

Keizertimes

SECTION A

MARCH 8, 2019

\$1.00



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings
A Keizer man perished in a fire that consumed a mobile home off Chemawa Loop Northeast on Sunday, March 3. The cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

Man dies in mobile home fire

A fire in a Keizer mobile home park claimed the life of a 62-year-old man Sunday, March 3.

Keizer firefighters were summoned to a mobile home fire at Rainbow Gardens Mobile Village, a 55+ Senior Living Community, at 5:44 a.m. Firefighters were on scene in four minutes and were summoned to the scene by neighbors calling 9-1-1.

Two residents — Mate Mezei, age 62, and his wife Maria Mezei, age 59 — were inside the home at the time of the fire.

Neighbors Dan Garcher, age 57, and his wife Linda Garcher, age 54, were awak-

ened by a barking dog to the fire. The residence is a single-wide mobile home with an attached porch.

According to Keizer Police Department Deputy Chief Jeffrey Kuhns, Mr. Garcher went in to the burning house to try and rescue Mr. Mezei, but wasn't able to as he was pushed back by the smoke and fire.

However, Mr. Garcher was able to rescue Mrs. Mezei from the home — both suffered serious injuries from the fire and were transported to the hospital by paramedics.

Mrs. Garcher also assisted Mrs. Mezei once she was out of the building.

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Muzzle nuzzled



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Whiteaker Middle School eighth grader Knowledge McKenzie-Jackson gets a nuzzling from Caesar the No Drama Llama after an all-school assembly Friday, March 1. For more pictures and the story, see Page A2.



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Kyle Juran, Keizer's 2019 Merchant of the Year, was honored by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce in January for his efforts throughout the community.

By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

Kyle Juran is rarely the loudest voice in a room but, when he does speak or act, it comes from the heart.

For evidence, look no further than this past year. In May 2018, he volunteered his services and the employees of Remodeling by Classic Homes to build a massive playhouse that served as the prize in a raffle to boost the Keizer Network of Women's annual Giving Basket Program. The idea came together in just a few short weeks, sold out all 500 available tickets and raised more than \$2,000 for the giving baskets.

Later in the year, Juran spearheaded the effort to remodel the interior of the new Keizer Chamber of Commerce office on River Road North. Juran downplays the significance, but the project included rearranging most of the walls inside the space to fit the needs of the chamber.

He's also a volunteer on the Keizer Planning Commission and a board member of the Home

Builders Association of Marion and Polk Counties.

This year, he's planning another fundraiser for a local nonprofit to coincide with another playhouse/float (See sidebar, Page A8).

"I got involved in the chamber because one of my customers encouraged me, and I began to enjoy being available to other business people, but it goes both ways. They are there for me with friendship and more," Juran said.

Depending on how one counts, Juran is either the second-generation owner of Classic Homes or the first-generation owner of Remodeling by Classic Homes. His father started Classic Homes out of a love for remodeling his own family's spaces and then moved on to building them whole cloth.

"He started with one or two at a time and then he built 28 homes, a few at a time, on Staats Lake," Juran said. "It's still fun to drive around the area and point out the ones he built to my kids."

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— Kyle Juran

Leagues, city could spin off park mgmt.

By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

Representatives of the city and the two leagues that make the most use of Keizer Little League Park appear to be moving toward establishing a separate, but collaborative foundation to manage and schedule events at the park.

For the past few months, city officials have been encouraging Keizer Little League (KLL) and McNary Youth Baseball (MYB) to find a new management model at the park because the first one is a source of rifts dating back more than a decade. Currently, the city contracts with one of the leagues to manage the park which seemingly puts the other at a disadvantage. KLL holds the current contract, but MYB has in the past.

Members of both leagues

along with City Councilor Marlene Parsons and the Parks Advisory Board's Matt Lawyer have been meeting as a subgroup to figure what a new management structure might look like and unveiled their proposal at a meeting of the Keizer Little League Park Long-Range Planning Task Force Wednesday, Feb. 27.

The group proposed establishing the Keizer Baseball and Softball Complex Foundation with a board of directors comprised of the president and vice president of each league, members of the parks advisory board, a representative of the park's concession stand and citizen representation. The board would be responsible for

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Proposal for facility includes possible renaming

City Hall clean-up March 16

At least 100 volunteers are needed to help clean up around the Keizer Civic Center Saturday, March 16.

Each year, the Rotary Club of Keizer and Claggett Creek Watershed Council host a morning of work ranging from picking up trimmings from trees, shrubs and grasses to removing weeds and more.

The clean-up is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon, but many hands make light work and could mean a quicker finish.

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Celts outsd from playoffs
PAGE A14



After school jiu jitsu
PAGE A4



Whiteaker mentor honored
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Celts all-conference awards
PAGE A10



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