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Legion team calls Keizer home

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

The Crushers Post 58, an American Legion baseball team in Stayton, have moved to Keizer.

Led by former Stayton High School coach Drew Heard, the team is a collection of the best players from McNary, McKay, Silverton, Regis, Kennedy and Stayton.

"I chose not to coach in high school this year because I wanted to focus on the Legion program and I wanted to move us out of Stayton because it didn't make any sense for us to be out there," Heard said. "The majority of our team is coming from Salem. To have kids driving all the way out there every single day for a 'home game' or practice was just kind of silly."

Heard also wanted to pick the right kind of players.

"I wanted to scout and I wanted to get really good character kids and I think we did that," Heard said. "I really feel good about our club. I feel good about the direction that we're going and I feel really good about representing the community."

Eight of the 18 Crushers played for the McNary varsity team last season—2017 graduates Josiah Gilbert, Jonah Geist, Joshua Benson, Riley Hays, Brendan Frizelle and



LEFT: Tyler Covalt, a rising junior at McNary, slides in safe at third base during an American Legion baseball game in Keizer. RIGHT: Riley Hays, a 2017 McNary graduate, hits a ball to left field.

Daniel Johnson as well as rising senior Carl Rumbaugh and junior Tyler Covalt.

The Crushers, who have more than 30 games scheduled between June 12 and July 19, play their home contests on McNary's Vic Backlund Field.

Keizer plays in the six-team Area 3 with squads from Salem, Dallas, Albany, Corvallis and Newport.

After the regular season, the top four teams will play another area in a best of three super regional with the win-

ners advancing to the double elimination state tournament in Klamath Falls at the end of July.

The Crushers opened the season 4-3 after falling at Corvallis 7-0 on Monday, June 19.

Keizer split with the Gerdling Builders on Sunday. After losing the first game 6-3, the Crushers won the second game 2-1 in 12 innings. Geist scored the winning run on an error.

Gilbert got the start on the mound and allowed just six hits and one unearned run

over eight innings. He struck out 11 and walked two.

"The difference in Josiah from a year ago is almost indescribable," Heard said.

"His mentality is entirely different. He's mechanically 10 times better. He's just doing a great job and he deserves all the credit in the world for all of the work that he's put in."

Hays earned the win, allowing just two hits over four shutout innings.

Keizer swept N.W. Stars Academy 8-3 and 8-5 on Sat-

urday.

Geist was 1-for-3 with a triple and two RBIs while Covalt was 2-for-3 and scored a run in the first game. Brycen Schumacher was 1-for-2 with a double and two runs in the second game.

The Crushers are taking a break from league play to host a tournament June 22-25 that includes a team from Perth, Australia.

Pool play games are scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The championship game will be played on Sun-

day at Willamette University.

"We had a lot of meetings before the season that we wanted to change the mentality of the program and to change the way the program has done things in years past," Heard said.

"These kids have bought in and they are working incredibly hard and I'm just really proud of them and I think that we have great potential, as a team and as a program. I feel really, really great about how we're going to represent the community."



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
McNary 2017 graduate Adam Harvey will play basketball at Linn-Benton Community College.

Harvey signs with Linn-Benton

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

When Adam Harvey played one of his best basketball games at McNary High School, he had no idea someone was sitting in the stands who could make his dreams come true.

Harvey had led the Celtics with 16 points, two rebounds, two assists, three blocks and three steals in a 70-62 win at West Albany when Linn-Benton Community College head coach Everett Hartman walked into the locker room.

"I didn't know until after he walked in," Harvey said. "I just happened to have a good game when he was there. He said he was willing to offer a

scholarship."

After considering all options, Harvey, who played with the Keizer Youth Basketball Association beginning in the fifth grade, signed with the Roadrunners in May.

"I'm really excited," Harvey said. "I can't wait to go play and showcase my skills and show everyone what I can do. I've been wanting to play college basketball since the beginning of high school."

Harvey, a two-year starter at McNary, averaged 10.6 points, 3.6 rebounds, two assists and 1.5 steals during his senior season.

He was voted to the All-Greater Valley Conference Second Team.

Harvey said McNary helped prepare him to become a student athlete in college.

"They really got me going with study habits and getting ready for college," Harvey said. "That helped out a lot in order to keep my grades up to play basketball and not fall behind and make sure to prioritize."

On the court, Harvey learned how to read defenses and when to shoot or pass.

Linn-Benton plays a similar style of basketball as McNary.

"From what I've seen, I've watched a couple of games and they like to run and shoot," Harvey said. "That's

their main stuff, get up the court as fast as you can, get in the lane, if not, hit the easy pass and make the 3."

Harvey's favorite memories came in the summer at the University of Oregon Team Camp.

"We just had the whole team up there and we stayed up there for a couple of days," Harvey said. "My favorite part is probably the water balloon fight. Those were great times."

Harvey plans to major in engineering and after two years at Linn-Benton transfer to Oregon State.

"Hopefully I can walk on there or they can pick me up," he said.

Volcanoes lose opening night, start season 1-5

By **HERB SWETT**
Of the Keizertimes

A six-run eighth inning for Tri-City erased a seven-inning Salem-Keizer lead Thursday, June 15 in a home opener that ended with a 10-4 loss to the Dust Devils.

Stetson Woods, the Volcanoes' starting pitcher, threw six shutout innings, striking out five and allowing only three hits and one walk, but the three pitchers who followed him had a rough time.

The first hit of the game was a one-out triple to right field by Kevin Rivera in the first inning, but Emmanuel Ramirez, the Dust Devils' starter, retired the next two batters.

In the Salem-Keizer second, Robinson Medrano led off with a double to right center and went to third base on Manuel Geraldo's sacrifice bunt. Juan Rodriguez scored Medrano with a single to center for the first run of the game.

It was a 1-0 game until the

bottom of the sixth when, with one out, Dylan Manwaring was hit by a pitch and scored on a double to center by Ryan Kirby. Kirby then scored on a wild pitch. Medrano grounded out, and Geraldo singled to left. Austin Smith then replaced Ramirez on the mound. Juan Rodriguez singled to left, and the bases were loaded. Smith retired the next batter, and the inning ended with the Volcanoes ahead 3-0.

Logan Webb relieved Woods to start the seventh. The first batter he faced, Boomer White, struck out but reached first base on a third-strike wild pitch. Bryant Aragon singled to right, sending White to third. After Webb struck out the next batter, Justin Lopez scored White with a sacrifice fly to center. Manwaring, the Volcanoes' catcher, picked Lopez off first with a throw to Kirby. The inning ended with the score 3-1.

Byron Murray led off the Salem-Keizer seventh with



LEFT: Wally Lantz, project manager for Volcanoes Stadium, threw out the ceremonial first pitch as Salem-Keizer opened the season Thursday, June 15. Kevin Rivera had the first hit of the game on a triple to right field.

a double down the left line and went to third on a sacrifice bunt by Malique Ziegler. Smith, however, retired the

next two batters. Luis Pino pitched the eighth for the Volcanoes. After retiring Luis Almanazar, he



gave up a home run over the left field fence to Luis Asuncion. Tre Carter singled to left, Steve Bean hit a broken-

bat single to right, and White doubled Carter home with Bean going to third.

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