

END OF WATCH

KPD deputy chief turns in badge

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

Jeff Kuhns was a patrol sergeant in the mid-1990s when he got a preview into how the profession would change in the last half of his career.

Beginning in the winter and continuing right through to summer, officers had been responding to the same address where a teenage girl was repeatedly running away from home. On that fateful summer night, Officer Mindy Tucker had apparently had enough. She responded to the newest report from the home and spent the next four hours facilitating a heart-to-heart between the parents and their daughter.

“Other officers were fielding a bunch of other incoming calls and they

were kind of upset. But she unplugged and said she was tired of coming to the house and they were going to figure it out,” Kuhns said. “She solved the problem by identifying the root cause and, to my knowledge, we never responded there again. That was when the light turned on for me. She got it, we had to try to figure out what was the root problem because we can’t arrest our way out of it again and again.”

Kuhns retired at the end of May as deputy chief of the Keizer Police Department. He spent the entirety of his professional police career, 29 years and eight months, at KPD and only one other employee outlasted him in terms of time served there.

Other opportunities arose during



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Jeff Kuhns was the second-longest serving employee of the Keizer Police Department.

his time, but Kuhns’ roots in Keizer run deep. Not long after landing his first full-time gig with Keizer, he and wife, Trish, built a home here. Their two kids both graduated from McNary. That was by design, he said.

“Dick Withnell was one of my baseball coaches and his big thing was leaving the community in a better place than when you found it. I wanted to get involved in my community,” Kuhns said.

If anything, Withnell’s message reinforced things Kuhns was learning

from neighbors at a young age.

As a kid growing up in northeast Salem, neighbors helped pave the road that led to a career in policing. One neighbor was a deputy with the Marion County Sheriff’s Office and sometimes ended up taking care of a trailer that acted as a mobile museum of local law enforcement.

“When he had it at home, he would open it up for the neighborhood kids,” Kuhns said.

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Walling signs with OSU
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Fitness stations near completion
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POLICE: Arson alleged in car fire connected to teens’ deaths

On Thursday, June 27, Keizer Police was notified around 1:25 a.m. about a red 2008 Ford Explorer that was on fire in a driveway in the 4700 block of 18th Ave.

Personnel from the Keizer Fire District arrived on the scene and extinguished the flames. Keizer Police detectives began investigating the case as arson because evidence indicated the fire was intentionally set.

Detectives believe the fire is

Flowers top a fence off Salem-Keizer Parkway at a makeshift memorial for three girls who died in a traffic accident in June.

KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson

likely related to a disturbance call that both Salem and Keizer police responded to earlier in the evening on Wednesday, June 26, which the victim of the car fire and several other people were involved in a verbal dispute.

The disturbance occurred at the location of a memorial at the Salem Parkway and Cherry Ave NE. The memorial was erected by family members to commemorate a traffic crash that resulted in the fatalities of three young women on June 2.

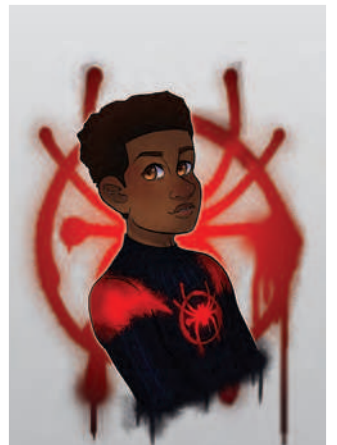
The car fire victim was at the memorial picking up items and in doing so, attracted the attention of family members and others associated with the crash victims who

then arrived at the memorial. The person told the family he was there to “clean up” and throw the items away, which they strongly objected to.

Officers called to the scene determined the man had no lawful responsibility to dispose of the memorial items and also determined the memorial was not constructed in a way that endangered the public, nor did it create an obstacle for passers-by.

Juan Carlos Palacios Rodriguez has been indicted on three counts of first-degree manslaughter, as well as other charges, in connection with the deaths of Trinity Watt, Madison Capobianco and Makayla

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No Adults: Why so many Spider-Men
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Get trauma-informed at half-day workshop

By **LAUREN MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

“Trauma-informed” might seem like the latest cultural buzz word, but Danielle Vander Linden knows it can help in everything from work to home life.

“Whether they apply it to their professional life or their personal life, there’s something for everyone in this,” Linden said.

Linden will be leading the training *Becoming Trauma Informed* on July 8 at 9 a.m.

The five-and-a-half hour training helps individuals develop skills to better navigate their work and personal lives.

United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, 455 Bliler Avenue Northeast, is hosting. The training costs \$150 per person. Seats are limited, visit tinyurl.com/salemtrauma to register.

Linden has a master’s degree in special education, and was Please see TRAUMA, Page A6

Summer nights in the park



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Above: Concert attendees wave to the camera before the band takes the stage.



Left: Members of Abbey Road perform.

The free summer concert series kicked off at Keizer Rotary Amphitheater in Keizer Rapids Park Friday, June 28. Abbey Road, a Beatles tribute band, got things started. The series continues this Saturday, July 6, with a performance by Joe Stoddard.



Williams sets high bar in WOU lacrosse
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