

# Keizertimes

SECTION A

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## Re-enactors find connections, lessons in Civil War stories

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Joe Cross stepped away from his modern life and comforts over the long Fourth of July weekend to play the role of a Confederate surgeon at the Northwest Civil War Council re-enactment, but the things he's learned while researching his role have had far-reaching effects on his personal life.

Cross joined a legion of fellow history buffs for the annual re-enactments at Powerland Heritage Park in Brooks July 1-4.

Last year, Cross had one of his legs amputated and struggled to adapt to his new circumstances even with a modern prosthetic.

"I was going through a period where I thought I should be walking by now, I shouldn't have a problem," Cross, a Portland resident, said.

His struggles weren't helped by a tidal wave of media portrayals showing athletes and military veterans doing any number of things on prosthetics not much different from his. Then a friend in the re-enactment community brought him a letter from a Civil War soldier struggling with an amputation and prosthetic, which, in the 1860s, would have been porcelain wrapped in rope and strapped to the man's leg.

"I read his account and realized I wasn't the first one to go through this. He picked himself up and did it. It gave me inspiration to keep going and working at it. I still have to use a walker to walk, but this time last year I couldn't even stand," Cross said.

Cross has been taking part in re-enactments for more than 40 years and had roles in Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and medieval productions, but the Civil War is the one that keeps pulling him back.

"I think it was the most



ABOVE: Joe Cross with some of the tools of his trade as the Confederate surgeon in the Northwest Civil War Council re-enactments at Powerland Heritage Park (photo by Eric A. Howald). LEFT: Tim O'Neal crafts a piece of a Cumberland pontoon, a folding bridge (photo by Random Pendragon).

"I think it was the most defining moment of this country. You will have a hard time finding a war as devastating as this and yet the nation healed itself and became one again."

— Joe Cross

defining moment of this country. You will have a hard time finding a war as devastating as this and yet the nation healed itself and became one again," Cross said. Crediting Abraham Lincoln

elicits a hiss and jeer from a passing Confederate friend, but Cross is adamant.

"(Lincoln) had such forethought and never wavered from what he felt needed to be done," Cross said. Cross started as infantry,

and worked his way up to field command and running the artillery before strapping on a bloody surgeon's apron and beginning to assemble a macabre collection of tools used in the field for everything from first aid to surgery. While the tools look

somewhat threatening, Cross himself is a font of knowledge regarding techniques of the day and how each of the implements was used. He had several bundles of horse hair on display that were used for stitches. Surgeons of the time boiled the hair which strengthened it and gave it elasticity.

"After a while, they realized there were fewer infections when they used the horse hair. But it took them even longer to realize it was because they had sterilized it before use," Cross said.

Amid the knives and saws are some more unusual items like a large funnel used to administer chloroform by covering the nose and mouth.

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Volcanoes bullpen disappoints  
PAGE A10



Cherry City Waxworks now open  
PAGE A2



Exchange student heads home  
PAGE A5



Hoopsters in Spokane  
PAGE A11

## Portable magic

**Anthony Robles**  
with Austin Murphy

"Unstoppable is an inspirational narrative that captures the essence of conquering fears, breaking down barriers, and never letting one's dreams be shattered. This is truly the American spirit."  
—CONDOLEEZZA RICE

**UNSTOPPABLE**  
FROM UNDERDOG TO UNDEFEATED:  
HOW I BECAME A CHAMPION  
With a Foreword by Jay Leno

### What Keizerites are reading this summer

With the lazy days of summer still ahead, Keizertimes asked some of the city's local dignitaries and public figures which books were on their nightstands this summer. If you're looking for a good book to curl up with in the sun, this list has a wide array of starting points.

JEFF AUVINEN, McNary High School teacher/head football coach

Recommendation: *Unstoppable* by Anthony Robles

It's the story of an amazing young man and the challenges that he faced growing up and becoming an amazing wrestler and national champion despite being born with only one leg. I heard him speak at the AVID conference in Denver in 2015 and he was the most motivating speaker that I have ever heard. The book is not nearly as riveting as his speech was, but it

is still an entertaining story, especially if you like sports and wrestling.

DEBBIE LOCKHART, Keizer Deputy City Recorder

Recommendation: *The Golem and the Jinni*, by Helen Wecker

It is a fantasy/historical fiction book that takes place in old New York's tenements. I loved the book and was disappointed to find that she has not written any others, but her website says she's working on a sequel.

Also recommended: *The Short*

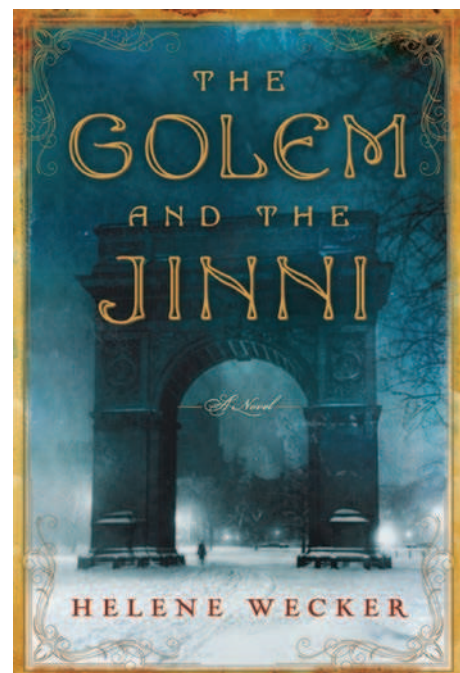
Drop by Matthew Fitzsimmons, *The Bill Hodges Trilogy (Mr. Mercedes, Finders Keepers and End of Watch)* by Stephen King, and *The Client* and *The Juror* by John Grisham.

JEFF KUHNS, Keizer Deputy Police Chief

Recommendation: *How To Be A Bawse - A Guide To Conquering Life* by Lilly Singh

I read the book because my son, Kyle, who lives and works managing artists in Hollywood, is the day-to-day manager for Lilly who released her first

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# Knock Knock. Who's there?

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