

Keizertimes

SECTION A

FEBRUARY 2, 2018

\$1.00

'We couldn't ask for anything better.' Vet's family gets new Habitat home

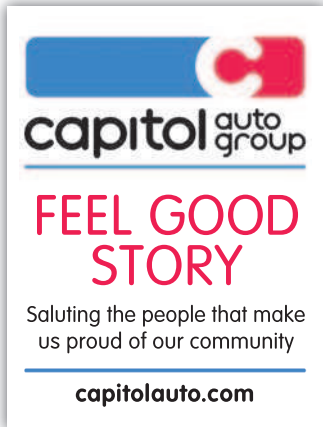
By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A Salem family has a new home in Keizer thanks to the efforts of Salem Habitat for Humanity.

Greg, Olivia, Joshua and Ravyn Wuelfing were given the keys to their new home on Alexis Lane North at a dedication ceremony Saturday, Jan. 27.

"Thank you," Greg told the assembled crowd of about 40 volunteers and Habitat staff members. "It's been a great learning experience and the amount of support, the generosity that we've been shown and given ... we couldn't ask for anything better."

The Wuelfings new home, half of a duplex that began construction last summer, was recently completed under the supervision of Construction Manager Dave Connell. Vol-



unteers arrived in groups and as individuals over the course of the build and the Wuelfings were there as often as possible.

"We've been physically out here building and we were here when it was dirt and bark dust. We were here for the foundation and tried to be out here at every stage," said

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald



ABOVE LEFT: Ravyn Wuelfing snuggles up to a new quilt, one of three, provided to the Wuelfing family by the Quilts for Valor project. ABOVE RIGHT: Greg Wuelfing shows off the keys to his family's new Habitat for Humanity home flanked by his wife, Olivia, and kids, Joshua and Ravyn.

GVC vs. OSAA
in court

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KFD honors
excellence

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Board sets hearing on smoking ban in parks

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer Parks Advisory Board (KPAB) is planning a public hearing regarding a ban on smoking in the city's 19 parks.

After wrestling with the topic off-and-on for several years, the board decided to take public input on the issue at its Feb. 13 meeting, beginning at 6 p.m. Public testimony can be offered by anyone.

A renewed effort to consider a ban on smoking in Keizer parks was presented to the parks board last year. It led to a parks board recommendation to establish designated smoking areas in Keizer's parks, but that idea never saw the light of day in a Keizer city council meeting.

For the past two months, KPAB member Jim Taylor has sought to advance recommendations banning smoking in parks with a va-



Photo illustration

riety of conditions ranging from the time of year to specific locations, but few have reached the point of a vote at even the parks board level. The members of the board

who have opposed the idea have most frequently rooted their arguments in Keizer's inability to enforce a smoking ban.

In December, Taylor said

he would talk with representatives of Salem and Marion County, which already have bans in place, and report back to KPAB.

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Woman stole mail from 42

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A woman found in possession of mail from 42 different addresses is now being held in the Marion County Correctional Facility on \$825,000 bail.

Keizer Police Department (KPD) Officer Rod Bamford responded to a disturbance call about 12:15 a.m. in the 600 block of Wilshire Drive North on Sunday, Jan. 28. The caller reported a woman in a white hoodie and jeans was walking through the neighborhood and throwing packages into yards. The caller had retrieved one of the packages and found it addressed to someone on Willamette Drive North, which runs perpendicular to Wilshire.



M. Harris

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Traffic board eyes funds for Delight fix

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Graduation rate climbs at MHS

McNary High School's graduation rate grew by 3.9 percent for the 2016-17 academic year, according to the Oregon Department of Education.

Salem-Keizer Public Schools increased its graduation rate by nearly two percentage points. Additionally, the dropout rate decreased by nearly one per-



cent. The graduation rates were based on a four and five-year cohort of students entering the ninth grade in the 2013-14 or 2012-13 academic year. The dropout rate reports on students in grades 9-12.

"This is no small feat," Superintendent Christy Perry said. "Our educators are implementing strategies in the

classroom that are being supported by a cadre of wraparound services outside the classroom. In Salem-Keizer Public Schools, we are committed to high standards beginning early that get students to graduation. We know having effective educators in every classroom and in our schools is the key to getting students across the stage. One of our many successful offerings is our Career-Technical Education program, and if the 2018 bond measure passes,

we'll be able to expand program offerings at all of our high schools to help more students graduate ready for a great career or successful post-secondary education."

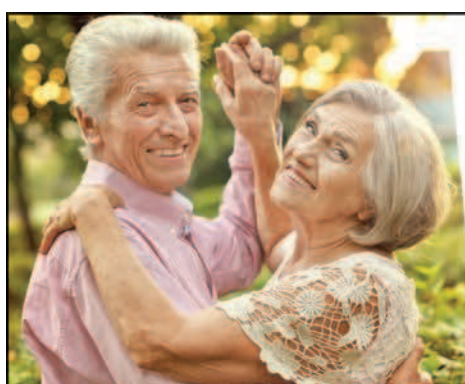
The four-year cohort graduation rate for SKPS increased from 71.71 percent to 73.36 percent for the 2016-17 academic year. Four high schools - Early College, McKay, McNary and Sprague - had an overall increase in

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It's back!
Athlete of the Week

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