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# KeizerSports

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Volcanoes face uncertain future



By **MATT RAWLINGS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The future of the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes may still be hanging in the balance, but fans will have to wait a little bit longer before a final decision is made.

Last week, a report from J.J. Cooper from Baseball America claimed that Minor League Baseball (MiLB) was prepared to accept a proposal from Major League Baseball (MLB) for a new Professional Baseball Agreement (PBA), which included cutting the affiliation of 42 Minor League teams — likely including the Volcanoes.

The report made headlines in mainstream media and forced MiLB to put out a statement addressing the matter.

“Recent articles on the negotiations between MiLB and Major League Baseball are largely inaccurate. There have been no agreements on contraction or any other issues. MiLB looks forward to continuing the good faith negotiations with MLB on Wednesday as we work toward an agreement that best ensures the future of professional baseball throughout the United States and Can-

ada.”  
Sure enough, even though no substantive details were made public, the two sides met on Wednesday, April 22 and did not come out of the meeting with an agreement.

According to Volcanoes CEO Mickey Walker, MLB and MiLB are getting closer to an agreement and he believes that the deal will be finalized no later than September.

However, if the spread of COVID-19 continues to delay pro baseball into the summer, MiLB might not have much of a leg to stand on.

“The coronavirus drastically changed Minor League Baseball’s leverage on the situation and the MLB is taking advantage,” Walker said. “(MLB) has no interest in delaying the agreement. They are pushing pretty hard to make it happen, and shamelessly doing it in my opinion.”

MLB has considered numerous options in returning to the field once the coronavirus pandemic dies down. Earlier this week, the league acknowledged

Please see SKV, Page A9

Volcanoes outfielder Franklin Labour helped Salem-Keizer reach the Northwest League Playoffs last season. But it is unknown if the team will be able to take the field this year.

## Salem-Keizer joins “Be the Light” movement

BY **MATT RAWLINGS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The “Be the Light” campaign has gained significant traction across the state, and the Salem-Keizer School District elected to get in on the action starting on Friday, April 24.

Due to the spread of COVID-19, all district buildings will be closed for the remainder of the school year, meaning that the 2,666 seniors in the district won’t have a chance to have a final sendoff as they wrap up their lives as high

school students.

To honor the class of 2020, the lights at South Salem High School’s football stadium will be turning on every Friday night at 8:20 (20:20 military time) for approximately 20 minutes. The district is also encouraging the community to turn their porch lights on in show of solidarity with this year’s seniors.

“It’s a neat way to recognize every senior in the community and it’s been gaining a lot of momentum.”

— Scott Gragg,  
McNary athletic director

and athletic directors that they really wanted to be part of the movement. It’s im-

portant to us to participate, but we want to make sure we do it in a safe way,” said Lillian Govus, the director of communications and public relations with Salem-Keizer Public Schools.

As the “Be the Light” movement made headway across the country, McNary athletic director Scott Gragg said he was receiving three to five emails per day about the matter.

“This isn’t only an Oregon movement, it’s a national movement. It’s a neat way to recognize every senior in the community, and it’s been gaining a lot of momentum,” Gragg said.

However, the district made it clear that safety is the top priority, which is why instead of turning on all the lights at each high school

football stadium, SKPS decided that it would best to only turn on the lights at South Salem High to represent each senior.

Gragg cited that the reason that this decision was made was to discourage people from congregating at the schools and to keep in line with Gov. Kate Brown’s executive order to “stay home, save lives.”

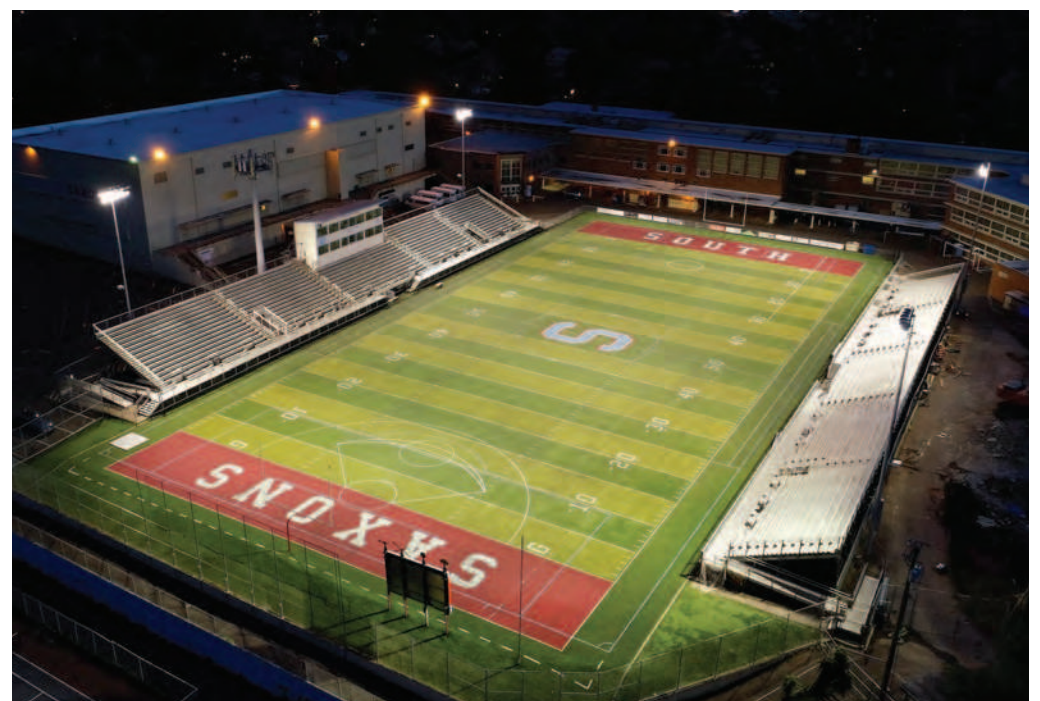
South Salem was desig-

nated as the school to represent every senior in the district because they are the only high school with automatic lights — which can be turned on through an app on South Salem athletic director Brian Armstrong’s phone.

“This makes it so no one has to go and physically turn on the lights and it becomes a lot easier to manage social distancing guidelines. We want people to stay at home

and stay safe,” Gragg said.

The district is asking students and families to stay home and not go and see the lights at the stadium. SKPS will be streaming the lights on their Facebook page. The district also encourages community members to take a photo in front of their lit-up porch and post it to social media using the hashtags #SKPSFamily and #BethLightOR.



Submitted  
The lights at South Salem’s football field were turned on for 20 minutes on Friday, April 24 to honor the senior class of 2020 throughout the Salem-Keizer School District.

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### puzzle answers

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