

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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The light at the end

Keizer man clean and sober two years after speaking about heroin addiction

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Curtis DeVoursney has felt more human lately.

That might seem like a small accomplishment but, when we met for the first time two years ago, Curtis was deep in the throes of heroin addiction. He had watched numerous friends and associates die of overdoses in the preceding months. At 24 years old, he was still standing and that made him feel invulnerable and godlike.

The day after we talked, he was reporting to jail for violating his last parole and even then the drug use didn't stop.

"It's difficult to remember because the amount of drugs I was on. I went to jail and continued using. I was smoking meth and smoking weed. Everything I wasn't supposed to do," Curtis said.

He was let out shortly before New Year's Day 2016. He was staying with his father, but that came to an abrupt end. On New Year's Eve he left his father's house with the clothes on his back and another pair in his hand in search of drugs. He walked five miles into Salem in 30-degree weather in a last ditch effort and then began walking back to Keizer.

"It's bad when you can't get drug dealers to answer the phone. I couldn't get any drugs because I had robbed every drug dealer I knew. I had



Curtis and Mary DeVoursney

Two years ago, an interview with Curtis DeVoursney and his family kicked off Keizertimes' award-winning series on the heroin epidemic called Chasing Dark. Our original story on DeVoursney, *Lies Heroin Tells Him*, can be found on our website, www.keizertimes.com.

burnt every bridge possible. The only options were going back to jail or to be homeless and walk the streets," Curtis said.

He was walking on Cherry Avenue near his mother, Mary's, home when he sent her a text message because she wasn't picking up the phone. Curtis didn't blame her.

Curtis told Mary he had no where to go. Mary asked if he was willing to go to

treatment. Curtis said he would. The next time he called, Mary picked up the phone and told him to get to her house.

"I wasn't going to put myself out, I'd been there and done that. Once he was here, Mom kicked in and I was trying to feed him and get him to take a shower. Then I told him he needed to call the treatment center. I didn't call anyone," Mary said.

Curtis made the call and

detoxed on Mary's couch while waiting to check in at Pacific Ridge: Residential Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center.

"It wasn't hard to get in. They knew me and this time I knew what I wanted. I just knew anything was better than what I was doing. I didn't know how to live life. I knew how to do narcotics and lie, cheat and steal. And, obviously, get arrested," Curtis said.

Please see LIGHT, Page A8

Wyden talks taxes, Trump, more at Keizer town hall



Sen. Ron Wyden

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) stopped by Keizer to host a town hall meeting on Saturday, Nov. 3. Talks were wide ranging, but Wyden repeatedly illustrated the ways in which disagreement in Washington, D.C., is not as bad as it might seem to the nightly cable news viewer.

"TV media doesn't give any attention to anything that isn't a fight," Wyden said.

He talked briefly about several bipartisan efforts he is actively involved in. He is engaged with Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) on two fronts. The first is the Corporate Transparency Act that would prevent individuals from using anonymous shell corporations to engage in illicit activities like money laundering, sex trafficking, fraud and terrorist financing. Wyden, Rubio and Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) have also authored the Student

Please see WYDEN, Page A6



Celts head to second round
PAGE A12



Rotary digs deep
PAGE A2

No shortage of drama on tap



'Heaven can wait' but only through Nov 19

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Homegrown Theatre hopes to highlight the absurdity of *Heaven Can Wait*, the story of a boxer who arrives in the afterlife 60 years early and in order to return to earth must take up the body of a nefarious millionaire.

"We are taking a 1930s play that was unabashedly sentimental and giving it a twist where we recognize the

absurdity of the situation far more specifically than it was recognized in the original," director Linda Baker said. "The absurdity of it all is really the thing."

The play runs November 10-11, 17 and 18 at 7 p.m. and November 12 and 19 at 3 p.m. in the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center chapel.

Tickets are \$15 and available at the door or online

at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3131857.

Jeff Minden, a 1999 McNary graduate, plays the prizefighter, Joe Pendleton. Minden was in the play in high school as the overeager messenger who mistakenly picks up Pendleton and takes him to the afterlife to start the story.

"It's kind of fun doing it again so many years later and Please see HEAVEN, Page A8



McNary drama remakes classic

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

In preparing for *Wizard of Oz*, McNary drama director Tom Cavanaugh told his students not to re-watch the classic film and make the iconic characters their own.

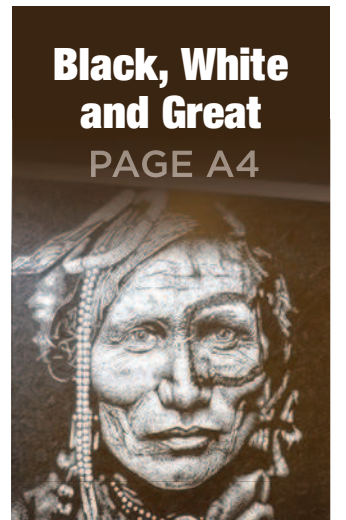
That's been harder for some than others.

"I watched it (the movie) as a kid and I would always hide behind the couch when the witch came out and now I'm playing it (Wicked Witch of the West)," McNary senior Camryn Ronnow said.

But Ronnow has enjoyed the challenge.

"I wanted to play the Witch because it's a really iconic role and I just really wanted to see

Please see CLASSIC, Page A11



Black, White and Great
PAGE A4



Panthers top Wolverines on gridiron
PAGE A12



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