

KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Volcanoes Stadium hosts Santa

The Volcanoes and Keizer Station will host Santa Claus Saturday, Nov. 28, at noon.

The Man in Red will arrive via helicopter at noon and will meet all the good boys and girls in attendance between noon and 3 p.m. inside the Volcanoes team store.

Parking and admission are free. E-photos are also free and

Santa will have a treat for all in attendance.

Arrive early for a good spot near the front of the line.

A collection of World Series rings will also be on display during the event. The 2010, 2012, and 2014 San Francisco Giants' official World Series rings will be on display from noon to 2 p.m.

Mural meeting Dec. 2

The Keizer Community Mural public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. The meeting takes place in the Iris B room at Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road NE.

If you live or work in Keizer or are a Keizer Arts Association member, you are asked to attend this meeting if you are interested in helping to create the mural on the north wall of Town & Country Lanes on River Road.

During the meeting, an overview and theme of the proposed mural will be presented. Anyone wanting to help with any facet of the mural is asked to do so.

Topics discussed during the meeting will be creating an image, transferring the image through various methods, color and applications. Project progression and timelines will be presented.

Artists of all ages and abilities are welcome to attend.

Gubser turns on Dec. 4

The Keizer Miracle of Christmas Lights Display will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4.

Cars will be roaming the neighborhood from 6 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 26. The route is about 3.5 miles long, and can take several hours to complete on busy weekends. Sno Cop barricades will lead drivers through the neighborhood.

The tradition, which raises money and food for the Marion-Polk Food Share, draws eyes from around the region. It's expected that nearly 20,000 vehicles will pass through the neighborhood.

There's no admission fee, but the event is a fundraiser for hungry families in the mid-Willamette Valley, and donations are always welcome.

Cans and non-perishable food donations along with cash are welcomed. A donation site will be set up on Mistwood Drive NE.

Organizers remind attendees that there are no public restrooms available, and visitors should keep their headlights on at all times while driving through. It is a residential neighborhood, so please be aware and courteous to pedestrians and residents trying to get in and out of driveways.

The display is also walkable, with sidewalks throughout the Gubser neighborhood. If you choose to walk it, please park at either Whiteaker Middle School, 1605 Lockhaven Drive NE, or at Gubser Elementary School, 6610 14th Avenue NE.

Aliens, vampires and faith

Keizer author takes on big questions in science fiction

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Keizerite Kathleen Whittam got her start telling stories on her father's lap.

"Every night I would sit on my dad's lap and we'd make up these ridiculous stories with cowboys. I would be the hero and he would be the bad guy, and that probably kicked in my creativity," said Whittam.

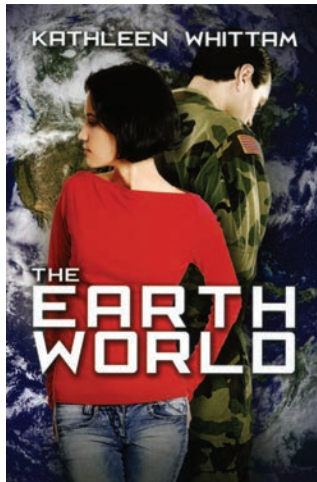
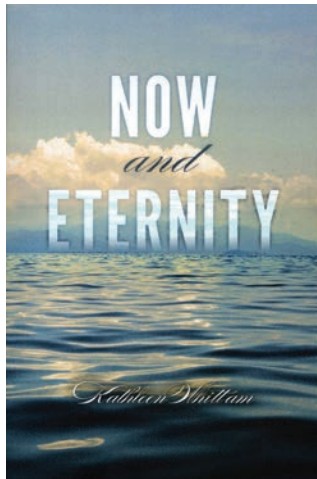
Flash forward a few decades and Whittam is now on the cusp of releasing her third book, the second in a planned trilogy that got its start in September with the release of *The Earth World*.

The story is the tale of Rose Flowers who has been selected by an invading alien race to help repopulate their home planet. Rose struggles to bridge the disconnect between her own hopes and desires and the needs of her would-be captors.

"It's kind of about where we draw the line at forcing people into situations when it serves the ultimate good. I like looking at those situations and seeing where it leads," Whittam said. "Rose questions a lot about the right and the wrong of her situation, and there are some answers she can't disagree with even though they are hard to accept."

Whittam retired from an 18-year career as a realtor before ever sitting down to wrestle with those types of big questions on the page.

"When I started this, it was the result of a conversation with my ex-broker. He sat me down and we started talking



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Retired realtor Kathleen Whittam has released two books in the past two years and is on the precipice of sending her third out into the world.

to my about life after retirement and he encouraged me to write. It was almost like someone needed to give me permission. I hadn't seriously considered it until I had that conversation," Whittam said.

Her first novel, released in fall 2014, is titled *Now and Eternity*. It also tackles a big question.

"I wanted to look at how far someone can go before they can't be forgiven," she said.

Now and Eternity tells the story of Kara and her love for two men: a vampire, Nate, and Fred, a mortal. The book examines issues of what family means and what purpose it generates, even for the undead.

Whittam publishes her work using Amazon's CreateSpace, a suite of self-publishing tools and services. She knew from the outset that the publishers of Christian books likely wouldn't touch her work because of the sexuality and mayhem they encompass, but her faith is a large presence in her work.

"With science fiction,

there is something about bringing up questions concerning what reality is. Faith tackles those same questions," Whittam said.

For a fee, CreateSpace offers her access to editors and cover designers that she would otherwise have to come up with on her own.

"You pay for everything you do, but you work with a team and they come up with cover option and layout options," she said. "It's a little overwhelming at first, but it's not so bad once you're into it."

She made use of editorial services for the newest book and feedback from an editor has given her a lot of fodder as she's worked on the final book in the trilogy.

"I realized in the third book that there has been no mention of one of the main characters, so I went back and added a whole section that to the second book that included him," she said.

Writing has opened up

new doors into her own views on the world, usually in the best ways.

She said, "One of the things that I really started believing as a result of writing is that none of us are perfect people and, even though we have imperfections, so does everybody else. We can't dwell on our imperfections nor judge somebody else."

These days, Whittam tries to spend about two hours a day on her writing, but she's gone as long as six or eight hours in marathon sessions.

"Another thing writing has helped me with is in realizing I don't have to have the answers immediately. I can play with different concepts or ideas in all sorts of ways in writing and in life, and find the ones that suit me," she said.

In a way, it's like going back to those days in her dad's lap playing pretend.

Whittam's books are available in e-book and dead-tree editions at amazon.com.

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750 Commercial St. NE (Former Honda of Salem lot)
Formerly Martha Louise's Trees 503-856-9177

WorshipDirectory

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Call to list your church in our Worship Directory: (503) 390-1051

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:30 am • 10 am • 11:30 am • 6 pm

PEOPLESCHURCH

4500 LANCASTER DR NE | SALEM
503.304.4000 • www.peopleschurch.com

SAINT EDWARD Catholic Church
393-5323

5303 River Rd. N., Keizer

Father Gary L. Zerr, Pastor
Saturday Vigil Liturgy: 5:30 p.m.
Sundays: 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
La Misa en Español: 12:30 p.m.

John Knox Presbyterian Church
452 Cummings Lane North • 393-0404

Rev. Dr. John Neal, Pastor
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Education Hour - 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Care Available
www.keizerjkpres.org

Faith Lutheran Church
4505 River Rd N • 393-4507

Sunday Schedule:
9:00 a.m. Children's Church
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Children's Activities
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

Pastor Virginia Eggert

dayspring fellowship

Children's Programs, Student and Adult Ministries

1755 Lockhaven Dr. NE Keizer
503-390-3900
www.dayspringfellowship.com

Celebration Services
Saturday Evening 6:00 pm
Sunday Morning 9:00 am and 10:45 am

Keizer Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

6945 Wheatland Rd. NE 393-6843
Pastor Bob Arnold

3 and 4 year Old Pre-School
Worship and Children's Church • 10:00 a.m.
Office Hours 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

Jason Lee UMC
820 Jefferson St. NE
Salem OR 97301

Dr. Jon F. Langenwaller, Pastor
The church with the purple doors

503-364-2844
Worship at 9:30 am • Child Care Available

Countryside Christian Church
countrysidechristianchurch.org

Corner of Lockhaven and McLeod, KEIZER • (503) 540-1989

9:00 am & 10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Classes for all ages