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Volcanoes seek host families



Alicia Self, right, with her son Shane, daughter Ashlynn and daughter's friend Sabrina Arce, are hosting three Salem-Keizer Volcanoes baseball players this summer, Wander Franco, left, Mikey Edie and Jesus Tona.

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Alicia Self has been a Volcanoes fan since the team came to Salem-Keizer.

But this season she decided to take her fandom to another level by hosting players in her home.

"We wanted to do it last year and we just didn't have quite enough time to get the house ready," said Self, who has hosted exchange students and foster kids in the past. "We're fairly local to the Volcanoes Stadium, about three minutes behind it, so location was good for us. We had the room and we thought it would be kind of fun."

Self started with one player before adding a second and then third.

"It's been amazing," she said. "We are very blessed to have three players that are amazing young men in our house. We have lucked out. They do their own dishes. They clean up after themselves. They cook food and share with the whole family. They are really good guys."

All three players, Jesus Tona

(Venezuela), Wander Franco (Dominican Republic) and Mikey Edie (Venezuela), are from Spanish-speaking countries.

"They can all three understand us pretty well," Self said. "I took four years of Spanish in high school and a lot of it comes back, at least the most important stuff, the primary communication part."

Having the baseball players in her home has been a real treat for Self's 10-year-old son Shane, who plays for Keizer Little League.

"He absolutely loves it because they can all game together, Nerf wars," Self said. "He's really enjoying it. These are like his heroes."

Anyone interested in hosting a Volcanoes player can contact host family coordinator Judy Fromherz at 503-569-3304.

Host families receive two season tickets and must have a spare bedroom and provide transportation to the stadium for players.

The Volcanoes eat lunch and dinner at the stadium on game days.

Vandals bound for Junior Olympics

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

The NW Vandals captured a state softball championship on their way to the Junior Olympics.

Playing in Medford, the Vandals defeated Bat Company 8-3 on July 8 to win the 14U title.

The Vandals had lost 2-1 to Bat Company earlier in the day. But since the Vandals were previously undefeated in the double elimination tournament, they got another shot at bringing home the championship.

"I think we came out a little flat in the first game and their pitcher was throwing really well," said Vandals second baseman Abbi Covalt, a sophomore at McNary High School. "She had a good fastball and she was getting us out on change ups. They switched pitchers in the second game and I think we were just a little bit angry in the second one from losing. We wanted to come out with a different fire and leave no doubt that we wanted it more."

The Vandals scored three runs in the first inning and three more in the second to jump out to a 6-1 lead.

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The NW Vandals defeated Bat Company 8-3 on July 8 in Medford to win the 14A softball state championship.

Submitted

Holiday edges Cambridge to win third straight meet

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Two points. That is all that decided Holiday's swim meet at Cambridge on Thursday, July 12 with the Keizer neighborhood pool coming out on top, 261-259.

On one of the hottest days of the year, Holiday's girls led the team to victory, winning seven relays (8-and-under, 9-10, 11-12 and 15-18 freestyle; and 8-and-under, 9-10 and 11-12 medley) to out-score Cambridge 146-106.

Individually, Kassy Winters and Kyra Norstrom each won

three events.

Winters took first in the 15-18 IM, free and butterfly.

Norstrom won the 11-12 IM, free and fly.

Maggie Gerig and Claire Hicks swam the fastest times in the 8-and-under fly and breaststroke, respectively.

Emery Love won the 11-12 backstroke and Erika Robinett placed first in the 11-12 breaststroke.

Tessa Talento and Emma Privratsky swam the fastest times in the 15-18 freestyle and breaststroke, respectively.

Holiday's boys won five relays—the 11-12 free and the

8-and-under, 9-10, 11-12 and 15-18 medley.

Jack McCarty took first in the 15-18 breaststroke and butterfly.

Holiday won three 8-and-under events—Jacob Castronova in the breaststroke, Ozzy Arnold in the butterfly and Michael Hudgins in the IM.

Vinny Arnold took first in the 9-10 freestyle and Josh Oliver won the 11-12 breaststroke.

Carter Hollis swam the fastest time in the 13-14 fly.

Tony Gonzalez won the 15-18 backstroke.



Holiday swimmer Olivia Anderson dives into the pool at a meet this summer.

Jacob Prater