

# Keizertimes

**Kindness at Whiteaker**  
SEE PG. A5

*I said thank you to my bus driver*

**Coach Nick's final dance**  
SEE PG. A12



SECTION A

FEBRUARY 6, 2015

50 CENTS

## An awarding night in Keizer

inside

Japanese pioneer gets recognized (Page A2)

A salute to Keizer's finest (Page A6)

MHS boys fall to Saxons (Page A12)

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Former city councilors scored a sweep at the 2014 Keizer Chamber First Citizen Award Banquet last Saturday, Jan. 31 at Keizer Quality Suites.

Former Keizer Mayor and councilor Lore Christopher was named First Citizen; former Keizer City Councilor Joe Egli picked up Merchant of the Year honors; former Salem City Councilor Dan Clem earned the President's Award and former Keizer City Councilor Chuck Lee as well as wife Krina got the Service

to Education Award.

Clem was the first to receive his award, after being chosen by Keizer Chamber of Commerce president Audrey Butler. Clem joined the Keizer chamber last June and is in charge of the Government Affairs Committee. He recently retired from the Salem City Council.

"I'm shocked," said Clem, who took some good-natured ribbing from event emcee Nathan Bauer and others for not being dressed up. "Keizer is such a wonderful place because of the people. I'm deeply humbled and honored."

Ron Hittner, the 2013 Service to Education recipient, introduced the Lees.

"Chuck's decisions always came down to what's best for the kids," Hittner said.

Chuck, the former president of Blanchet Catholic School and current member of the Salem-Keizer School Board, is currently president of the Mountain West Career and Technical Institute. Krina is executive director of the Salem Keizer Education Foundation.

"This is an incredible award to receive," Chuck said. "I love Keizer and I love representing Keizer on the school board. I tried for years to make it the Keizer-Salem School District. We've got a great community."

Egli received his award from 2013 Merchant of the Year Rob Miller.

"The thing is to get people around you who are better than you," Egli said. "I started coming to Keizer in 1976, when my dad would come down to Fortune Cookie."

When it came time to introduce this year's First Citizen, 2013 recipient John Doneth had all former recipients in the room come to the front to be recognized. The 12 in attendance stayed up front as Doneth announced Christopher as the newest member of the club, giving her the chance to greet each person.

"This is really a lifetime achievement award," Doneth said.

Please see AWARDS, Page A11



Former Keizer City Councilor Joe Egli (far left) celebrates winning the Merchant of the Year award while former mayor Lore Christopher (left) accepts the First Citizen Award during the Keizer Chamber First Citizen Award Banquet Jan. 31 at Keizer Quality Suites. For more photos, see page A7.

KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

## Big Toy public relations machine is ramping up

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Just four months before construction, expect to see public relations crank up for the Big Toy project at Keizer Rapids Park.

During Tuesday's monthly Community Build Task Force meeting, held 126 days before the scheduled June 10 construction start date, plans for renewed publicity were discussed.

Evan Christopher, the son of former mayor Lore Christopher, announced he is taking over as public relations lead on the project from Brandon Smith and will be assisted by Tanya Hamilton.



E. Christopher

"Tanya and I met with Mark (Caillier)," Christopher said, referring to the project general coordinator. "Tanya is comfortable with me taking the publicity leadership role I had before Brandon took it over. The first thing we want to do is reach out to the Keizertimes. I have looked at Facebook. I don't love social media, but I am familiar with it. I have some ideas but I need information, such as about fundraising. I want some ideas so I can make posts about it,

who's donated and how much is still needed. Public relations needs to have someone actively working on it."

Task force chair Marlene Quinn agreed and noted how fellow councilor Smith has several other pressing issues on his plate right now.

"We need someone active on this," Quinn said. "I'm glad you and Tanya are taking this on."

Christopher said goals were laid out in his meeting last week with Hamilton and Caillier, which included meeting with Keizertimes publisher Lyndon Zaitz this week.

Please see BIG TOY, Page A10

## Pit bull kills small dog in the McNary Estates

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

An aggressive pit bull got away last Saturday, Jan. 31 after attacking a small dog and three humans in the McNary Estates area.

The small dog had to be put down the next day.

Steven Streaan said he was just returning to his home on

McNary Estates Drive in the early afternoon when he spotted neighbor Cheryl Harper jumping up and and down, waving her arms and asking for assistance since neighbor Marcie Lim and her small Maltese dog were being attacked by a black pit bull with white markings on the nose and chest.

"I drove down there and jumped out," Streaan said on Monday. "The dog had just, for a third time, yanked the (small) dog out of the lady's arms. It just grabbed the dog and proceeded to go back in between two houses to finish the job."

Please see DOG, Page A10

## Crash kills Keizer mom

A Keizer woman was killed while riding in a pickup that crashed last week in Mt. Angel.

At about 6 p.m. on Jan. 26, a Mt. Angel police officer attempted to stop a 2001 Chevrolet S-10 pickup. The driver, later identified as 17-year-old Drake Alan Douglas Carson of Salem, didn't yield and led police on a chase.

The vehicle crashed a short time later and Carson fled the scene.

There were two passengers found in the vehicle. The rear seat passenger, 35-year-old Rhiannon L. Steele of Keizer, was pronounced deceased at the scene. She was Carson's mother, according to the Oregon State Police (OSP).

The front seat passenger, an unidentified juvenile male,

was transported to a hospital in Salem with serious injuries. There was no update on his condition as of Wednesday morning.



Submitted This Jan. 26 crash in Mt. Angel claimed the life of Keizer's Rhiannon L. Steele, 35.

OSP responded to the accident, with assistance from the Marion County Sheriff's Office and police departments from Woodburn, Keizer, Silverton and Mt. Angel. Also

assisting were personnel from the Marion County District Attorney's Office and Marion County Public Works.

OSP found Carson the next day and took him into custody.

On Jan. 30, Carson was arraigned on charges of manslaughter in the first degree, assault in the second degree and fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. His bail was set at \$110,000.

Carson was charged by the Marion County District Attorney's Office with crimes under Ballot Measure 11, meaning he will be prosecuted as an adult in criminal court. He will stay in the juvenile department detention facility for the pendency of the case and will next appear in court on Feb. 12.

## Battle for supremacy



McNary's Harry Cavell drives to the hoop the Celts' game with South Saxon High School Tuesday, Feb. 3. The Celts came up short in their bid to stand alone atop the Greater Valley Conference. The Saxons won 71-62 and are now tied with McNary for first in the league.

KEIZERTIMES/ Eric A. Howald

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