


# the deuce

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**Today in History**

Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, suffering from severe depression, cuts off the lower part of his left ear with a razor. Today, Van Gogh is regarded as an artistic genius and his masterpieces sell for record-breaking prices; however, during his lifetime, he was a poster boy for tortured starving artists and sold only one painting.

— December 23, 1888

**Food 4 Thought**

“Conscience is a man’s compass.” — Vincent Van Gogh

**The Month Ahead**

**Through Monday, December 26**

Keizer Miracle of Christmas Lights Display, 6 to 10 p.m. Gubser neighborhood. Free admission but cash and food donations for the Marion-Polk Food Share are welcome.

**Through Saturday, December 31**

14th Something Red Art Walk, Exhibit and Sale presented by Artists in Action. More than 20 businesses in downtown Salem will participate. artists inaction.org.

**Through Sunday, January 1**

Christmas in the Garden, located at The Oregon Garden, 879 West Main Street. Features ice skating, a traditional German Christmas Market, and a light display in the Rediscovery Forest. Ice skating is available daily (Garden closed Dec. 24 and 25.) Visit [www.oregongarden.org/christmas-schedule-of-activities/](http://www.oregongarden.org/christmas-schedule-of-activities/).

**Friday, December 23**

*The Nutcracker* will be performed at the Historic Elsinore Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$24 to \$39. Youth (high school and younger) cost between \$22 and \$35. Group (15 or more) cost between \$22 and \$35. Buy tickets at [elsinoretheatre.com](http://elsinoretheatre.com).

Pajama Party with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Salem’s Riverfront Carousel. Starts at 6 p.m. \$20 per person, children under three free. By reservation only. Call 503-540-0374.

**Saturday, December 24**

Salem Tuba Holiday presented by Historic Elsinore Theatre and Salem Concert Band, noon. 170 High Street SE. Open seating, \$15, reserved seating \$20. Students \$5. 503-375-3574 or 1-800-992-8499. [salemconcertband.org](http://salemconcertband.org).

**Sunday, December 25**

Christmas Day. Government offices closed.

**Tuesday, December 27**

Free admission all day at Hallie Ford Museum of Art, 700 State Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 27 – Saturday, December 31**

Keep your eyes open for Whale Watch Week at the Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay. Don’t pass up the opportunity to catch a glimpse of a whale.

**Sunday, January 1**

New Year’s Day. Government offices closed.

**Tuesday, January 3**

Free admission all day at Hallie Ford Museum of Art, 700 State Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 10**

Free admission all day at Hallie Ford Museum of Art, 700 State Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Saturday, January 14**

Millstream Knitting Guild meets at Arrowhead Mobile Park Community Center, 5422 Portland Road N.E. in Salem, 10 a.m. to noon. New members welcome, \$24 membership per year. For more information, visit [millstreamknitting.wordpress.com](http://millstreamknitting.wordpress.com).

**Friday, January 20**

*Menopause the Musical* at the Elsinore Theatre. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. Tickets are between \$29 and \$55. Buy tickets online.

**Sunday, January 29**

Fellini at the Circus. Hudson Hall Willamette University, 3 p.m.

**Saturday, February 11**

Millstream Knitting Guild meets at Arrowhead Mobile Park Community Center, 5422 Portland Road N.E. in Salem, 10 a.m. to noon. New members welcome, \$24 membership per year. For more information, visit [millstreamknitting.wordpress.com](http://millstreamknitting.wordpress.com).

**Saturday, March 11**

Millstream Knitting Guild meets at Arrowhead Mobile Park Community Center, 5422 Portland Road N.E. in Salem, 10 a.m. to noon. New members welcome, \$24 membership per year. For more information, visit [millstreamknitting.wordpress.com](http://millstreamknitting.wordpress.com).

Add your event by e-mailing [news@keizertimes.com](mailto:news@keizertimes.com).

# Eclipse event gets fee waivers

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

At its meeting Monday, Dec. 19, the Keizer City Council approved fee waivers totaling a little more than \$1,000 for the upcoming *Keizer Eclipse 2017. Totally!* event.

The Keizer Parks Foundation (KPF) is planning an event at Keizer Rapids Park to mark the passage of a total solar eclipse over Keizer in August 2017 and intends to donate any proceeds back to the city as dedicated parks funds.

Permits for the event were recently approved and led to the request for fee waivers, which to a large extent represent foregone revenue.

KPF requested waivers totaling \$1,021 including \$55 for an amphitheater permit, a \$150 refundable deposit, \$776 for four days worth of use fees and \$40 for four days of electricity costs.

The council agreed to waive the costs with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Cathy Clark contended that waiving the fees for the eclipse event differed from recent requests by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce to waive some costs for the Holiday Lights Parade two weeks ago.

“One of the reasons I am considering this is because this event will come back to the city in the form of a donation to general fund for Keizer Parks. It’s a wash and we have the potential to receive far more than the \$1,000 we are waiving,” Clark said.

Organizers hope to raise as much as \$26,000 for city parks through the event.

“I look at this event as a big deal in promoting Keizer and I think it’s a great investment for the city,” said Councilor Roland Herrera.

In other business:  
• The council approved changes to the city’s marijuana sales regulations including allowing recreational sales shops

to also make medicinal sales. Keizer’s three pot shops currently operate under “early sales” models, but are classified as dispensaries. All three shops are expected to convert to recreational sales as the early sales window closes Dec. 31. An additional change will mean the owners will not have to redo background checks on current employees.

• The council approved plans for the parks survey to be sent out to the first half of city residents with the December water billed that will be issued Dec. 29.

The city general fund will absorb the \$1,000 cost of sending out the surveys with the bills. It will also be available online. City officials are asking residents about their priorities regarding Keizer’s 19 parks and to what extent they would be willing to support a fee to create a dedicated parks fund. Additional volunteer outreach is planned with details being hammered out in the coming weeks.

# Local nonprofit has near-perfect record in resheltering families

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Keizer City Council got a glimpse into one of the more successful organizations tackling the problem of homelessness in the mid-Willamette Valley.

Recently-arrived Keizer resident TJ Putman briefly spoke to the council about his work as executive director of the Inter-faith Hospitality Network (IHN), a nonprofit collective of 19 local churches transitioning homeless families into homes of their own.

“We’re having great outcomes. You guys are making a difference in homelessness and you probably didn’t even know it,” Putman said.

Salem and Keizer partner as a joint jurisdiction to tap into the HOME Investment Partnership Program offered by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

IHN receives about \$200,000 annually to help rehouse families with children, but services it has developed around that core need have led to a 96 percent success rate once families move out of temporary shelter.

Each week, an IHN church

— including St. Edward Catholic Church in Keizer — opens up its doors to homeless families who receive a meal and spend the evening there before returning to the IHN day site in west Salem to prepare for school and work. Keizer’s Salem Mennonite Church and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are supporting congregations, but do not host.

“Volunteers from the churches and the community prepare meals for families and there is always an overnight volunteer to help in case of emergencies,” said Putman.

As families progress through IHN’s continuum of care, they can eventually qualify for housing assistance that covers security deposits and assists with rent payment. The families themselves contribute a minimum of \$50 and as much as a third of their income depending on their resources.

It costs about \$3,500 per family to make the leap from homelessness to their own living space.

The goal is for every family to enter their own home after leaving the church sheltering program, but Putman attributes its high success rate to the supplemental services IHN wraps around each family.

“We know that parents want a better life for their

kids, so we have case managers that work with families on everything from parenting to budgeting and conflict resolution,” Putman said.

Last year, IHN added an on-site pet facility that has served more than a dozen cats, dogs and one snake in the past year.

“The reality is that for someone facing the most difficult time of their life, they will choose to sleep outside rather than be separated from their pets so we added that to our services,” Putman said.

Even after graduating to a space of their own, families continue to work with IHN case managers, which helps bolster the effort to remain independent.

IHN started in 1999 with eight churches and has more than doubled since then. Unfortunately, need is also on the rise. Putman said IHN has seen a 31 percent increase in requests for services in the past year and has had to turn away 40 to 50 families each month.

The squeeze is partly the result of the lack of affordable housing in the area, he said.

“On average there is somewhere between a .5 and 4 percent vacancy rate in the available housing stock each month. Only about a quarter of that is available to people who struggle,” he said. “Currently, there are 3,400 people on the waiting list for Section 8 housing in Salem and Keizer and the list is closed. Housing everyone on the list right now might take three years or more.”

To make a contribution or view the IHN “wish list,” visit [salemihn.org](http://salemihn.org).

“They will choose to sleep outside rather than be separated from their pets”

— TJ Putman  
IHN exec. director

looking back in the KT

**5 YEARS AGO**

Missing: One gym  
Platinum Sports closed suddenly, members wonder where their membership dues went. Platinum Sports and Fitness owner Corey Ahrens said memberships will be transferred to another gym.

**10 YEARS AGO**

City, police giving programs raise \$3K  
The employees of both the city and police department raised nearly \$3,000 this past year, which was donated to local families in a variety of ways.

**15 YEARS AGO**

Tensions build over big box stores at I-5  
Battle lines are forming over a proposed shopping mall at Keizer’s freeway interchange, and so-called “big box” stores emerged last week as the flashpoint.

**20 YEARS AGO**

Whiteaker students pick colors in uniform vote  
The school is moving closer to requiring student uniforms next year. Parents will vote in February on the issue. Whiteaker Middle School students want earth tones.

sudoku

		9						8
	1			8		4		
			1	3		9	5	
	9				5	2		
5		7		1		8		9
		2	7					3
	6	8		5	3			
		5		7				6
4						5		

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

KEIZERTIMES.COM

# Web Poll

Results

Why do you celebrate Christmas?

- 51% – Religion/Faith
- 41% – Tradition
- 5% – The presents: Getting and giving
- 3% – For the children

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!  
GO TO KEIZERTIMES.COM




## Recycle that tree

Keizer Boy Scout Troop 121 will be offering Christmas tree recycling Dec. 30, 31 and Jan. 1, 7, 8.

Trees can be dropped off at Keizer U.S. Bank, 5110 River Road N. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pick-up in Keizer and North Salem can also be arranged on Dec. 31, Jan. 1, 7, 8 by calling or texting 503-877-HAUL or visiting [www.keizertroop121.com](http://www.keizertroop121.com).

The suggested donation is \$10 for pick-up or \$5 for drop-off.



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## THIS WEEK'S MOVIE TIMES

**Jack Reacher: Never Go Back (PG-13)**  
Sat 6:45

**Sully (PG-13)**  
Fri 7:15, Sat 4:45

**The Magnificent Seven (PG-13)**  
Fri 9:15, Sat 3:45

**Allied (R)**  
Fri 4:20, 6:45, Sat 6:20

**The Accountant (R)**  
Fri 6:00, 8:30, Sat 6:00

**The Girl on the Train (R)**  
Fri 9:05

**Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (PG-13)**  
Fri 11:50, 4:45, Sat 2:15

**Trolls (PG)**  
Fri 12:10, 2:05, 4:00, Sat 12:10, 1:45, 4:05

**Storks (PG)**  
Fri 12:35, 2:20, Sat 11:45, 2:00

**The Secret Life of Pets (PG)**  
Fri 2:40, Sat 12:25

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