



February 21, 2014

**KFCS' District Newsletter**

By Paul Hillyer, KFCS' Superintendent

**Why Modoc Field? Why Now?**

Early last summer, a group of community members worked with the KU football and girls' soccer teams to renovate the KU field house. Parents, students, and businesses joined arms to make a run-down facility into an attractive usable building about which Klamath Falls can be proud. This work saved the district hundreds of thousands of dollars and created the momentum seen today in a community-led movement to improve the whole Modoc Field Complex.

As a result, the district has already received \$280,000 in donations and in-kind contributions to help lessen the cost of the project. Grants and donations are still being pursued to continue to decrease the required district expenditures. The excitement from this project is building momentum and interest in continuing the renovation to now include the academic building as well. Thus, the board has approved the proposal to seek a bond issue to update the whole KU facility.

Some are asking, why start with the athletic fields? Why not just include Modoc improvements in the bond proposal with the rest of the building? There are a number of reasons to address the track and field separately.

Firstly, is the cost effectiveness of going after separate funds for the field and track that would not have been possible if they were folded into the larger project. The Modoc Project qualifies for a zero-interest federally subsidized loan. A one percent administrative fee will also be charged. This makes the payoff of the expense much less than if it had been included in the overall bond proposal. As a result, the community saves a great deal of money each year over the next 20 years and the cost of the bond issue goes down considerably.

Secondly, the KFCS' Board of Directors approved the project because of the great community support and initiative taken to make it possible. This is clearly shown in the large cost savings attained through donations and in-kind work on the project. Other immediate cost savings include reduced expenses for irrigation and maintenance of the field.

Thirdly, the benefits of a renovated field and track can be realized very quickly through receiving the zero-interest loan. As a result, girls' soccer will now be able to play on the KU campus next fall and the KU football team will play next season's games there as well. It is also very important to our school board that the actions benefit the whole city. Thus, the turf field

will be used by many local organizations in the near and distant future. Youth football and soccer teams for example will now have an excellent place to play. In addition, citizens who desire to walk, jog, or run will have an excellent new track surface on which to do so.

This improvement will also help the city be a more attractive location for those considering a place to live. Thus, the long-term impact to the entire city standard of living and quality of life should not be underestimated.

Therefore, the board chose for economic and community betterment reasons to take advantage of the unique opportunity that excited community members presented to the board last summer when they asked for permission to update and improve the worn and aged Modoc field and track. The benefits to the students of KU and members of the whole community will be enjoyed for many years into the future.

#### **Other Notes:**

1. **You are invited!** At 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, in the KU cafeteria, there will be a forum to share information on the proposed KU bond project. This meeting will include a time for questions and answers and a building tour for those wishing to see the building needs up close. Don't forget to get this on your calendars! (See attached flier).
2. An interesting fact related to the Modoc Project: When the land was surveyed to determine elevations and grading needs of the field, it was learned that, over time, the field settled so much that one end zone was four feet higher than the other. This was true for the track as well. I always wondered why so many more touch downs were scored in that end of the field! This makes one wonder why we have not had some world record 100 meter runs on the downhill track.
3. Congratulations to the Ponderosa math teams who recently competed. The competitors were in two groups: official and unofficial (official were eligible for the state competition).

#### For the unofficial teams:

- 1st Place Team: Team #3 (Makenzie Carrillo, Kori Delgado, Bailey Ellis, Szjona Kiss)
- 2nd Place Team: Team #4 (Ben Blake, John Cabrera, Jackson Hodges, and Mauricio Huntoon DeRoche)
- 2nd Place Individual: Ben Blake
- 3rd Place Individual: Jackson Hodges

#### For the official teams:

- 1st Place Team: Team #1 (Sally Clark, Kenneth Crowell, Audrey Lindgren, Tatjana Luce)
  - 3rd Place Team: Team #2 (Emma Blake, Christy Mueller, Jessica Reed, Casandra Shih)
  - 1st Place Individual: Kenneth Crowell, who earns a \$1000 OIT scholarship
  - 2nd Place Individual: Casandra Shih, who earns a \$750 OIT scholarship - Sally, Kenneth, Audrey, Tatjana, and Casandra have all earned a spot in the state Math Counts competition in March.
4. Congrats also to our KU Cheer Squad for taking first place in state competition in Portland this week.
  5. Please click on the link below for Kindergarten Roundup information scheduled for May 8, 2014 - <http://www.kfalls.k12.or.us/departments/fedProg/KFCS-KinderRoundUp2014.pdf>.

6. Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested.