

Jerry McGee mourned

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizer Times

Husband, father, friend, doctorate-level teacher, mentor, champion of disability rights, author, historian and former Keizer city councilor, Jerry McGee, who passed away Jan. 10 at the age of 85 after a battle with cancer, had more roles in his life than many would consider aspiring to, but he performed them all and collected a vast array of friends on the journey.

David Johnson, a friend of McGee's since they attended Washington's Battle Ground High School, said McGee made sure anyone he encountered didn't leave a stranger.

"We'd go on cruises together and every time we had a meal, we had to sit with someone new so he could get to know them," Johnson said. "He's always tell them we'd 'been together' for 60 years and then he'd get a smirk on his face."

McGee's tall and lanky figure stood out in most crowds and, if there was a crowd in Keizer, McGee was probably in the thick of it. An educator to the core, he was most likely regaling whatever audience that would listen with stories of Pacific Northwest history. It was a skill he was never afraid to let shine.

"Jerry was a walking encyclopedia of Oregon's pioneer

past," said friend Jaqueline Lusk. "There was the time Diane [Monroe] took him on a sternwheeler cruise on the Columbia for his birthday. As the captain gave his historical presentation on the river's history, Jerry jumped right in to the delight of the passengers, adding his own facts and amusing stories, and pointing out various historical markers. The captain, being a wise man, turned it all over to Jerry's expertise."

McGee was born on Oct. 3, 1933 in Battle Ground, Wash., to parents Riley and Lota McGee. His education began in a one-room schoolhouse in Battle Ground and carried him to Clark County Community College, Western Washington University and, eventually, Colorado State College where he earned his doctoral degree in education.

After graduating from Battle Ground High School, however, McGee took a job as a chocktender during the construction of the Yale Dam near Amboy, Wash., and others throughout the area. Chocktenders were assistants to tunnel-drillers. McGee financed his education with mining work and, years later, wrote about the many characters he met in a fictionalized account titled *Whiskey Riley*.

On Sept. 11, 1953, McGee married his wife of 55-years,



Submitted
Jerry McGee from his senior high school yearbook.



File
Jerry McGee, dressed as Thomas Dove Keizer, delivers a history lesson to students at Clear Lake Elementary School several years ago.

Shirley Rolling.

His career in teaching would lead him through many schools' hallowed halls, but McGee was especially involved with special education students.

McGee's second cousin, Ed Zimmerman, who was one of McGee's first students when he returned to teach at Battle Ground High School, said he only realized how important the special needs students

were to McGee in retrospect. "He had a 'different' student sit in our class a couple of hours each day," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman also credited McGee, a life-long baseball fan and collegiate-level player, for instilling in him a love of baseball.

"He coached our ninth grade baseball team and a North County community team. He taught us the fun-

damentals of 'little ball.' If one reads Jerry's book *The Lewis River High Sealers and the Dam Kids* you will get insights into his baseball philosophy," Zimmerman said.

McGee's teaching career eventually led him to take on advocacy roles within state government pushing for more equal treatment in classrooms and under the law more broadly. His presence in those discussions led him to a 10-year stint as executive director of the Salem's Fairview State Hospital.

He retired in the mid-1990s.

Please see MCGEE, Page A6

"Jerry was a statesman."

— Richard Walsh
Former city councilor

McNary students battle district foes in shoe drive

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizer Times

It can be easy for people to take things for granted in their life.

The ability to afford quality shoes, for instance, is something that a lot of people wouldn't even give a second thought to.

Yet for others, clean and usable shoes are seen as a luxury.

Luckily, for those who are less fortunate, there are students at McNary High School that are willing to do something about it.

From February 14 to February 28, McNary will be participating in the seventh annual Shoe Battle of the Schools where schools across the Salem-Keizer area will compete to see who can collect the most

shoes — with the goal of giving them to local kids that are in need.

After shoes are collected and counted, the top high school and middle school are presented trophies.

The project is put on by One Thousand Soles, which is a teen-championed shoe drive and distribution organization for homeless youth, children in need and young athletes living in the Salem-Keizer area. It is coordinated by the City of Salem with campaigns and collections taking place all throughout the year.

One Thousand Soles was created in 2012 — in partnership with the City of Salem's

Please see SHOES, Page A9



Paper expands kids' section



Beginning this week, the *Keizer Times* is dedicating a full page to the youth of Keizer.

The paper launched its No Adults Allowed section in October and the section's success has warranted a new look and more attention.

"It's been too long since news organizations invested in young readers beyond the funny pages. And this is our way of reminding kids in elementary and middle school that newspapers can still be relevant and fun," said Eric Howald, managing editor of the *Keizer Times*.

The full page section will include more of what has already been successful: crafts, fun facts, career and kid features, reviews of books, games and movies, and jokes. In addition, we are going to be adding new content that allows Keizer youth to make the No Adults Allowed page

their own.

Kid-to-Kid will be the No Adults Allowed version of the editorial page. We welcome students and youth to write in with messages to the other kids in the community and we will run them in that space.

The paper is also offering students a chance to be reporters in their schools.

"We want to let the kids tell us about the cool things happening in their schools in their own words. We will run their stories in the No Adults section," Howald said. "We see part of our mission as encouraging curiosity about all things and this is one way more way to push the envelope."

In addition to seeing their names in print, students who take advantage of the

Please see KIDS, Page A9

Check out the new look on Page A4

City faces steep climb to meet housing needs

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizer Times

A consultant from ECONorthwest set the stage for another conversation of Keizer growth at the first meeting of the Housing Needs and Buildable Lands Inventory Advisory Committee Monday, Jan. 14.

Bob Parker, a projector director at ECONorthwest, led a presentation and brief discussion about what committee members can expect in coming months and what Keizer is looking at in terms of housing needs.

The big takeaway from the evening was that construction of new residences has never kept up with the city's need and it isn't ramping up to meet future demand.

"We will need 3,820 dwelling units [by 2039] and an average of 191 new units per year," said Parker. "It's a challenging target."

The city is projected to grow by nearly 10,000 people over the next 20 years, which pencils out to the 3,800-unit need when accounting for the average size of Keizer households. However, the popula-

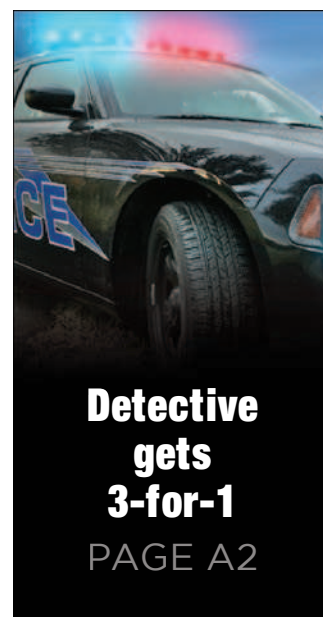
tion projections themselves are something of a moving target, the state is expected to issue new forecasts in 2020 and the number may shrink substantially. To date, Keizer has never been issued a population estimate separate from Salem because the two cities share an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The current figures are being used so the city can begin having conversations about if, how and where to grow.

Without an expansion of the UGB, it means Keizer

Please see NEEDS, Page A7



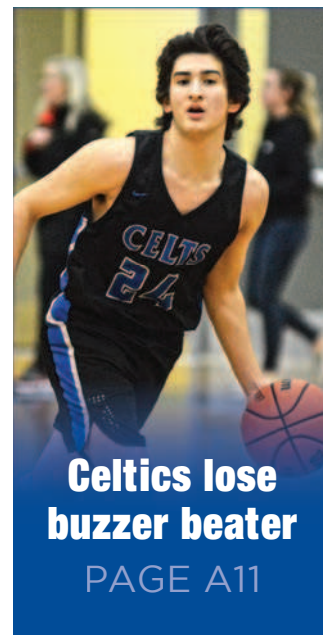
Parker, student reunite at Willamette
PAGE A14



Detective gets 3-for-1
PAGE A2



Fire board continues talk on devel. fees
PAGE A8



Celtics lose buzzer beater
PAGE A11



With a fully redesigned interior, an available mighty 456-horsepower engine, enhanced suspension for absolute driving comfort or a sportier driving style, and xDrive intelligent all-wheel drive (available on most BMW models), the all-new BMW X5 is always ready, no matter the challenge ahead.

Learn more about the all-new BMW X5, and enjoy exceptional offers at BMW of Salem.

BMW of Salem • 1151 Van Ness Ave NE, Salem, OR 97301 • (855) 408-6768 • BMWofSalem.com
©2019 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.