

Keizertimes

SECTION A

MAY 25, 2018

\$1.00



It's KeizerFEST



A: Valerie Maley and grandsons Jerry Fonfora and Toryn Maley wait for the Iris Parade. B: A member of The Beat Goes On band marches down River Road. C: Clowns led the parade entry for France School of Dance. D: Winners of the Mayor's Pet Parade Inky and BB.

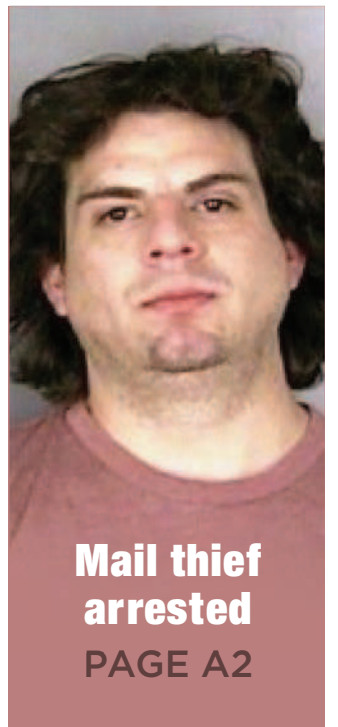
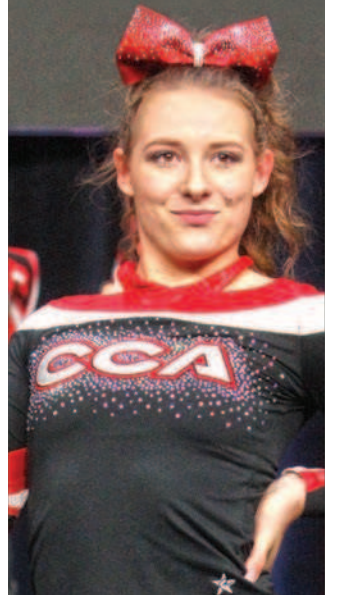


More pics in Section B



KEIZERTIMES/Parker Kehret and Random Pendragon

Something to cheer about
PAGE B5



Mail thief arrested
PAGE A2

Trees will burn... soon?

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Piles of uprooted trees at Keizer Rapids Park may already be reduced to ash by the time this paper hits stands. Or not.

A group of volunteers, led by former city councilor Mark Caillier began burning Wednesday, May 23, but the timeline depended on daily burn windows set by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Earlier this year, the same group of volunteers tore out the aging orchard on the site because it was no longer a break-even proposition for the farmer who was harvesting it.

The city is permitted to burn the piles onsite because the land they are on will continue to

be used for agriculture. The city got a verbal commitment on Monday, May 21, from a local farmer to use the land for grass seed.

No accelerants will be used to ignite or coax the fires once they are set

The approximately 20 acres of land will eventually become part of Keizer Rapids park, but outsourcing care of the area for agricultural production will reduce costs to the city for the time being.

At the city council meeting Monday, Keizer Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said the farmer hoped to begin planting in late summer or fall.

The city has until June 15, when agricultural burning is banned to complete the project.

Cherriots mulls cheaper fares

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Cherriots, the Salem-Keizer public transit system, is currently reviewing its fare structure and seeking public input on possible changes.

The full proposal and a short online survey are available at www.cherriots.org/better. Comment is being sought through June 8.

Some of the possible changes include:

- Instituting a reduced fare program for low-income users, provided the riders can supply proof of Oregon Health Plan coverage or SNAP benefits.
 - Standardizing fares to \$2.25 on regional routes.
 - Eliminating a \$60 monthly pass that works only on
- Please see FARES, Page A6

Keizer United sets new course



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Cari Emery and Meredith Mooney are two of the board members guiding changes at Keizer United.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

For almost two decades, Keizer United has been a fundraising arm for a rotating cast of other, small non-profits located in Keizer.

In some ways, that was a useful set-up. For instance, it allowed organizations to pool fundraising resources. However, the changing roster of supported agencies left Keizer United itself without a tangible identity.

It came to a head when the current chair of the group, Meredith Mooney, met with Mayor Cathy Clark last year in the wake of being denied financial support from the city during budgeting season.

"Cathy asked, 'What is Keizer United?' We got together later and I told her what I thought it could be," Mooney said.

Mooney envisioned a new mission for the group as a meeting ground for a wider array of interests and foster-

ing force for collaboration. Keizer United would become a Community Partnership Team, supplying lunch and inviting anyone on a mission to serve the community to join them.

"Whether you are a neighbor or on city council, you are welcome at this table for a meal but, more importantly, organic collaboration," Mooney said.

That might seem like a hazy realignment of Keizer United's mission, but it's already yielding tangible results. At a Keizer United meeting Monday, May 21, two of the featured presenters were Salem Harvest's Elise Bauman and Simonka Place's Kathy Smith.

Salem Harvest connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteer pickers who harvest crops from fava beans to fruit for other area organizations like the Marion-Polk Food Share.

"There is lots of food being

capitol auto group

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wasted at the farm level because their contracts are filled, the food isn't pleasing to the eye or the demand dries up," Bauman said.

An estimated 400,000 pounds of locally-grown food is wasted each season. Volunteers who help harvest are permitted to keep half of what they pick and the other half goes to families and organizations in need.

Farmers and volunteers can

Please see UNITED, Page A6



Youth councilor heads to college
PAGE A6



Crush wins Iris tourney
PAGE B6



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29th Annual

FUN RUN & HealthWalk

Saturday, June 2nd, 2018

5K Walk plus 3K, 5K & 10K Runs

PRE-REGISTER: SantiamHospital.org

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- Hot coffee, cold smoothies, fresh fruit and scones.
- Prizes awarded to 1st place male and female runners in all age divisions.
- Kids' Bouncy House & Facepainting
- Music (DJ)
- Water Misting
- Keepsake prizes to all finishers.