

## Egli named Keizer First Citizen



By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Whoever follows Joe Egli as Keizer's First Citizen will have a high bar to clear.

Egli's long list of community involvement includes the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Keizer, Keizer Iris Festival, McNary High School, the City of Keizer and the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation (SKEF).

Egli was honored as First Citizen on Saturday, Jan. 20, at an awards banquet sponsored by the Keizer Chamber and Bonaventure Senior Living. He was one of four annual award winners that included Merchant of the Year Larry Jackson, Service to Education Award winner Jason Flores and Matt Lawyer, who was selected for the President's Award given out by the departing president of the Chamber of Commerce. All the winners were presented



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LEFT: Matt Lawyer accepts the Keizer Chamber of Commerce President's Award.

ABOVE: Joe Egli makes his way to the stage after being named as Keizer's First Citizen.

clocks provided by Boucher's Jewelers representing the time they've given back to the community.

"(Joe's) accomplishments are diverse and contribute almost daily to making Keizer a better place to live, work and play," said Jim Trett, the previous winner of the First Citizen title. "Anyone who reaches out to him will find a listening ear and, more than that, a helping hand."

Egli has served on most of the committees formed by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, is a former Keizer city councilor, a longtime, active Rotarian who leads that organization's annual Golden Ticket fundraiser and

currently serves as a board member for SKEF. Recently, Egli flew to California to pick up and drive back a mobile library for SKEF.

Egli thanked friends and family in accepting the award and recalled visiting Keizer before it was a city to eat at Fortune Cookie, a longtime restaurant serving Asian fare before it burned to the ground.

"I always thought it was a special thing and only found out later that my parents were Diner's Club members and they offered 2-for-1," Egli

said. After moving to the area, he said he found out quickly that the Keizer Way was "volunteer or move."

"Keizer isn't about a city or council or chamber, it's about people," Egli said.

Egli is an agent with R. Bauer Insurance.

Jackson, a third-generation owner of Jackson's Body Shop, was introduced by Bob Shackelford, last year's recipient of the Merchant of the Year Award.

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## No change to field rates at KLL park

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

There will be no change to the field usage rates at Keizer Little League Park for 2018.

Keizer Little League President Brad Arnsmeier withdrew a request for an across-the-board \$10 increase to the field rates via email before the Keizer City Council was slated to take up the issue at its meeting Tuesday, Jan. 16.

"After much consideration and discussion among the members of our board we feel that it is not the time to ask for an increase in fees," Arnsmeier wrote in a message to City Manager Chris Eppley. "We are trying to be sensitive to other organizations in Keizer that also use the fields and recognize that better communication would lead to a better understanding of why the complex needs additional funds for the fields."

Arnsmeier said KLL would "be mindful to in-

clude other stakeholders in the process when we approach the city about a change."

Members of the city council talked with representatives of KLL and McNary Youth Baseball about the proposed fee increase at a council meeting in December, but the discussion quickly devolved as MYP leadership protested the increase in field rates.

The council cut the talks short and requested more budget information from both KLL and MYB before proceeding with an approval of the rates.

At the time, KLL had submitted a list of expenses associated with the park, but the only revenues it listed were fees collected from MYB.

Before the meeting last week, MYB leaders had submitted a detailed budget including income and

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## Cinema deal first of its kind for Keizer



Submitted  
The ground lease for a new Keizer cinema is a unique step for the city, and it may not be the last.

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Sometime in the next 13 months, Keizer is getting a new stream of revenue for its general fund.

Last week, the Keizer City Council signed a ground lease with a cinema developer for property Keizer owns on the west side of Keizer Station. Construction is expected to begin in March for a nine-screen theater across from the transit center on Keizer Station Boulevard. For Keizer City Manager Chris Eppley, the lease brought to fruition an idea he'd championed for most of his 18 years at city hall.

When the cinema owner wanted to purchase the property, Eppley presented an alternative in

the ground lease.

"You can do three things with property: sit on it for a future sale, sell it or lease it. The advantage and disadvantage of selling are that you get a big pot of money all at once, and city councils tend to spend big pots of money the city gets all at once," said Eppley.

Case in point: the property next to the cinema site on the corner of McLeod Lane Northeast and Lockhaven Drive Northeast. The city sold that parcel of land to Salem Radiology in 2011 for \$1.4 million, then spent it acquiring property for the land that became Keizer Rapids Park.

Keizer purchased the Keizer Station land

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## Smaller capacity, luxury seating planned

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
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Keizer's new cinema is shaping up to be one of the hottest tickets in town.

While the theater will be smaller than some others in the area, designer James Blissett said it will have some of the most luxurious seating — recliner seats that will allow the audience to relax in a nearly prone position. Blissett is president of Seattle-based The Design Collective.

"It's the latest thing for theaters, it means there are half as many seats per screen but attendance usually doubles," Blissett said.

According to Blissett, the timeline for the project has construction beginning in March with an opening in November.

"Theaters usually try to hit one of two opening windows: either before the holiday movies come out or right before the summer season

starts," Blissett said.

The largest auditorium in the Keizer cinema will have a 48-foot screen with 147 recliner seats. Additional auditoriums will range between 40 and 96 seats and the smallest screens will be about 30 feet wide. There will be a total of 594 seats in the 23,700-square-foot house.

The three largest screens will have stadium-style risers

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