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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Fernando Pujadas narrowly misses an out at home plate in the Volcanoes' game with Boise Wednesday, July 15.

Errors cost Volcanoes several games

By **HERB SWETT**
For the Keizertimes

Salem-Keizer has had an inconsistent record lately, hitting well and usually pitching well but giving away runs with holes in infield gloves.

July 15: Volcanoes 5, Boise 4

Ronnie Jebavy's walk-off home run gave Salem-Keizer its sixth win in a row to start the home series with the Hawks.

Boise scored first with two runs in the second inning, but the Volcanoes tied the score in the bottom of the second and added a run each in the third and the fifth. After Boise tied the score with two in the eighth, Jebavy led off the bottom of the ninth with his homer.

The Volcanoes had another home run, also leading off an inning, by Chris Shaw in the fifth. Boise had one homer, a two-run shot by Carlos Herrera in the eighth.

Logan Webb was Salem-Keizer's starting pitcher, giving up two runs, both unearned, in his five innings. Cory Taylor was the winning pitcher, with Christian Quintin the loser in relief.

July 16: Boise 11, Volcanoes 8

Four errors cost the Volcanoes their second win of the series.

Of the Hawks' 11 runs, only six were earned. Boise out-hit Salem-Keizer 14-11, but the Volcanoes made their hits count enough to win were it not for those errors.

Each club scored four times in the first inning, but Boise added two runs each in the second, third and fourth and one in the fifth before the Volcano offense came back with a run in the fifth and three in the sixth.

There was only one home run, by the Hawks' Hamlet Marte in the fifth. CJ Hinojosa's three hits and Chris Shaw's three runs batted in led the Volcanoes.

Dylan Thompson was the winning pitcher in relief, with Taylor Black getting a save. Starter Nolan Riggs took the loss.

July 17: Boise 9, Volcanoes 5

The Volcanoes' error problem continued and was a factor in the Hawks' taking the rubber game of the series.

Boise scored the first run of the game in the second inning. Salem-Keizer tied the score in the bottom of the second with a solo home run by Jose Vizcaino Jr. The Volcanoes added a run in each of the next two innings for a 3-1 lead. The Hawks tied the score in the fifth.

It was still tied, this time at 5-5, after nine innings. In the Boise 10th, a hit batter, a force attempt that involved an error, three singles, a stolen base and walk resulted in four runs. The Volcanoes got only one man on base, on a walk, in the 10th.

Each club had 12 hits, but Salem-Keizer made three errors to one for Boise. Vizcaino was the Volcanoes' offensive leader, with a single and a steal in addition to his home run. The Hawks had three homers, two by Scott Burcham and one by Kevin Padlo.

Cristian Quintin was the winning pitcher and EJ Encinosa the loser.

July 19: Tri-City 5, Volcanoes 4

Three errors and wild pitching evened the first two of the five-game series in Pasco.

After Tri-City scored one run each in the third and fourth innings, Salem-Keizer tied the score in the fifth and went ahead by two runs in the seventh. In the bottom of the ninth, things fell apart.

Nick Vilter went from the batter's box to second base on an error by Miguel Gomez at third. Kodie Tidwell singled Vilter home and went to second as pitcher Caleb Smith balked.

Please see ERRORS, Page 10

SA's Crager signs with Pioneers

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer teen Alyx Crager's signing to play basketball with Lewis & Clark College is a testament to her perseverance.

"I was really into basketball in the beginning of my high school career and then we had a couple of new coaches that made it harder to continue than it otherwise might have been, but finding such a good coach at Lewis & Clark, at such a good school, has really made it worth it," said Crager.

Crager's new coach, Asha Jordan, is also new to the school, but she's equally excited to have Crager as a part of her incoming roster.

"Alyx's name came across my desk one day and, after doing some initial research, I knew I needed to at least see film on her. After watching the film, there was no doubt that I needed to get out and see her live. That decision to go see her live was one of the best decisions I made this past year," Jordan said.

Crager is a Salem Academy alumna with a more-than-illustrious high school career in the rearview. As both a junior and senior she was named Player of the Year in the 3A PacWest Conference. As a senior, she averaged 20.5 points, three assists, 2.5 rebounds and 2.6 steals per game. In the classroom, she finished with a 3.82 GPA.

Lewis & Clark's women's basketball team endured a rough-and-tumble season last winter, but experience combined with fresh blood has Crager excited for the immediate future of the team.

"What stuck out to me was that Coach Asha really connected as a friend rather than a coach. I thought she had good plans for her team and for me," Crager said. "They were a young team last year and didn't have a whole lot of experience. We're hoping that



Submitted
Keizer teen and Salem Academy alumna Alyx Crager is headed to Lewis & Clark College to play basketball.

this year we have a chance of starting the program off big."

Jordan said priority No. 1 is helping the new faces make the transition to college and college basketball, but that Crager has all the tools in her toolbox to make the big impact she's hoping for.

"Alyx has good size, strength and she's aggressive, so it will be exciting to watch her harness those qualities against bigger, smarter defenders and playing at a much quicker pace," Jordan said. "The things that I love about her go beyond the numbers. She's a fierce competitor who undoubtedly loves the game. She loves learning and getting better at her craft, but she's

also a great teammate. She led a very young team with a new coach this past year to the state finals and that leadership certainly impressed me."

Crager laid much of the credit for her prowess on the court at the feet of her father, Rick, who has coached her through basketball and softball since she was young.

"I would be absolutely nowhere without my dad and he has helped me persevere through a ton of different things. He's been my coach on and off the court," Crager said.

Crager plans to study psychology at Lewis & Clark with the goal of becoming a social worker.

Local bowler to State Games of America

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

A Keizer teen with an already long list of accomplishments in bowling will be seeking another notch in his belt at the State Games of America next weekend.

On Saturday, July 25, Nick Blythe is holding a car wash at Town & Country Lanes in Keizer to help pay to the trip. Car wash hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Blythe qualified for the State Games of America in the Oregon State Games almost two years ago and is finally getting the chance to go.

"It's always kind of been there in the back of my mind. It's exciting to get to go and compete against the best in the country," said Blythe, 16.

Blythe won the silver medal two years ago and recently took the bronze medal in the State Games of Oregon, which qualifies him to compete at the national event in another two years.

A teammate of Blythe's on the McNary High School bowling team, Scott Bridger, brought back the gold medal at the national event the last time



Nick Blythe

it was held.

Blythe's road to this point in his budding career began with his first 300 game at the age of 13. He's bowled four more since then, but only two were during sanctioned league play. His goal is to join the Pro Bowlers Association tour.

To that end, he's been taking part in a PBA amateur league at Firebird Lanes every Wednesday.

"Basically, they oil the lanes in different patterns every week and you have to bowl a 300 game and have at least a 200 average before you qualify for the PBA," he said.

Blythe's average in that league is already 160 and his high game is in the 230s.

Statebound



The KYSA 12U Junior Federal baseball team was crowned JBO Valley League District Champions during a tournament July 18 and 19.

As the third seed for the regular season, the Keizer Celts dropped game one to Lebanon, but regrouped to win four straight elimination games against Central, Leba-

non and the final two against the first-seed West Albany Bulldogs to win the title.

Strong pitching, solid defense and hot bats help the team bring home the title. During the tournament home runs by Ian Martin, Mekhi China and Erik Sorenson kickstarted a team offense that scored 34 runs in the final two games.

The Keizer Celts are now one of eight teams with berths in the JBO State Championships July 23-26 in Sherwood.

Back Row: Ethan Martin, Griffen Hubbard, Brady Jackson, Erik Sorenson, Hayden Kaiser, Mekhi China. Front Row: Nico Pardo, Dante Olivo, Ian Martin, Quinn Bach, Zane Aicher.