

Keizertimes

SECTION A

MARCH 27, 2015

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Bicyclist recovering after hit



Courtesy John Henry Maurice
Keizer's John Henry Maurice, shown riding his bike in a photo from his Facebook page, is recovering after being hit by a truck earlier this month.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer's John Henry Maurice had plans to compete in some bicycle competitions this summer.

Those plans appear to be on hold for now, as the main emphasis for the 59-year-old is recovery.

As a result, longtime friend Carolyn Homan could be making changes to her usual Friday plans.

Maurice was riding his 30-speed road bike near Antelope in Central Oregon on the evening of March 14 when he was struck by a drunk driver.

According to a report from the Oregon State Police, 56-year-old Melissa Brooke Herz was driving a 2007 Toyota Tundra and pulling a trailer westbound on Highway 218 in Wasco County when the right side of her pickup hit Maurice.

Herz left the scene and later stopped on Highway 97. A trooper noticed a mirror was broken off and later saw a mirror at the crash scene. Herz was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, failure to perform the duties of a driver, reckless driving and second-degree assault.

Maurice, meanwhile, was taken to St. Charles Madras and later flown to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. His wife, Joanne Heilinger, has traveled to Bend to be with him three times since the accident, mostly around her work schedule at the

Salem Kroc Center.

Heilinger said the injuries have included four broken ribs on the left side, several breaks in his lower left leg, a broken left scapula (shoulder blade), a cut on the left side of his temple and a concussion. Maurice had an initial surgery to stabilize the left leg and now has a cast on it.

"He's recovering as well as can be expected," Heilinger said on Tuesday. "He's still in the hospital. He's getting around on a wheelchair. His spirits are good. Part of what's taking more time than we thought is to get him situated over here."

In particular, Heilinger is looking for a place her husband can do rehab around here.

"We're working on getting him a bed in a rehab place in Salem or Keizer," Heilinger said. "Maybe he will transfer tomorrow."

Maurice is a longtime employee at Portland Community College, where he attended school.

Heilinger has been logging plenty of miles to visit her husband.

"It's been pretty hectic," she said. "I made three trips to Bend in a week's time. I would come home, turn around and return again."

Heilinger has been amazed by the outpouring of love and support.

"I've felt very supported by the friends and cyclist friends," she said. "One neighbor

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Cowan talks of levy, election at GGNA meeting

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Things have been a bit busy lately at the Keizer Fire District.

Fire chief Jeff Cowan gave a brief report on his department's activity and future plans during the March 19 Greater Gubser Neighborhood Association meeting.

For example, Cowan told of how the KFD has used funding from the five-year tax levy approved in November 2013 by voters. The KFD has hired four additional firefighters and medics thanks to the levy's tax rate of \$.59 per \$1,000 in assessed value, which means there is a full second shift.

That extra personnel has been helpful, especially lately.

Call volume increased 3 percent last year and has continued to climb.

"Some days in January and February we had 24 calls for service in 24 hours," Cowan said. "Our calls have been up 8 percent in the first quarter this

year. The 24 calls in 24 hours has already happened a couple of times. Normally we get 12 calls a day."



Cowan

Medics and firefighters bring both fire engines and ambulances to calls, which means there is enough personnel to help with carrying patients and any necessary gear.

It also means an engine can quickly respond to another call at a moment's notice, which was seen when there were 24 calls in a day.

"That day, the engine never went back to the station," Cowan said.

Cowan also spent time talking about two upcoming elections: the fire board in May and a proposed bond levy for the fall.

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Spring is a new start...



Courtesy Mark Caillier

A Claggett Creek Watershed Council project to plant 16 alder trees at Keizer Rapids Park was completed on March 20.

Above, Randy Miller uses a backhoe to place a tree. Left, the project after planting.

Riding with KPD's Officer Anderson



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Officer Carrie Anderson, a 20-year veteran with the Keizer Police Department, took the Keizertimes on a ride-along earlier this month.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

So what's it like being a cop in Keizer these days?

Carrie Anderson, a 20-year veteran at the Keizer Police Department, can tell you no two days are alike.

Last week the Keizertimes took an in-depth look at changes within the KPD, especially in regards to a shift towards problem-oriented policing, or POP.

As part of finding out how that changes has impacted the daily work done by patrol officers, the Keizertimes went for a ride-along with Anderson, currently the only female in uniform at the KPD.

Having moved to Keizer when she was less than 1 year old, Anderson has a deep connection with the city. Her parents, married for more than 50 years, still live in the same house in Keizer on Chehalis

Court where they moved to more than 40 years ago.

Anderson went to McNary High School and later Western Oregon State College (now Western Oregon University). While in school, Anderson became a reserve officer at the KPD. She was hired part-time by former police chief Chuck Stull while still in school. Once she graduated, Anderson was hired on full-time.

"This is my 20th year here," Anderson said with a chuckle. "I'm not sure how it happened."

For Anderson, being in patrol suits her perfectly.

"I prefer patrol," she said. "A desk job is not something I'd like to do. Out here, I can do my own thing. I can talk to people. I would pull my hair out if I worked a desk job. It's a different day out here every

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Former coach tends to cancer patients
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Keizer kid proud to own belt
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Alluring angling
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Celts 2-3 on diamond
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