

Paving a parking lot

Middle school and high school softball to share field in 2017

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — Perrydale High School Athletics Director Dan Dugan knows firsthand just how crowded the parking lot can get.

“There were times I was in a neon vest directing traffic during football games,” Dugan said. “That was a pain in the butt.”

Dugan won't have to bust out the neon vest anytime soon, as work is underway on a new parking lot.

“It really comes down to, we were having people double and triple park in our parking lot and park on the highway in unsafe ways,” Superintendent Eric Milburn said. “We had to come up with a way to accommodate the public for events we're having at our school.”

A new gravel lot was laid over the middle school softball field adding 100 new spots, Milburn said. The current lot located behind the gymnasium was paved on Monday. The project is expected to be fully completed on July 20.

“Once the paving is completed, we'll paint stripes and have it ready to go,” Milburn said.

The new gravel did come with a drawback — the elimination of the middle school softball field, but the school district has a plan in place to ensure the sport remains available to students.

Canceling middle school softball would have put the school in violation of Title IX.

“If we did have to cancel softball, we'd have to cancel baseball as well,” Dugan said. “We were trying to be proactive and called the OSAA and the Department of Education. We asked what do we need to do for this and created a plan going forward.”

The middle school and



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Workers lay down smooth pavement at the Perrydale parking lot behind the gymnasium on Monday afternoon. A new parking lot will add 100 spaces.

high school teams will share the high school field during the 2017 season.

“We'll have a smaller outfield and won't be your typical quarter circle like we've seen in a lot of different ballparks,” Dugan said. “High school and middle school rarely play on the same day, so there's minimal overlap there.”

The school district will monitor a stretch of land located just beyond the new gravel lot that could be a new home for middle school softball, Milburn said.

“We have to see how well that field area is going to drain and how usable it is going to be,” Milburn said. “We have to wait a season to be able to see the water accumulation and make a determination.”

With the new parking lots

on schedule, the Perrydale parking lot will be ready to host whatever events the school puts on — allowing Dugan to retire the neon vest for a while.

“We're going to have a lot more capacity for events,” Dugan said. “I never thought I'd be so happy about a parking lot before.”



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

The new parking area will be completed on July 20, Perrydale Superintendent Eric Milburn said.

Central may still seek bond

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Central School District did not get the OK for a \$4 million state grant that the district would have received pending a voter-approved bond in November.

The district is “next on the list,” said Superintendent Buzz Brazeau at Monday's school board meeting. The money is awarded by the state based on need, and also on a lottery system. Central's need puts it high on the priority list, but because other districts who failed to pass bonds in May have decided to try again in November, it limits the commitment from the state on

who gets the money.

The Central School Board may still put a bond on the November ballot to pay for gymnasiums, additions to Independence Elementary School and cafeterias, but without the promise of a \$4 million grant.

However, Brazeau said with Great Britain voting to exit the European Union last month, bond rates have dropped 45 points from where they were.

“There is some extra funding that is available,” he said. “We are getting those numbers now from our bond consultant.”

Brazeau said the bond exploration committee will meet on July 25 and bring a new recommendation to the board.

SCHOOL NOTES

Chemeketa CC switches hours

SALEM/DALLAS — Chemeketa Community College will switch to summer hours effective Friday.

The college will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Most college services will be closed Fridays, weekends and holidays. The change will include Chemeketa's Polk Center in Dallas.

Summer hours will not affect the following locations or programs: Brooks Training Center, Criminal Justice Instruction Program (Brooks), Emergency Services Instruction Programs (Brooks), Building 48 including MaPS Credit Union and Blue Moon Café, CCRLS Administrative Office Chemeketa's Capital Projects, Facilities and Information Technology departments, Chemeketa Center for Business and Industry (CCBI), Corrections Education, Eola/Northwest Wine Studies Center, International Student Programs, Public Safety officers, SOAR Program, TRIO Upward Bound Summer Academy, and Workforce Partners at Woodburn Center.

The college will resume Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. office hours Aug. 29.

Eola Hills Charter School seeks help

POLK COUNTY — Eola Hills Charter School is looking for contractors to help complete projects so the school can open this September.

Without completed projects, the school cannot open. Among the projects needed include an excavator to widen the road, put in ditches and driveways and bury water tanks, a modular home moving company to reposition five modular units and tie them down, a contractor to build ADA compliant decking and ramps and a plumber to connect plumbing to the main building.

The charter school recently gained approval for a permanent site, but because of the delay, other contractors committed to other jobs.

If a company or individual is willing to complete one of the tasks and/or help fund one of the projects, contact Nicole Wollenweber, director at Eola Hills, at 503-437-9138.

For more information: nwollen@gmail.com.

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MISS OREGON TEEN USA 2016

JULY 17
1 PM - 4 PM
PRESSED COFFEE & WINE BAR

Join us on this Sunday, July 17, from 1pm-4pm to celebrate our own Miss Oregon Teen USA, Mikaela Bruer, as she prepares to represent our community and our state at the Miss Teen USA Pageant! Mikelea is a real home town hero, involved in FFA, 4H, our Polk County Fair and many other community organizations.

Enjoy complimentary refreshments, music and the remarkable story of this amazing young lady on her way to put our community on the national stage. Open House, all ages welcome. Pressed Coffee and Wine Bar, 788 Main St., Dallas.

Questions? Call 503-507-5240