

Future plans expected by end of year

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

For just over a year, the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes organization found themselves in limbo, wondering if they would lose their Major League Baseball (MLB) affiliation with the San Francisco Giants.

On Wednesday, Dec. 9, the Volcanoes discovered that they had been officially axed from the Northwest League (NWL), ending their 26-year

“It was unfortunate news to say the least. It was heartbreaking.”

— Mickey Walker,
CEO, Volcanoes

relationship with the Giants and Minor League Baseball (MiLB). The Boise Hawks were the other team that was eliminated from the NWL.

The Volcanoes have been affiliated with the Giants since their inception in 1997 — the organization began in Bellingham in 1994, but was moved to Salem-Keizer in 1997.

Volcanoes CEO Mickey Walker said that the Giants never contacted the Volcanoes about the change. The organization found out via Twitter that the Eugene Emeralds will be the Giants new Single-A affiliate.

“It was unfortunate news to say the least. It was heartbreaking,” Walker said. “We are extremely disappointed that it’s ending.”

Despite the loss of MLB affiliation, Walker promises that there will be baseball at Volcanoes Stadium next season.

“No matter what, we’re going to be playing baseball in 2021,” Walker said. “We are excited for what the future may hold.”

After nearly a week of silence, MLB contacted the Volcanoes organization on Monday to discuss the possibility of a partnership moving forward. Earlier this month, MLB announced

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A RECORD OF SUCCESS

TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS	NO.	PLAYER ACHIEVEMENTS	NO.
NORTHWEST LEAGUE TITLES	5	MLB CY YOUNG AWARDS	2
DIVISION TITLES	7	PLAYERS WHO REACHED MLB	112
WIN & LOSS RECORD	938-808	MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE MVP	1
NAMED BEST MiLB TEAM	2007	MLB WORLD SERIES MVP	1

KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson

The Volcanoes contract with Keizer

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Eight hours and 22 minutes.

That’s how long the members of the Keizer City Council took to approve its first contract with the Bellingham Giants, the team that would become the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes and affiliate of the San Francisco.

The council spent the first hour of the meeting scrutinizing the first two paragraphs of the 38-page contract.

Shortly after 3 a.m. on Oct. 15, 1996, the council voted 6-1 to approve a 29-year contract with owner Jerry Walker.

The only holdout at the time was Councilor Jerry McGee, who disagreed with the \$2.995 million investment it would take on the part of the city.

Then-mayor Dennis Koho, a lifelong baseball fan, had courted both city councilors and residents to support the deal. McGee remained unconvinced.

One of the more contentious aspects of the contract was naming rights. Members of the council in addition to Koho wanted the entire property named “Keizer Stadium.” Walker wanted to be able to sell naming rights that would appear

on top of the sign near Interstate 5. The council was the one to soften its position, but a deal for naming rights never materialized.

Despite the lack of unanimity and hurt feelings over the stadium name, the city sold bonds to pay for extending water and sewer lines to the 30-acre property alongside constructing a parking lot. In return, Keizer got 50 cents for every car parked and 5% of every ticket sold for all events.

Walker footed the bill to construct the \$2.6 million stadium on six acres of the property. The amount translates to roughly \$4.1 million in 2020 dollars.

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Schrader checks in with Chamber

KEIZERTIMES/File

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Three days before the U.S. Congress headed home for the holidays, U. S. Rep. Kurt Schrader was hopeful he and his colleagues would approve a new wave of pandemic relief.

“We got another couple of days and a lot can happen in a couple of days in Washington, D.C.,” Schrader said.

Schrader was the guest of honor at a Zoom meeting held by the Keizer Chamber of Congress Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Schrader voted against a roughly \$3 trillion stimulus package and defended that vote to Keizer Chamber members.

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Pandemic expected to boost parks plan redux

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The coronavirus pandemic will keep people from meeting in-person to provide input on future improvements to Keizer parks, but renewed interest in open spaces might work to the city’s advantage.

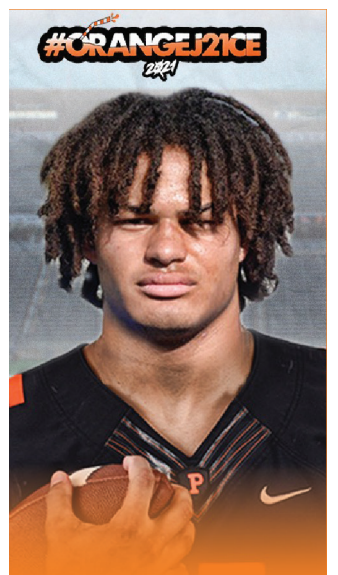
Cindy Mendoza, director of parks and recreation at MIG, a Portland-based firm consulting a revision of Keizer’s parks master plan, said public participation in the firm’s recent parks projects has skyrocketed because

more people have been using public spaces for safe recreation.

“Our responses during the past year have gone above and beyond any we have seen before,” Mendoza said.

The City of Keizer kicked off a revision of the parks master plan with a presentation at the meeting of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Dec. 8. The effort will update a parks master plan created in 2008.

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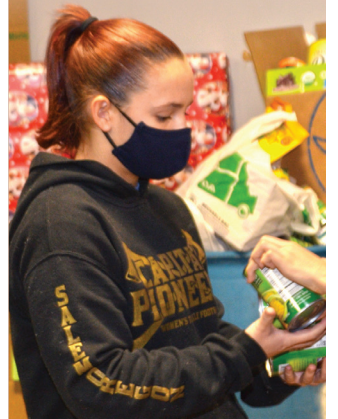
Rios heading to Ivy League
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“Our ability to bring up or even entertain an alternative point of view was completely stifled”

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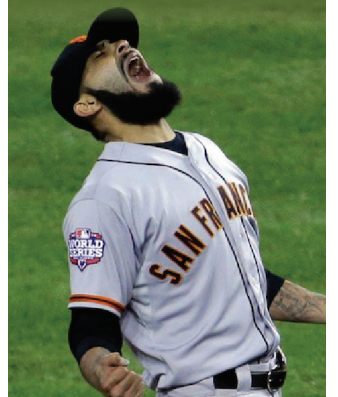
Putting a bow on community’s kindness

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Looking back on Volcanoes Sergio Romo

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With the level of performance you expect from a BMW; intuitive iDrive 6.0; available Driving Assistance Plus package with safety features, such as Active Blind Spot Detection, Lane Keeping Assistance, and Rear Collision Prevention; and BMW’s next-generation xDrive, intelligent all-wheel-drive system; the BMW X3 proves that greatness comes in many forms. No matter what road, what terrain, or what adventure, BMW’s newest-generation Sports Activity Vehicle® is capable of more.

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