

# Churches send group to Mexico

A total of 19 adults and youth from three local churches recently served a church and neighborhood in Mexicali, Mexico for a week.

The trip was sponsored by Lakepoint Community Church, which meets at the Keizer Civic Center on Sundays.

The caravan consisted of three vans and a pick-up pulling a trailer filled with supplies.

Kevin Hohnbaum and Jane Mulholland have led the team for the past 15 years, working with the same pastor in Mexicali the whole time. The team has helped plant and build a new church and community center in a poverty stricken neighborhood, repaired and painted the park and painted over the gang graffiti, attempting to reclaim the park for the neighbors.

This year's work projects included painting, remodeling of the childrens area and construction of a stage at the host church Agua Viva (Living Water) and painting and cleaning a foster home for children whose parents are in rehab. The children in the foster home practiced their English on the mission team and presented team members a thank you note.

The Keizer part of the team was joined in Mexico

by anywhere between 15 and 30 Mexican team members for the work projects, Vacation Bible School activities, meals, worship and social times.

Afternoons were spent doing craft activities, face painting, balloon animals, puppet shows, skits, songs and playing soccer in a community park. The first day there were around 120 kids and adults participating in the activities. By the third and final day the crowd grew to more than 220. The team also gave away nearly 300 Spanish Bibles.

The first year the team served Valle de Puebla, the park was filled with garbage and covered with graffiti. Every year the team has cleaned the park and painted over the gang graffiti, attempting to reclaim the park for the neighbors.

The last full day in Mexico was the team's traditional play day. The Mexican and U.S. team members loaded into vehicles for a two-and-a-half hour drive to San Felipe, a small tourist town.

After leaving, team members shared how they went on the trip with the intent to make a difference in Mexico and discovered the biggest changes they experienced were the changes in themselves.



A look at some of the Lakepoint Community Church team's recent annual trip to Mexicali, Mexico.

Photos courtesy Kevin Hohnbaum

## 2017 Iris art



KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon A. Zaitz  
Salem artist Marren Garland's *Full Eclipse of the Heart* was chosen as the official artwork for the 2017 Keizer Iris Festival. It will hang at the Enid Joy Mount Gallery throughout May. The theme of next year's festival is "Total Eclipse," in tribute to the Aug. 21, 2017 eclipse that will be visible in Keizer.

## obituaries

Submit an obituary through our website at keizertimes.com or send an email to: editor@keizertimes.com

### Jerome D. "Jerry" Darras

Sept. 19, 1936 – April 30, 2016

Jerry Darras, 79, passed unexpectedly from an infection at Salem Hospital on April 30. Born Sept. 19, 1936 in Noonan, North Dakota to Louis and Malvina Darras, Jerry went into the U.S. Army with his cousin Dale, stationed at Fort Sill, Okla.

Jerry later moved with his family to Salem where he met and married Doreen Handley on Sept. 27, 1958. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2008 and raised their family on a small farm in northeast Salem, keeping chickens and cows for fresh eggs, milk and beef. In 1974 Jerry bought and operated Frank's Power Ditching.

He was a Blazer fan and enjoyed his children's and grandchildren's sports. He was an avid reader, enjoying westerns and mystery novels and loved music, especially Neil Dia-

mond and Roy Clark.

His wife preceded him in death in 2009 and son Jerome "Joe" Darras Jr. died in 1991. Jerry is survived by

his sister Betty Melby of North Dakota, brother Jack (Carol) Darras of Yakima, Wash. and three children: Ione, Mike (Carrie) and Jay, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, eight of which graduated from McNary High School.

In lieu of flowers, consider donations to the Union Gospel Mission or any Veterans Association. A service will be held Saturday, May 14 at 11 a.m. at City View Funeral Home at 390 Hoyt Street South in Salem.

Darras



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**TUESDAY, MAY 24**

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Rd NE

Cash or check payment will be made at the class. A driver license is all you need to bring.

**2 PERMIT OPTIONS: OREGON (\$45) - or- UTAH (\$80)**  
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