

School makeover projects still on track



Submitted
Construction contractors are making steady progress despite the COVID-19 pandemic at McNary High School.

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

The spread of COVID-19 has brought much of the planet to a halt. The Salem-Keizer Public Schools bond projects, however, will continue to move forward. Salem-Keizer voters passed the \$619.7 million bond project — which has recently increased to \$677.7 billion thanks to market premiums, earnings on bond proceeds, grants and reimbursements — in May of 2018, and

construction at Salem-Keizer schools hasn't missed a beat in spite of the coronavirus according to SKPS chief operations officer Michael Wolfe. "Everything is going along very smoothly, quite frankly. We really haven't had any major COVID-19 hiccups at all," said Wolfe. "I'm knocking on wood all around me to keep that good energy flowing." Although additional seismic upgrades weren't scheduled to

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— Michael Wolfe,
Chief Operations Officer, Salem-Keizer Public Schools

the final phase of their construction done by August. Even though construction will be accelerated, there are no plans to move up the timeline. The reason for advancing construction without changing the timeline is so that the there will be some fluctuation in the schedule. SKPS will also only move forward on certain projects, not all, because of contractor availability. "We would never overpromise and under-deliver Please see PROJECTS, Page A5

Businesses clamor for city loans

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Plans to offer 18 \$2,500 forgivable loans to Keizer small businesses are proving popular. "We've had 30 requests and they keep coming in," Community Development Director Nate Brown told the Keizer city councilors at a meeting Monday, May 4. The deadline for businesses to apply for the loans was Thursday, May 7. While there is an application process, qualifying small businesses

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Uptick in 'bold and bad drivers' amid reduced traffic

Keizer police officials are reminding drivers not to attempt to take advantage of reduced traffic on the streets of Keizer. The warning comes after Sgt. David LeDay, leader of the Keizer Police Department (KPD) traffic unit, clocked a driver on River Road North traveling at 99 miles per hour Monday, April 27. "There are recurring reports of increasingly bold and bad drivers taking advantage of reduced traffic on the roadways. While being sensitive to the economic

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A baked-in legacy

Keizer woman prepped one final delivery for KPD



Submitted
Lt. Andrew Copeland hands off a final coffee cake delivery from Sandy Olson to Sgt. Greg Barber.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Sandy Olson was a stalwart supporter of the Keizer Police Department. She wasn't a reserve officer. She didn't volunteer in the police station. She made sure the department's employees were well fed with at least four coffee cakes a month. "I think she had probably been doing it for 15 years," said daughter Karla Newman. Providing treats for the men and women in blue was such an important part of Olson's life, she made it part of her legacy. She supervised one last coffee cake delivery on her 83rd birthday, April 20, and the officers and staff of the Keizer Police Department turned out en masse to sing *Happy Birthday*. Olson passed away six days later after complications arose from heart attack she suffered in January (See obituary, Page A5). Newman and her sister, Nola Wilkerson, plan to carry on the monthly donations in her honor. "We asked her before she passed away if there was anything she wanted us to continue doing for her like oyster stew on Christmas, and she responded with the coffee cakes," Newman said. Newman said her mother started baking in high school and simply never stopped. "She went on to own a bakery and donut shop and made all sorts of things," Newman said. Olson met the Wampler family through church and when she found out Tyler Wampler, recently retired,

S. Olson

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PAGE A10



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