

the deuce

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Saturday,
January 9th,
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MOVIE: THE PEANUTS
Movie [PG]

Sensory Sensitive Show ONLY \$3

Special showing for kids and adults with Autism or other sensory sensitivities.

Lights, Comedy, Laughs! Saturday, Jan 16th

CHRIS SIMPSON & TRAVIS NELSON
will perform at 7pm and 9pm. Admission is only \$10. Ages 21 & over only. Reserved seating for this show. Purchase tickets at box office or on our website.

2015, continued from Page A1

One problem: the funding was being sought through a business payroll tax. The Salem and Keizer Chambers of Commerce joined forces in actively fighting against the tax, with businesspeople holding signs during busy traffic times and TV commercials being produced.

Freshman Keizer City Councilor Amy Ryan was one of the most vocal opponents and made a big scene at a work session when transit officials tried to explain the financial aspects of future plans.

In the end, the transit measure failed. District officials have indicated it could be several years before another ballot measure is brought forward.

A Keizer Fire District proposal for a new equipment bond, on the other hand, created far less controversy and was approved. Equipment will be purchased over the next 20 years, starting with an ambulance to replace one purchased in 2008 that fire chief Jeff Cowan has referred to as a lemon.

Chamber director stepping down

Christine Dieker, the long-time executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, submitted her resignation in early December. Dieker has been in charge of the chamber since March 1998, aside from a few turbulent months when she was removed in 2003.

Dieker did not say she's retiring, instead calling it "semi-retiring" and looking forward to spending more time with family, in particular her grandchildren.

Dieker said she'll stay on board until a new director is named, with the hope being such a person could be named on Feb. 3.

"Right now my family comes first," she told the *Keizertimes* in December. "I want to be a grandma and volunteer at the first grade class my grandchild will be in. (Resigning) was about a desire to be more focused, to give attention to myself to be a better person health wise, and I'll be better for my family too."

Big Toy built, highlights changes at KRP

There were plenty of obstacles to overcome, not the least of which were the nine month delay, a location change and a lack of volunteers. Even the build itself took a week longer

looking back in the KT

5 YEARS AGO

Pressed to change votes, McKane resigns
Councilor David McKane resigned Monday night, citing pressure to change votes on key issues, including a telecom fee, and "recognition that I have little influence regarding council decisions" according to the *Keizertimes*. McKane provided an e-mail between himself and Mayor Lore Christopher.

10 YEARS AGO

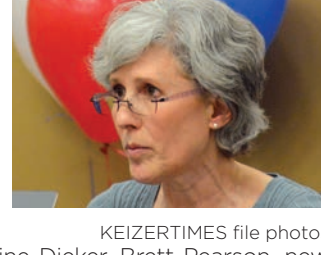
Family escapes uninjured after early morning fire
A family is safe but staying with relatives after an early morning blaze destroyed the attic and parts of the living room in their Keizer home. Keizer Fire District said it appeared that a wood fire in the home's fireplace caused rafters in the attic - which were built too close to the chimney - to overheat and ignite. The family was forced to seek shelter during the holidays in their parents' home across the street.

15 YEARS AGO

Keizer District charts course
Keizer Little League could be asked to move from its Ridge Drive complex under the terms of a new management agreement, if approved by the Keizer City Council.

20 YEARS AGO

Criminals busy in Keizer in '95
According to crime statistics provided by the Oregon State Police's Law Enforcement Data System, 1995 was a record year for crime in Keizer.



Clockwise from top left: Christine Dieker, Brett Pearson, new mayor Cathy Clark and the Big Toy were top stories in 2015.

than expected.

But in the end the key thing was the Big Toy play structure was built in June at Keizer Rapids Park, with community volunteers coming out each day to get the job done.

The large play structure was originally going to be built in September 2014, but former mayor Lore Christopher insisted a new location was needed. Her wish was granted, but the move required an update to the park's master plan and borders, a process that took many months and cooperation from surrounding governmental entities.

While that work resulted in the play structure, it also laid out more specific future plans for the park, to include playing fields and an indoor sports facility down the road.

The Big Toy wasn't the only visible change at KRP in 2015. Hans Schneider oversaw the installation of three new sand volleyball courts, while Jerry Nuttbrock was in charge of a new patio project at the amphitheatre. That project has several more phases to go, while a group is meeting to discuss what should be done with the adjacent Charge house.

MHS gets turf field

While work was going on at KRP, plenty of work was also being done at McNary High School as a new turf field project was installed over the summer.

The new field was officially dedicated during the annual Blue Day celebration in August and marked the next-to-last high school in the Salem-Keizer School District to get a turf field. The project cost about \$1 million.

A key selling point of the turf was increased usage of Flesher Field. It was estimated turf would mean the field could be used 10 times as much compared to the old grass surface.

Much of the project work involved raising funds. The ac-

tual physical work began with taking off the grass surface in June, followed by installation of the turf.

Brett Pearson, friend plead guilty

Brett Pearson pleaded guilty in March to the murder of his mother Michelle and attempted murder of his father Bill at the family home. In September, Brett and accomplice Robert Miller III were each sentenced to 40 years to life in prison for their actions. The charges mean the two teenagers won't be eligible for parole until after 40 years behind bars.

Brett Pearson and Miller both acknowledged being high on drugs when they entered the Pearson family home on March 5, 2014. During Brett's sentencing, family members expressed anger about the impact of the events, while also expressing compassion and forgiveness.

For his part, Brett Pearson accepted responsibility.

"I am sorry for everything that happened, the pain I caused, what I put people through," he said. "My family has to live with something they shouldn't have to. I was intoxicated, yes, but that's no excuse at all. I take responsibility for what I've done. I'm not the person this crime makes me seem to be. I love my mom and miss her very much."

New mayor; new councilors as well

It was a case of mostly old faces in new places in January as the Keizer City Council got a new look. Cathy Clark moved from being a councilor to taking over as mayor from Christopher, who had served in that role for 14 years.

Former councilor Brandon Smith returned to the dais, while former longtime city employee Roland Herrera joined the council for the first time. Ryan joined the council as well, after years of volunteering in various capacities.

public hearings

The **Keizer City Council** will hold a public hearing on Monday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. to consider amendment to the master plans for Keizer Rapids Park and Chalmers Jones Park. The hearing will take place in council chambers at Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa

Road NE.

The **Keizer Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. to consider proposed revisions to day care standards in various sections of city code. The hearing will take place in council chambers.

sudoku

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

	1	2		3	4
		5	3		6
2	7	5		8	
		4	6		3
9			4	1	
	4		1	7	8
	2		8	5	
8	3		9	1	

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Web Poll Results

Have you ever permanently kept a New Year's resolution?

61% - No
39% - Yes

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!
GO TO KEIZERTIMES.COM

Christopher is no longer mayor, but is chairing the Keizer Public Arts Commission, which is working on a public mural to be done at Town & Country Lanes this year. Joe Egli and Jim Taylor left elected office, though Taylor was recently appointed to the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Egli served as chair of the Keizer Iris Festival for two years, a position he has handed over to Dave Walery.

Heated races for fire board, more

There was plenty of interest in the spring as several seats for the Keizer Fire District, Salem-Keizer School Board and Salem-Keizer Transit District were contested.

Chet Patterson defeated Marion County Fire District No. 1 employee James Mulhern for a spot on the KFD board of directors. In the other KFD race, Betty Hart beat Taylor for the position.

In the school board race, Chuck Lee won his third term by easily beating challenger Tim Moles, who had earlier come clean after previous legal issues.

Meanwhile, Colleen Busch defeated Richard Stevenson in the battle to replace Brad Coy on the transit board. Coy has since moved back to Alaska.

Keizer teen recovers from coma

MHS junior Austin Verboort, 16, was critically injured when he was in an accident just after leaving the school for the Memorial Day weekend. He lay in a coma for several weeks but was home by the end of summer.

While Verboort was in the hospital, the community rallied around the family. For example, on June 3 the Keizer Dutch Bros. Coffee had a one-day fundraiser and brought in \$20,900. A [gofundme.com](#) account raised nearly \$25,000.

Though slowed by injuries, Verboort returned to school in the fall and was even elected to the MHS Homecoming court.



Fri 1/1 41/25
Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the mid 20s.

Sat 1/2 41/25
Sunshine. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the mid 20s.

Sun 1/3 39/25
Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the mid 20s.

Mon 1/4 39/29
Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the upper 20s.

Tue 1/5 41/29
More clouds than sun. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 20s.

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