countryside soon

It’s the time of year when a new holiday bazaar pops up on seemingly every corner. Here’s two coming soon in Keizer.

• The annual bazaar at McNary High School is slated for Saturday, Nov. 23.

More than 100 local vendors will be hosted by McNary students raising money for a variety of school-based activities. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Raffle drawings will be held every hour. Exchange two non-perishable food items or hygiene products for an extra raffle entry. Donated items will benefit Marion Polk

Food Share.

McNary High School is located at 595 Chemawa Road N.E.

• Countryside Christian Church will be hosting a Holiday Bazaar Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The event will feature around 50 vendors who will sell their own handmade, quality, products in addition to a gourmet bake sale.

For any questions or additional information contact HolidayBazaarAtCountryside@gmail.com or find the event on Facebook. Vendors can still apply to be part of the event.



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