

“It doesn’t matter where you live, there are annoyances, but you don’t desecrate something because you have to pick up some yard debris.” — Tree owner



Tree dispute lands in city council's lap

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The fate of a giant sequoia on private property might rest in the hands of the Keizer City Council.

On Monday, Oct. 3, the council will hold a public hearing on whether to extend heritage status to the tree on Dennis Lane North and prevent it from being limbed by a neighbor.

Keizertimes spoke with one of the owners of the tree and they requested we not use their name.

“We’re just trying to protect it,” the owner said. “It’s majestic, that’s the only way to describe it.”

The current owners have lived at the home for six years, but are concerned about a neighbor’s recent desire to cut back a portion of the tree that hangs into their yard.

“The neighbor wanted to cut so much of it, it would have ruined it,” the owner said. “It doesn’t matter where you live, there are annoyances, but you don’t desecrate something because you have to pick up some yard debris.”

The owner said they are not the only ones who have appreciated the tree.

“We’ve had a couple of

garage sales and people ask about it and wonder at it,” the owner said.

Trees can be nominated for inclusion in the Oregon Heritage Tree Program for a variety of reasons. Trees associated with significant historical events, those associated with the life of a person or group, trees that represent a significant and distinguishable entity within a community or location, and trees of significant age, size or species are all eligible. Within Keizer, heritage trees can be designated based on their “location, size, age, botanical interest, commemorative plantings or historical significance.”

Nominations for heritage tree designations come from members of the public.

Whatever the council decides on the matter will be a precedent. To date, there are no heritage trees in city limits.

“We really haven’t gone through this process before and that’s why we’re erring on the side of caution by having a public hearing,” said Public Works Director Bill Lawyer.

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LEFT: Owners of a giant sequoia in the 300 block of Dennis Lane North are seeking a heritage tree designation by city officials. If approved, the tree would be the first of its kind in Keizer.

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Keizer man named Veteran of the Year

A highly-decorated Keizer veteran has been named Veteran of the Year by the Veterans Commemoration Association (VCA).

U.S. Marine Capt. F David Parker, Ret., was nominated by the Oregon Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America and will be honored at a banquet Thursday, Nov. 10, at American Legion Post 51 in Lebanon. Tickets for the banquet, which begins at 6 p.m., are \$27.50 and are available by calling 541-981-2390 or via email at albanyveteransdayparade@gmail.com.

Parker will also help lead the 65th annual Veterans Day Parade in Albany on Friday, Nov.

10. The parade begins at 11 a.m.

Parker, a native Oregonian, enlisted in the United States Reserves in 1959 and then the Marine Corps in 1960. He remained on active duty until 1983 when injuries sustained in an aircraft accident forced a medical retirement.

Parker served more than two years in Vietnam with the First and Third Tank Battalions. He was awarded three Purple Heart medals, holds the Vietnam Medal of Honor and Cross of Gallantry. Purple Hearts are awarded to armed forces members who are wounded in action.

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Margarita Lentfer and Carol Burks present Paige Merrill with a certificate of appreciation at the fifth anniversary celebration of the Whittam Community Garden.

Community garden grows row-by-row

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Carol Ann Burks went to the Marion-Polk Food Share (MPFS) in 2004 looking to volunteer.

She expected to be packing food boxes, but she ended up helping water a community greenhouse.

“I told them I wasn’t a gardener, but that was what they needed help with,” Burks said.

Then she was put in

charge of the small team of volunteers watering at the greenhouse. When it came time to distribute seeds, the coordinator told her she should have a plot. Again, she said, “I am not a gardener.”

After some more encouragement, she took on a plot at Keizer’s Whittam Community Garden where she reaped a bountiful harvest in 2014. In 2015, she was asked to coordinate the efforts at Whittam and she had to stop

telling herself she wasn’t a gardener.

“You don’t have to be a gardener, you just have to be willing and get your hands dirty,” Burks said.

On Sunday, Sept. 25, the Whittam Community Garden celebrated its fifth anniversary inviting present and past volunteers to come and be appreciated for their work.

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Man caught mid-shave in strangers' home

A Woodburn man was arrested Tuesday, Sept. 27, after he was discovered shaving in the home of a Keizer couple.

Keizer police officers responded to the report of a burglary at 5:45 p.m. in the 5700 block of Kalmia Drive N.E. The husband had recently returned home and found a stranger in a bathroom shaving his head with a razor.

The wife was home at the time of the incident, but was in a bedroom and unaware of the intruder.

The couple told police they were fearful and intimidated and told the man to leave as they were calling the police.

The suspect ran from the

residence and was located later in the area of Lockhaven Drive Northeast and Verda Lane Northeast. Officers identified

the man based on a description supplied by the victims and his partially shaved head.

Entry to the home was made by breaking through a fence leading to the rear of the house and then opening a sliding glass door.

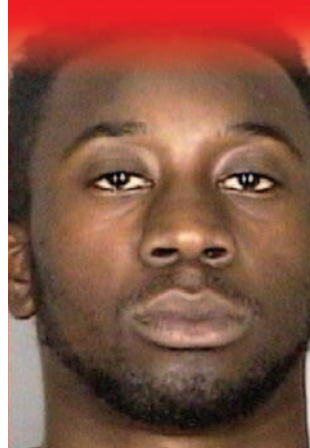
Eric Avila, 39, was taken into custody without incident and is charged with burglary and criminal mischief.

Anyone having additional information about his incident is asked to contact Officer Jeremie Fletcher at 503-390-3713, ext. 3467.



E. Avila

Keizer man jailed after armed robbery
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Homecoming royalty
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