

Northern Lights
theatre pub

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Summer Award Program

See 5 movies and get a Small Popcorn and Reg Soda. Pick up a punch card at the box office. See a movie, get a punch. Collect 5 and Redeem.

SUMMER FAMILY MOVIE SERIES
\$1 KID MOVIES (M-F)
Andre (PG) July 30 - August 3
Labyrinth (PG) August 6 - 10
Jumanji (PG) August 13 - 17

UFC227 - Sat, Aug 4
Dillashaw v. Garbrandt
BANTAMWEIGHT TITLE FIGHT
9 FIGHTS IN ALL ON THE HUGE SCREEN
Live Fights at 5:00 (21 & Over) - Tickets \$13
Reserved Seating Available Now Online.


FOSTER: 'Things don't have to go the way statistics say'

(Continued from Page A1) system that allows the foster system to function. Yet, foster parents and the Department of Human Services (DHS) cannot create the best environment for youth without the support of the community.

This mindset of DHS is a new one. Billy Cordero, director of the DHS GRACE grant, seeks to use data known about children in foster care to recruit foster parents that are tailored to specific needs. "It used to be we were an organization that said foster care or nothing and we're trying to change that," Cordero said.

Considering a youth who ends up in care is already steeped in extenuating life circumstances that impede their path to success, it's important to acknowledge the ways the system can change a child's life for the better, even if the situation is inherently not ideal.

Cordero experienced foster care as a young person, due in part to his parents' drug addiction. Cordero and his siblings spent some time in what he calls "orphanage-style care," followed by a stint on the streets, before he was placed with relatives. "They were dedicated to me and they loved me," he said. That changed his life. It wasn't ide-



The foster care system in Marion County is struggling to meet demand. This is the fifth part of a continuing series in the Keizertimes investigating the state of local foster care and shedding light on ways to get involved. Check back next week for another installment.

al — being born into a safe, loving environment to begin with would be ideal. But being placed in a safe, loving foster home gave him a second chance at success.

After moving to Oregon from California to attend college, he learned "things don't have to go the way the statistics say" for youth exiting care.

Shelly Winterberg, the director of field engagement for Every Child Oregon, an organization that seeks to serve as a launch-pad for people wanting to get involved in the foster care system in any capacity.

"We invite anyone and everyone to bring what they have to the table," she said, whether that's material resources, monetary resources or time. The Marion County chapter of Every Child is still in the process of being set up, but visit everychildoregon.org for updates.

Assist with Foster Parents' Night Out

Burn out among foster parents is high, but burn out can be mitigated when they have the right support system, so they're not doing it alone. Foster Parents' Night Out (FPNO) is an organization dedicated to providing foster parents with a child-care break. Two FPNO chapters currently



run in Marion County, based in the Salem Heights Church and Our Savior's Lutheran Church, both in Salem.

Billy Cordero, who in addition to working within DHS is an FPNO board member and coordinator of the Salem Heights Church FPNO chapter, said, "Sitting in a DHS seat, I'm very aware we can't do everything to make families successful."

Organizations such as FPNO have been created by the community to fill that gap and support local foster families. Once a month, a host organization puts together a night of dinner and entertainment for all children in a foster home, whether they're foster kids or the family's biological or adoptive children. For four hours a month, FPNO allows foster parents to do "whatever they need to do to take care of themselves," Cordero said.

FPNO has been successful because the task of run-

ning the once-monthly events falls to the host organization, which is usually a church but can be a different organization, who provide the space, funding and volunteer power to make the program run.

Prior to participating in an FPNO event, organizer host a three-hour volunteer orientation covering the basics of foster care, how to interact with kids who have suffered abuse and neglect, discuss what the purpose of FPNO is, and what expectations exist for volunteers.

Volunteers usually come from within the host organization, but unaffiliated community members can reach out to FPNO if they're interested in getting involved with an existing chapter or starting their own. But the organization has other needs aside from volunteers, including donations and discounts on entertainment and catering. Local businesses and businesspeople who are willing to provide services to FPNO can reach out to the chapter they'd like to support directly.

For more information on FPNO and getting involved, visit fpno.org.

Today in History

The House Judiciary Committee recommends that America's 37th president, Richard M. Nixon, be impeached and removed from office. The impeachment proceedings resulted from a series of political scandals involving the Nixon administration that came to be collectively known as Watergate. — July 27, 1974

Food 4 Thought

"From Watergate we learned what generations before us have known; our Constitution works. And during Watergate years it was interpreted again so as to reaffirm that no one - absolutely no one - is above the law." — Leon Jaworski, special Watergate prosecutor

The Month Ahead

Through Saturday, July 28

Shakespeare in the Park. Keizer Homegrown Theater presents *The Tempest*, at Keizer Rotary Amphitheater at Keizer Rapids Park. Performance at 7 p.m. Free parking. No outside food or beverages allowed. Donations gladly accepted. Continues following weekend in Aumsville. keizerhomegrowntheatre.org.

Saturday, July 28

Saturday Night Dance & Potluck. Features music by Crossfire. Admission is \$5. 7 to 10 p.m. at the Keizer/Salem Area Seniors, 930 Plymouth Drive NE.

Wednesday, August 1

Intake for Keizer Art Association's August exhibition, Member Showcase, 3-7 p.m. Enid Joy Mount Gallery, Keizer Cultural Center, 980 Chemawa Rd. NE. keizerarts.com.

Thursday, August 2

Southeast Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting, 6:30 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Friday, August 3

Keizertimes presents a Hawaiian Luau featuring Paradise of Samoa as part of the Free 2018 Summer Concert Series located at Keizer Rotary Amphitheater at Keizer Rapids Park. Gates open at 5 p.m., show starts at 6:30 p.m. Beer, Wine, & Spirits available from Santiam Brewing Company. Please no outside food or beverages. No pets allowed inside the amphitheater. For complete concert schedule go to Facebook.com/KRAORG. For more information, call (503) 910-3232.

Friday, August 3 – Sunday, August 5

2018 Hoopla Tournament, more than 950 teams vie for top ranking in 3-on-3 basketball. The event will result in the closure of several streets in downtown Salem. More information at: oregonhoopla.com.

Homer Davenport Community Festival in honor of nationally-renowned political cartoonist and Oregon native Homer Davenport. Festival will have crafts, food, music, and more. A contest for political and editorial cartoons is also being held; they will be on display at the festival and judged by a panel. Prizes up to \$750 are available. Takes place in Silverton, Oregon; homerdavenport.com

Saturday, August 4

ServeFest by Lakepoint Community Church. New location at Claggett Creek Middle School, 1810 Alder Drive NE. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A free, family-friendly event. Kids carnival, hot dog lunch, haircuts for kids, manicures, bike repairs, pet grooming, family photos and more.

Monday, August 6

Keizer City Council meeting, 7 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Wednesday, August 8

Keizer Planning Commission meeting, 6 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Thursday, August 9

Keizer Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee meeting, 6 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Saturday, August 11

Englewood Forest Festival, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Englewood Park, 1260 19th Street NE in Salem. Free family-friendly art & environmental workshops, children's activities, music, dance, food trucks, and booths featuring local artists, cottage industries, businesses and community resources. Free admission.

Tuesday, August 14

Keizer Parks Advisory Committee meeting, 6 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Add your event by e-mailing news@keizertimes.com.

Become a special advocate

Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA volunteers, are meant to serve children who are often lost in a system that is overburdened and understaffed.

In a courtroom, where a child's voice can often be lost among competing adults, a "CASA volunteer is the only person who is there because they want to see the child's voice heard," said Shaney Starr, executive director of Marion County's branch of the CASA organization. CASAs are foster youth advocates who are trained and sworn in by a judge to serve a foster child. The duties of a CASA involve reviewing the information in a foster youth's case, spending time with the child, interviewing caseworkers, foster families, biological relatives, and making recommendations to the court on a child's case to ensure foster youth have the best outcomes.

CASAs may have different recommendations for the child's welfare than caseworkers, lawyers or others party to a child's case. Because CASAs report directly to the judge, and have an average caseload of two foster youth, their perspective on a case differs from others party to the case. While "respectful communication and professional interaction" between CASAs, DHS, and other parties is a priority, there are times when a CASA will make different recommendations to a judge about how the child's emotional, medical, and educational needs are met.

CASAs must have "a belief that every child has a safe and permanent home where they can thrive and the willingness to see that through," Starr said. For these reasons, being a CASA is a two-year commitment, and if the foster child's case stays open longer, CASAs are encouraged to stick with that case.

CASAs provide oversight in a system that has come under fire for a lack thereof in recent years. Unfortunately, there are currently not enough CASAs for every foster child in Marion County. As of last count, there were

about 130 Marion County CASAs and over 600 kids in care. At the currently number of foster youth in the system,

the Marion County CASA branch needs an additional 75 CASAs in order to make sure every foster child has a CASA volunteer working on their case.

For more information on training and getting involved as a CASA, visit casamarionor.org, email info@casamarionor.org or call 503-967-6420.



looking back in the KT

5 YEARS AGO

Spider-Girl ready to help burglarized dance studio

After Classic Tap Dance Studio was burglarized, a 6-year-old who's family frequents the studio told the owners to strap her to the ceiling so she could watch for intruders. While they refused her help, they appreciated the mini-superhero's gesture.

10 YEARS AGO

Lady Celts fourth at state

Keizer's Lady Celts softball team compiled a 5-2 record at the state tournament, finishing fourth place overall against 42 other teams.

15 YEARS AGO

Tough economy puts food program in dire straits

In light of economic changes that have closed some funding avenues, the Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program is tasked with finding a way to keep feeding families as their budget begins to wane.

20 YEARS AGO

Gun threat prompts teen's arrest
A 16-year-old Keizer boy was arrested last Thursday after pointing a gun at another boy following an argument.

maze

Maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

sudoku

1			9			7		
9			7		8	3		6
		2		5				
		1	3				7	
5	2						4	1
	7				1	2		
				3		1		
3		4	8		6			5
		7			9			4

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

KEIZERTIMES.COM Web Poll Results

Would you consider becoming a foster parent?

56% – Yes
44% – No

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!
GO TO KEIZERTIMES.COM