

Snags delay opening of Kelso's new spray park

By Amy M.E. Fischer
THE DAILY NEWS

Unforeseen snags have stalled construction work on a spray park planned for West Kelso, but the aquatic play structure should be ready for a flurry of activity by July, the project's architect said Friday.

The delays are due to changes in plans for water drainage and the city's legal concerns over putting the park's construction up for bid, architect Craig Collins said.

Instead of opening in May, as originally announced, the spray park is scheduled to welcome its first users around July 4, Collins said.

The state Department of Ecology took issue with plans to let the park's water run-off — including some chlorine — drain into a storm sewer, the architect said. Charging the thousands of gallons into the sanitary sewer would cost an estimated \$40,000 a year, he said, which is too expensive.

Plans have been changed to solve that problem. After the concrete is poured, workers will pack the bottom of the swimming pool basin with drainage material, Collins said. Water can accumulate and trickle through the rock, and over time it reaches the soil, the chlorine has filtered out, he said.

The cities of Kelso and Longview and three local Rotary clubs are preparing bids for the \$160,000 spray park, which will feature about 20 separate pieces of equipment, including a computer-controlled playground, a water fountain, a sprinkler, and a water feature. Kelso officials have selected the park, which is to replace the old Catlin Pool, will be open annually from May through Labor Day.

Rotarians had expected to receive contributions from companies and individuals to do the site preparation but Kelso officials said that would be in violation of state bidding laws, which require a significant project definable package to be put up for bid, Collins said.

The Kelso City Council will accept the site preparation bid at its April 11 meeting, he said.

Rotarians will seek additional contributions to cover the one-time \$40,000 to contend with the drainage problems, Collins said.



Photo courtesy of Chris Crosby

Capt. Chris Crosby of Castle Rock is volunteering his free time to spend with students at an all-boys boarding school, gather school supplies and raise money for school facilities while he is serving with the Washington National Guard in Afghanistan.

WAR IS HELP

Castle Rock soldier goes above and beyond to make a difference for Afghanistan school

By Hope Anderson
THE DAILY NEWS

Capt. Chris Crosby of Castle Rock plows through a typical day with the National Guard in Afghanistan working on border security, planning for National Assembly elections or dispensing information to the Afghan people.

But when those duties are done, his work doesn't stop.

Crosby, an information operations planner, has volunteered his free time to help at an all-boys boarding school, called the Khushal Khal Khan (Kuchi) School on the outskirts of Kabul.

He's raising money to improve the facilities, gathering school supplies, playing soccer with students and reading with them.

Crosby, 34, the father of two children in Castle Rock, said he has gone beyond the

How you can help, too

For more information on the project helping the Kuchi School, visit the Web site, www.missionafghanistan.com

For information on making a tax-deductible donation to the effort, call Sozo International at (502) 253-4308; write to P.O. Box 436967, Louisville, KY 40253, or follow the link on the Mission Afghanistan Web site.

— The Daily News

demands of his service for several reasons: "The students need assistance, to cement a relationship between the American people and the Afghan people, and to share time with children while I am separated from mine."

Crosby's efforts are part of the military's Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan Joint Effects Assessment Cell, a community outreach plan where service members volunteer their time.

In Crosby's words, it's a "new directorate in the Army that focuses on the long-term effects of our actions. ... We influence people to choose peace and stability over fighting and destruction."

The school, which houses 1,600 to 1,700 boys on about five acres of land, lacks many of the basics needs, including supplies, clothing and shoes, sports equipment, bathroom facilities and cleaning supplies, Crosby wrote in an e-mail to The Daily News earlier this week.

See Crosby, Page B2

Crosby: Tour ends in June, volunteer support may not

om Page B1

A neurology representative for Pfizer pharmaceuticals back in the U.S., Crosby helped organize an event early this month to pass out 275 backpacks loaded with school supplies to the students. Today, his group is turning to deliver 200 to 300 more.

All those supplies were donated by individuals and service members' families back home in the U.S.

By the time Crosby leaves, which should be at the end of June, he hopes each of the students has supplies for learning and the school will have new sporting equipment, musical instruments, games and volleyball courts.

He also hopes to be "well on the way" to raising money for the construction of a gym and other school buildings.

Crosby, along with another soldier, picked the Khushal Khal Khan School as their assessment Cell project.

Crosby arrived in Afghanistan at the end of December, and by the beginning of March, his group had begun compiling a list of the school's needs.

Just two years ago, the Kuchi site was in shambles after decades of civil war. The U.S.

Army's civil affairs section rebuilt the main school building, dormitory, kitchen and cafeteria — but didn't build adequate recreational facilities, Crosby said.

The students — who are from the Kuchi tribe, a nomadic people — remain on campus during the session and are without family support because of the remoteness of their home villages, Crosby said.

"The students are extremely grateful," he wrote in an e-mail. "I believe that our relationship with these students will reach their parents in the remote village. The nomadic and tribal people of Afghanistan will ultimately be a key in securing the government of Afghanistan from external influences."

Crosby hopes to be back home in Castle Rock and to attend the "pancake breakfast at the lake on the Fourth of July" with his wife, Angie, 34, and their children Emily, 7, and Josh, 3. But he may finish his service, scheduled to end in April 2006, at Fort Belvoir, Va., or at Fort Lewis, he said.

Whatever his schedule, Angie Crosby does not think her husband's volunteer work with the school will end.

"I'm 100 percent certain he will be a part of it when he leaves," she said. "He stays committed to things."

No big win

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No one won a \$5.6 million Lotto jackpot Saturday or a \$1.05 million Quinto drawing in the Washington Lottery, so the jackpot goes to \$5.7 million for Monday's Lotto and \$1.09 for Monday's Quinto.

There were 31 Lotto tickets sold with five winning numbers worth \$1,000, and 1,237 tickets had four winning numbers for \$30 each.

In Quinto, 20 tickets were sold with four of the five winning cards and are worth \$1,000 each, and 728 had

three worth \$1,000. No Life ja... The state 1 drawin Saturd... sold fo drawin numbe The n Tuesda The winner drawin lotto r

Two pedestrians

THE DAILY NEWS

Two teenagers were hit by a car Friday evening while crossing State Route 503 near milepost 1, according to the Washington State Patrol.

Allie R. Dodd, 17, of Tigard, Ore., who suffered lower back pain, was listed in satisfactory condition Saturday, according to staff at

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GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Castle Rock Guardsman adds volunteer work to his full-time duties in Afghanistan

AREA NEWS • PAGE B1

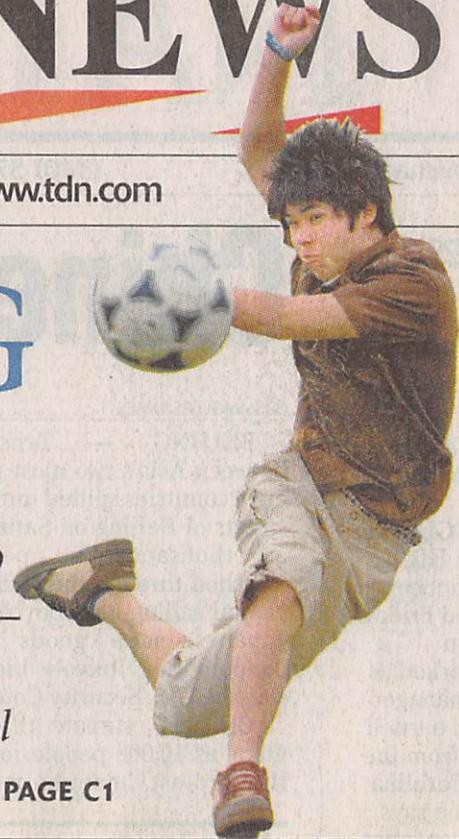


Prince Charles, Camilla finally tie the knot

WORLD • PAGE A2

HAVING A BALL

Japanese exchange student to Toledo manages quite a feat — ruling the soccer field while learning the art of high school



SPORTS • PAGE C1



Cloudy,
some
showers

HIGH 56

LOW 44

PAGE C6

\$60

WORTH OF
COUPONS IN TODAY'S
DAILY NEWS

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PEOPLE NOTES

Fox affiliate picks up former 'Survivor'

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Jeff Varner, who was bumped from "Survivor" in 2001, has a new job in reality television: TV newsmen.

Varner will join WGHP, the Fox affiliate based in High Point, as a weekend anchor, the station announced Friday.

Prior to his stint on "Survivor," Varner worked as an Internet project manager in New York City and earned a journalism degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Still, he says his "Survivor" ties have creat-

Chinese protest Japanese actions

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIJING — Tensions between Asia's two most powerful countries spilled into the streets of Beijing on Saturday as thousands of people marched through the Chinese capital calling for a boycott of Japanese-made goods and condemning Tokyo's bid to join the U.N. Security Council.

Officials estimate that as many as 10,000 people joined the protest, making it the

largest rally here since 1999, when demonstrators besieged the American Embassy after the United States acknowledged it accidentally had bombed the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade during the Kosovo war.

Hundreds of police and paramilitary officers in riot gear kept the gathering under control, even providing buses to take demonstrators home. Although mostly peaceful, some protesters threw bottles

and rocks at the Japanese compound and smashed the windows of Japanese businesses.

Public demonstrations are rarely permitted in China, leading some to believe the rally was as much a government-sanctioned move to send a signal to Japan as it was a spontaneous outpouring of public sentiment.

Tension between the two countries has been escalating over issues steeped in history

and national pride.

Japan approved new textbooks last week that downplayed its military aggressions during World War II, infuriating its neighbors, who say Tokyo is whitewashing its wartime atrocities. Beijing estimates 35 million Chinese were killed or wounded during the Japanese occupation from 1931-45.

In the same vein, China opposes Japan's attempt to gain a permanent seat on the Se-

curity Council. About 20 million Chinese are believed to have signed an online petition opposing Tokyo's bid. China is one of five countries on the Security Council with veto power and has rarely used its "no" vote to sway world politics.

"We hope China would vote no and not just abstain," said protester Liu Bei, 23, an office worker who had painted the words "Resist Japan" on her face.