

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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Keizer woman wins 'Super Bowl' of Rodeo



Submitted
Keizer cowgirl Amber Moore rides Paige in competition earlier this year.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

In September, most of the women who were headed to the 2016 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (NFR) earlier this month had already secured their spot. Keizer's Amber "Amberleigh" Moore was still on the bubble.

"I was ranked about 16th or 17th and only the top 15 get to go. It's all based on total winnings from the last year," said Moore.

She didn't expect to be as close as she was. This year was supposed to set up a run at the "Super Bowl of Rodeo" in 2017, but her horse Paige, who competes as CP Dark Moon, had been defying expectations all year long.

Moore, who grew up

in Eugene and moved to Keizer about 16 years ago, has been riding barrel races competitively for as long as she can remember. For just as long, she's held tightly to a dream of making it to the big stage in Las Vegas, which hosts the NFR.

"It's the thing that every little girl who starts out riding dreams of," Moore, 48, said.

Moore turned pro three years ago, about the same time that she bought Paige, who was 3 years old at the time, from a friend-of-a-friend in Blackwood, Idaho.

"You move up when you get a horse that comes along that takes you where you want to go. It's not easy and it's highly competitive. You have

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Submitted
Amber Moore won the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo barrel racing competition in Las Vegas earlier this month. The NFR is the premier rodeo event in the nation.



Merry Christmas!

Snow Daze

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Candy Cane Day

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New store is Lego HQ in Keizer

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Matthew Bauman is the new owner of Bricks & Minifigs on River Road North in Keizer.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Matthew Bauman, the franchise owner of the new Bricks & Minifigs on River Road North, knew that local Lego enthusiasts were looking forward to the store opening. Still, the response surprised him.

"I was away from the shop for a little while on the first day and called my wife. She told me there were 20 people in the store shopping and to get back as soon as possible. It feels like everyone has been very excited and welcoming," said Bauman.

Bauman opened the shop, located at 3670 River Road

N., about three weeks ago and a steady stream of customers was still flowing through the doors in the run up to Christmas.

"We have a lot of people shopping for new sets as gifts, but we've also sold a lot of bulk bricks and taken in a lot of trades which has helped us build our stock," Bauman said.

The Bricks & Minifigs franchise started with a shop in Canby and that was where Bauman rekindled his love for a childhood passion.

"I took my kids, Luka and Liesl, there and then we pulled out some of my old sets and

"It feels like everyone has been very excited and welcoming."

— Matthew Bauman

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Elks make holiday brighter for 220



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Grace Ball, with mother Melissa, load up Bruce Plummer's food box in a production line at the Keizer Elks Lodge Friday, Dec. 18. For more photos and the story, see Page A7.

McNary assistant principal moonlights in the dojo

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Rhonda Rhodes, an assistant principal at McNary High School, remembers life before she was introduced to Jiu-Jitsu as a college student at Oregon State.

"I was one of those people that was capable but I'm certain I had ADHD before they diagnosed it," Rhodes said. "When I was in school in the '80s and early '90s, that wasn't a thing and if it was, I'm sure they would have decided that I had that. I had a lot of potential and I didn't quite have the self control to reach it. Martial arts was the first thing that I really wanted bad enough to learn those skills

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
Rhonda Rhodes, an assistant principal at McNary High School, instructs Rosemary Kirk, top, and Ilari Ramirez.



Sports Year-in-Review

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