

Keizer Rotary revives student exchange program

After a four-year hiatus, Keizer Rotary is once again welcoming international youth exchange students and sending local students to study abroad for what many have described as a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

This year's inbound student – Kanta Ohyama, from Japan, loves soccer and is already attending McNary High School and practicing with the junior varsity soccer team. Ohyama is currently living with the Alex Olsen family and he and their son, Brent, have really connected.

Ohyama will live with two other families over the course of his nine months in Keizer for about three months each, coordinated around school quarters. This gives the student a chance to experience different American lifestyles while not being overly burdensome on any one family. Keizer Ro-



Submitted Brent Olsen and Kanta Ohyama prepare for an "American meal" at Wendy's.

tary provides a monthly stipend to the student to cover school lunches and cell phone charges.

Keizer Rotary has a long history in the youth exchange program, hosting and sending as many as three per year in the 1990s. How many the program sends is dependent on how many hosted as it is a one-for-one exchange, though not necessarily to the same country. Host families are always needed and you need not have children of high

school age (or at all) to host.

Outbound students are selected in the spring of their freshman year. Selected candidates attend trainings during their sophomore year to prepare them for their junior year abroad. Anyone interested in finding out more about being a host family or having a son or daughter apply for Rotary Youth Exchange contact either Pam Vorachek, pam.vorachek@antiquepowerland.com, or Chuck Fisher, chuckfisher@comcast.net.

Fire damages garage, pet dies



Keizer Fire District responded to a garage fire on Lacey Court North Sunday.

KFD arrived to the home at 12:33 p.m. to find moderate flames and smoke around the garage door.

Assisted by Salem Fire Department, KFD was on the scene for just over an hour. The fire was contained in the garage. No one was injured but a cat died.

The fire caused \$40,000 in property damage as well as \$15,000 worth of contents in the garage.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the state fire marshal.



KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon A. Zaitz
TOP: A Keizer police officer talks with homeowners. ABOVE: A Keizer Fire District firefighter rushes to the scene.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
Anne-Marie Storms, public education specialist for the Keizer Fire District, took part in the Old Glory Relay on Wednesday, Sept. 14, walking from the fire station to the VFW in Salem while carrying American flags. The relay, which began in Redmond, Wash. on Sept. 11 and then stopped in Keizer is a 62-day, 4,216-mile journey that concludes on Veterans Day in Tampa, Fla. For more information, go to oldgloryrelay.org.

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