

Keizertimes

SECTION A

DECEMBER 16, 2016

\$1.00



7-Eleven franchisees retire
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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald and Parker Kehret
Christmas cheer was everywhere you looked in Keizer last week. A: A Keizer Holiday Lights parade entrant waves from the Willamette Valley Bank float on Saturday, Dec. 10. B: Kate Martorano checks in at the Keizer Fire District Santa Breakfast Sunday, Dec. 11. C: Carlos Miriam and Damian Pineda wrap presents for the KNOW Giving Basket project Thursday, Dec. 8. D: Myah Husted bundled up to watch the parade. E: Santa waves to the crowd during the parade.



Santa Breakfast
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Forest sale vote brings protest to Keizer

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A hearing by the Oregon State Land Board regarding the potential sale of a state forest in southwest Oregon drew protests outside Keizer Civic Center Tuesday, Dec. 13.

The board, consisting of Gov. Kate Brown, Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins and State Treasurer Ted Wheeler were expected to make a decision whether to proceed with the sale of Elliott State Forest to a private company, but delayed a vote after hearing from more than 80 people during public testimony.

Prior to the 10 a.m. meeting, Oregon residents representing cities and regions up and down the Interstate 5 corridor gathered outside Keizer Civic Center to sing, chant and voice opposition to the sale.

The land board is considering the sale of the forest because it has become a drag on Oregon's Common School



Aiyana and Oliver Gonzales, of Walton, Ore., deliver speeches to protesters before a meeting to discuss selling the Elliott State Forest Tuesday, Dec. 13. The pair also testified against the sale during a public hearing on the matter.

Fund. Elliott State Forest was consolidated in the early 1900s to generate long-term funding through managed

timber harvests. However, in recent years, due to renewed focus on endangered species that call the forest home – in-

cluding the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and Coho salmon – maintenance Please see FOREST, Page A11

Parks survey may arrive this month

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board kicked plans to survey Keizer residents on support for parks into high gear at its meeting Tuesday, December 13.

Half of the city can expect to see the surveys show up with their December utility bill. The other half will receive them with their January bill. The survey will also be posted online in the coming weeks.

Respondents will have until March 6 to return the survey or fill it out online.

The survey, which has been a topic of discussion at the parks board and city council level for more than six months, questions residents about their priorities for maintaining and improving Keizer parks and what level of fee they would be willing to support, options range from no fee to \$8 per month.

Each fee comes with its own consequences or benefits. No fee could result in the closing and/or removal of some parks amenities. The \$2 and \$4 options would allow for better, but not necessarily ideal maintenance. The \$6 or \$8 fees would generate a healthier dedicated parks fund that would allow for full maintenance and additional amenities.

If the results come back in support of the fee, the city council could enact it without a ballot measure.

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Girls lose at W. Albany
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Chimney smolders at funeral home

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A chimney fire in the crematorium at Keizer Funeral Chapel on River Road North, kept crews from throughout the region busy Monday, Dec. 12.

The Keizer Fire District, Marion County Fire District No. 1 and Salem Fire Department all responded to the call that came in shortly after 5:30 p.m. and remained on the scene for several hours making sure it was doused.

Firefighters arrived on the

scene to smoke coming out from eaves all around the building, but no visible flames. The source of the smoke was determined to be the chimney of the business' crematorium.

"It was glowing red hot and there was wood frame around it and that was beginning to smolder. The ceiling is 10 foot high, but there is an attic space

Please see CHIMNEY, Page A11

Firefighters cut into an exterior wall to reach the crematorium chimney at Keizer Funeral Chapel Monday, Dec. 12. KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald



Jingle Dash results
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