

Keizertimes

SECTION A

JANUARY 11, 2019

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Merchant of the Year champions integrity

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Larry Jackson wasn't surprised to be named Keizer's Merchant of the Year in 2018, it was something he worked toward.

"I grew up in Keizer and volunteering at the fire district, the candy cane day and the breakfasts. I remember the dads who helped build Keizer Little League Park and being there for the kids," Jackson said.

In the year since his name was announced, Jackson's presence in the community hasn't dwindled in the slightest. He is a regular fixture at just about any community effort in Keizer and Salem. While he is more likely to be found working behind the scenes than in photo ops, the relationships he makes through involvement have allowed others to tap into resources they might not otherwise have known were available. In addition to the extra-curricular activities, Jackson's Auto Body, the business he co-owns with his cousins Jerry and Carol Jackson, celebrated its 60th anniversary and the third generation of family owners.

"It gets a little complicated – sometimes very complicated – mixing business



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Larry Jackson was honored at the 2018 Merchant of the Year by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. The nod was a milestone in a pair of long journeys.

Larry Jackson will hand over the title of Merchant of the Year on Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Keizer First Citizen Awards Banquet. During the gala, the city will name a new first citizen, merchant of the year and service to education award winner. Tickets are available at the Keizer Chamber of Commerce website: www.keizerchamber.com

and family. But when I talk to other people in family businesses, most don't get this far," Jackson said of the milestone.

It was a busy year to say the least, but the Merchant of the Year title was more of a capstone in a long journey. He'd been working toward it for eight years, which is as long as he has been working on sobriety.

Jackson started working in the shop at 14, when his dad woke him up and told him he was going to work on the first day of his summer vacation. From that point until he graduated from McNary High

School in 1984, he split his time between a part-time job at Orcutt's IGA and the family business.

"When I started at 14, I painted the buildings and swept floors and did some of the prep work on paint jobs, but I wanted to get into the shop and repair things," Jackson said.

In a field more and more dominated by technology, car body work still requires a personal touch.

"I always felt I was good with my hands and collision work takes a feel. You have to sand to a happy medium before something can be repainted, and I liked pounding on something from time to time," Jackson said.

He started full-time in January 1985 and rose to co-owner in 1998. By 2010,

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THRICE DENIED

District, church to court over eminent domain

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Salem-Keizer School District and St. Edward Catholic Church will head to court to settle a dispute over land the school district wants to acquire to expand McNary High School.

A complaint filed by the district with Marion County Circuit Court in late December asks that a jury be assembled to determine just compensation for six acres behind the church that the district wants to purchase.

In the documents, the district's attorney J. Kevin Shuba, asserts that the school district received an estimate \$1.55 million for the land in November and offered \$1.75 million "to avoid the costs of litigation."

The November appraisal was the second one performed on the property. In January 2018, an initial estimate said the vacant land was worth \$1.39 million.

Lillian Govus, spokesperson for the school district, said the church had made a "counter offer is nearly double the appraised value, which with the district's responsibility to taxpayers, cannot be entertained."

When asked about the counteroffer, Bonnie Henny, the

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Lady Celts pick up huge win
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Councilors sworn in
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KLL Park mgmt. planning lurches — slowly — forward

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer Little League Park Long Range Planning Task Force met for the third time on Jan. 2. While the meeting was wide ranging, little tangible progress appeared to be made.

At the core of the continuing discussions regarding future management of the park and what it could or should become. When Mayor Cathy Clark asked attendees whether they were ready to discuss a new management structure – a third-party entity comprised of members of both Keizer Little League (KLL) and McNary Youth Baseball (MYB) alongside others representing the community-at-large – there was no dissent, but the resulting conversation never reached a decision point.

Off the bat, talk turned to other possible solutions, such as the managing organization leasing the park and reducing the city's oversight.

KLL Vice President Lisa Buik seemed interested in the possibility, but wanted more in-

formation.

"The advantages to you is that you would have absolute and full control. The negative is that [the city] would have nothing to do with it," said City Manager Chris Eppley. While the city council might be willing to enter into agreements to help maintain or improve the park, the managing organization would likely be expected to exhaust all other avenues of funding.

City Councilor-elect Dan Kohler returned to a more fundamental question of which activities should be the park's primary focus.

While some at the meeting felt the park should continue to be focused on Keizer youth, others felt it could fulfill that mission while attracting outside tournaments.

"I think we can do both simultaneously," said Brad Arnsmeier, KLL president.

"There is going to have to be more improvements to have quality tournaments,"

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For more on the organizational differences that keep KLL and MYB apart, see Page A11

Grease is the word



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings
Ingrid Dunn and Steven Cummings, strike a pose during dress rehearsals for Grease, the latest McNary High School musical. For all the details, show times and a cast list, see pages A2 – A3.

New chief at MCFD1

Marion County Fire District #1 (MCFD1) Board of Directors unanimously supported the appointment of Kyle McMann to the position of fire chief. McMann started his job on Jan. 1.

Chief Kyle McMann joined MCFD1 in 2001 as an engineer/paramedic after completing the Chemeketa Fire Program and Umpqua Paramedic Program. He has served in several capacities over his MCFD1 career including



Kyle McMann

firefighter, engineer, captain, operations captain, battalion chief, and his deputy chief. He also serves as a task force leader for the Marion County Fire Defense Board for Conflagrations.

McMann possesses associates degrees in fire science, emergency medical services – paramedic and nursing. He holds a bachelor's degree in fire services administration, and a master's in executive fire officer leadership. He is currently completing his bachelor's in nursing. McMann has also served as IAFF (International Association of Fire Fighters) Local 2557 president.

A native Oregonian, he lives in Salem with his wife, Carol, and his daughter, Lauren. The

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Volcanoes add front office staffer
PAGE A10

McNary boys dominate Forest Grove
PAGE A14



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