

Chamber honors teachers

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Ron Hays has only been on the job as executive director of the United Way Mid-Willamette Valley for three months, but it only took him a few weeks to decide on his first major undertaking.

In his first few days, a co-worker met with a friend who is a teacher. After a conversation, Hays, the son of a pair of teachers, thanked the woman for being a teacher. Hays didn't think much of it at the time, but "the woman sent a message to my co-worker a bit later saying I was the first person she didn't know who had thanked her for being a teacher."

Hays spoke to an assembly of Keizer educators Tuesday, Aug. 29, at the Keizer Chamber of Commerce luncheon to honor teachers.

Not long after the encounter, Hays heard about a Oklahoma teacher who had taken to

panhandling to raise money to purchase the supplies her students need. He approached the United Way board with an idea and now the organization is committing to giving \$200 to each of 1,490 elementary classrooms in a tri-county area for a grand total of nearly \$150,000.

"We should be saying thank you (to teachers) all the time. From the sincerest part of me, thank you," Hays said.

The luncheon coincided with the first day back to school for teachers, and is an annual affair for the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. The significance of that was not lost on Superintendent Christy Perry.

"This is not normal, for a chamber to take one of their lunches and honor our teachers. It's a symbol of the impact the businesses have on our schools and schools have on our businesses," Perry said. "We can't do it alone and we're always better together."



R. Hays



C. Perry



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Whiteaker Middle School orchestra director Mac Mayer introduces himself during the Keizer Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday, Aug. 29.

KNOW hosting luau Sept. 21

Spirit of Aloha, a KNOW event, will take place Sept. 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event will be hosted at the Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road NE. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Admission is \$30 per ticket. Tables of eight are available. Tickets include dinner, music, dancing, games, and prizes. There will be a silent

and oral auction, and opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a Coach handbag.

To purchase tickets, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/spirit-of-aloha-know-fundraiser-tickets-31739178738?aff=homecard. For more information, contact 503-393-9111 or 503-910-3513.

Cornhole Classic tourney Sept. 9

Shangri-La and Salem Ale Works present the second annual Capitol City Cornhole Classic on Sept. 9 at the State Capitol State Park, 155 Waverly Street NE. The event starts at 10 a.m. and goes to 5 p.m.

Capitol City Cornhole Classic is a fundraiser for Shan-

gri-La. Proceeds will help people with disabilities and families with disadvantages realize and achieve their full potential.

Pre-registration is required by Sept. 5 at 10 p.m. Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Admission is \$45 per team for two player teams.

One player rule breaker division for children ages six to 12 and people with disabilities who need accommodation is \$10.

For more information, go to ShangrilaOregon.org or contact Ashley at community@shangrilaor.org.

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