

CAKE,

continued from Page A1

days in a row that I haven't been sleeping," Hearn said.

She whipped up her first full-size cake at the beginning of August: a three-layer, dark chocolate cake with a buttercream chocolate filling and ganache topping off the whole thing.

"I have the base recipes from the cupcakes and I adapted it for a whole cake," Hearn said.

Her son, Jacobe, 12, is the designated flavor refinement expert and he signed off on the creation. Hearn took that into work and earned enough rave reviews to bolster her confidence.

She decided to enter it into Frank's long-running contest, which was held on Sept. 1 in Columbia Hall on the State Fairgrounds.

Frank started the contest, for which he is the sole judge, 60 years ago. Frank became a renown figure in Oregon as chief of staff to late Sen. Mark Hatfield. In retirement, and as part of department store family, he turned his attention to unearthing the special places, restaurants and sites that make Oregon unique. He collects all the information in his guidebook, *Gerry Frank's Oregon*, now in its fourth edition.

When the contest was over, Hearn walked out of Columbia Hall with a \$250 Macy's gift card and a copy of Frank's book, and no more



Submitted
Jenn Hearn's winning cake was a three-layer, dark chocolate cake with a buttercream chocolate filling and ganache topping off the whole thing.

excuses for avoiding full cakes.

For now, and the foreseeable future, Hearn said baking will remain a hobby, one of many that involve creating things from scratch, whether it's baked goods, home décor or music.

"I don't know if I want to make it my full-time work because I don't know if I would enjoy it as much as I do now," she said.

She hasn't, however, ruled out future contests.

Local musician debuts third album

By LAUREN MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Local singer/songwriter, Gabriel Cox, was getting ready to release his third self-produced album, *Junior*, during a live performance at Keizer Rapids Park on Sept. 14. Unfortunately, concerns over inclement weather have scrapped the plan.

Cox has rescheduled the concert for Oct. 5 at Salem Armory.

Junior is an acoustic album that was originally written for Cox's children, Katie, 15, and Caleb, 13. He didn't plan to make it into an album for wide release, but his wife, Julia, convinced him otherwise.

"I feel like the writing is my best work yet," Cox said.

Though he previously released two albums, *Junior* has been a long time in the making.

"I've been playing and writing these songs around my house for the last five years or so, since my kids were little," Cox said.

It has been three years since Cox released his last album *I*



Submitted
Gabriel Cox plays guitar in the studio. Cox had scheduled a Keizer concert this weekend, but it has been canceled over weather concerns.

Surrender, which was nominated for Best Self-Produced Album of 2016 by The Blues Foundation. Before that, in 2014, he released his debut album titled *Gabriel Cox*.

Cox is also a three-time Muddy Award nominee – the Muddy Awards honor local

blues musicians in the Portland area.

"My previous records are a lot heavier, but this album shows people another side of me that I don't share very often," Cox said.

The production of the new album took collaboration from several artists.

"All of these talented individuals were an absolute blast to work with, and most are from the

Salem/Keizer area. It's incredible to see how much talent we have right here in our own backyard," Cox said.

His favorite part of producing this time around was working with all the people who made it happen; including John Pulvers, a family friend

and lead singer of KALICO, the band that was slated to open for Cox at his Keizer performance.

Cox and Pulvers often play music together in their spare time. Pulvers walked away from music for a time prior to the planned Keizer concert because he had lost the joy in it. After people that were close to him and his daughter passed away, he decided to pick it up again.

"We both learned that life is so short," Pulvers said. "It's been nice to play again. I want to do this for my family and most importantly for her."

Junior will be available for download on the Sept. 14 and will, eventually, be available for streaming services.

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