

Keizertimes

SECTION A

DECEMBER 22, 2017

\$1.00

Field fee increase sparks renewed tension in Keizer's youth sports

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer City Council balked at a request to hike fees \$10 per field usage at the Keizer Little League complex during its meeting Monday, Dec. 18.

The request came from Keizer Little League (KLL), which manages the fields under a contract with the city, and drew sharp rebuke from McNary Youth Baseball (MYB), the former Keizer Youth Sports Association. KLL President Brad Arnsmeier said the fee increase was needed to help maintain the complex, especially in light of recent investment in rejuvenating the facility.

"We're doing our best to rebuild a once-glorious park."

"We're doing our best to rebuild a once-glorious park."

— Brad Arnsmeier,
Keizer Little League President

The last year the comments have been overwhelmingly positive. We are rebuilding fields and making capital improvement. As we put more money into the fields we want to make sure that we maintain the field," Arnsmeier said. "It's not a cheap complex to run and we are proud to do so, but it takes money to do so."

While the council ended up requesting more information before making a decision, the ask seemed to renew old animosities between KLL and MYB before the meeting was over.

To help make its case, KLL supplied the council with a list of expenses and improvements

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File

Keizer Little League players round the bases during an opening day ceremony. KLL, which managed Keizer Little League Park, is seeking to increase field reservation prices by \$10 across the board. The proposal is meeting with resistance.



Girls b-ball
7-0
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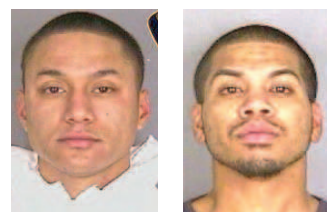


Choirs at
the Capitol
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Hunter
returns to
MHS court
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2 arrests in River Road robberies



B. Thompson J. Libokmeto

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A single-car crash led to the arrest of two suspects — one each — in the robberies of Shari's Cafe and Pies and Good Times Grill on River Road North in Keizer.

Good Times Grill was robbed by two armed men on Dec. 11. A Shari's manager was pushed to the ground, and a cash drawer was stolen, on Dec. 7.

On Monday, Dec. 11, Sgt. Jeff Goodman responded to the scene of a single-vehicle

Please see ROBBERY, Page A12



Season of Love

The Whiteaker Middle School choir program held its Season of Love performances earlier this month in front of near-capacity crowds at Salem Alliance Church. In addition to student choirs, numerous other local musical groups got into the act. For more photos, please see pages A8 and A9.

KEIZERTIMES/ERIC A. HOWALD

KCFB 'hires' new operations manager

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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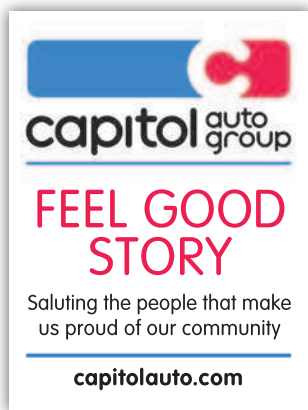
When Jim Johnson became the treasurer for John Knox Presbyterian Church in the late 1990s, he didn't realize that managing the books for the food bank the church operated was part of the duties. But, it was okay by him.



J. Johnson

"I couldn't work at the food bank because I was still employed full-time, but I wanted to be involved," Johnson said.

And, he stayed involved, too. Johnson managed the food bank's accounts through a name change to the Keizer Community Food Bank and right up until the day the operation became its own non-profit in 2012. Johnson retired from the workforce in early 2017 and, since March, he's been a regular fixture at the food bank as a volunteer. His time



in that role caught the eye of Rev. Curt McCormack, the food bank president.

"He never stands around waiting for someone to tell him what to do. That's the kind of guy you want as a manager because you never ask a volunteer or employee to do something you wouldn't do yourself," McCormack said.

This fall, Johnson was named as the food bank's operations manager.

"My job is to manage the churches that volunteer and

Please see FOOD, Page A10

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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The McNary Estates Homeowners Association caused a minor neighborhood stir when some residents were asked about religious-themed holiday signage in their yards.

It didn't take long for some residents to start responding to requests to remove the signs on a social media site, next-door.com, and the disagreements grew from there. The board has since backed away from the decision to act on sign code enforcement for this holiday season.

HOA President Ray Straughan said the five-member board was attempting to respond to objections to some of the signs placed on properties within the north Keizer subdivision, particularly when there were not other "Christmas-y" decorations accompanying it. Straughan said an employee of the HOA was tasked by the five-member board with asking residents whether they knew about Covenant, Conditions, and Restrictions that require McNary Estates homeowners to apply for permission to display signs in their yard, but that wires got crossed in the execution.

Some residents were con-

HOA backs away from sign kerfuffle



Submitted

Signs like the one pictured became the center of disagreements between residents and the Homeowners Association in McNary Estates.

tacted last week regarding signs with messages like "Keep Christ in Christmas" and "Christmas Jesus' Birth — When God Came to Earth" and asked to remove them while other decorations were not singled out as violations. One resident said that, to her knowledge, no one in the neighborhood had ever been

approached to remove signs supporting athletic teams, name plates or other common lawn decor.

Straughan, in a statement supplied to the Keizertimes, said the intention was for all violations of the signs rules were going to be addressed.

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