

Today in History

The Quartermaster Corps (QMC) of the United States Army begins training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or “K-9 Corps.” Over a million dogs served on both sides during World War I, carrying messages along the complex network of trenches and providing some measure of psychological comfort to the soldiers.

— March 13, 1942

Food 4 Thought

“As long as the world shall last there will be wrongs, and if no man objected and no man rebelled, those wrongs would last forever.”

— Clarence Darrow, famed attorney (Scopes Monkey trial) died March 13, 1938

The Weeks Ahead

Through Sunday, March 15

Enlightened Theatrics present *First Date, the Musical*, about the uncomfortable and embarrassing nature of blind dating. For show times and tickets visit enlightenedtheatrics.org or call 503-585-3427, extension 1.

Through Wednesday, April 1

Keizer Art Association’s Enid Joy Mount Gallery presents its March show: Art Found in Wood. Exhibit comprised of wood carving and burned wood art. Artists’ reception is 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 29. keizerarts.com.

Saturday, March 14

Keizer Community Center clean-up, 9 a.m.-noon. Sponsored by the City of Keizer and Lakepoint Community Church. Public is encouraged to volunteer to help. Dress for March weather. Contact Mark Caillier at 503-930-7481.

Willamette Valley Genealogical Society meets 12 noon to 1 p.m. at VFW Building, 630 Hood St NE, Salem. Carol Zolkoske will speak about the Saint Boniface Community Archives and Museum in Sublimity.

Night dance and potluck featuring music by Buckskin Jones from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Keizer/Salem Area Seniors Center. Admission is \$5

Tuesday, March 17

St. Patrick’s Day Tea at Deepwood Estate, 2-4 p.m. Tickets are \$28 per person, gluten free options are an additional \$8. For tickets visit deepwoodmuseum.org or call 503-363-1825.

Free admission all day at Hallie Ford Museum of Art, 700 State Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18

Bingo at the Keizer/Salem Area Seniors Center from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.50. There will be prizes, free game cards and Daubers.

Friday, March 20 – Saturday, March 21

Plant sale at Deepwood Estate from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be over four plant vendors with free admission to the sale.

Friday, March 20 – Sunday, March 22

Mid-Valley Yard, Garden and Home Show, Jackman-Long and Columbia Hall buildings at Oregon State Fairgrounds. Hours are Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.- 5p.m. Free admission and parking.

Friday, March 20 – Sunday, April 5

Keizer Homegrown Theatre presents Robert Harling’s *Steel Magnolias*, Keizer Cultural Center, 980 Chemawa Rd. NE. Performances are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sundays. Visit keizerhomegrowntheatre.org for tickets.

Saturday, March 21

Night dance and potluck featuring music by Jefferson parks from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Keizer/Salem Area Seniors Center. Admission is \$5.

Wednesday, March 25

G.I. Wilson will be reading from his book, *Bear Crushes Dad*, at the Keizer Community Library, 980 Chemawa Rd N.E., at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

Keizer Community Dinner, 4-5:30 p.m., St. Edward Catholic Church, 5303 River Rd. N. Free.

Bingo at the Keizer/Salem Area Seniors Center from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.50. There will be prizes, free game cards and Daubers.

Saturday, March 28

Night dance and potluck featuring music by Charles and The Angels from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Keizer/Salem Area Seniors Center. Admission is \$5.

Thursday, April 2 – Tuesday, April 28

Keizer Art Association presents its annual Color Show. This year the color is orange. Artists’ reception is 2-4 p.m. Saturday, April 4.

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday

Saturday, April 11

Deepwood Estate annual Easter Eggstravaganza, ages toddler through 10. Pre-registration is required, \$5 per child, \$1 per adult. Purchase tickets deepwoodmuseum.org/event-calendar/event/550/2020-04-11/ or (503)-363-1825.

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday

Saturday, May 9

Dinner at the Captain’s Table 15th Annual Benefit Auction at St. Edwards Catholic Church, 5303 River Rd. N. For more information visit www.sainteds.com or contact Lyn Walsh at (760)-728-9687.

ESCALATE,

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approaches its work.

“We could do without the other five cops, but our policing wouldn’t be the same,” Teague said. “Our policing style would have to be more reactive. It might be more fun for the guys on patrol, but it would be less rewarding and not a good thing for the community.”

Teague added that it took about three years to move to a proactive policing stance and he would hate to see it go backward.

To help make the case for the fee increases, Teague said police department employees are beginning a conversation about what services the department could add. One example is the Citizen’s Academy already underway, but Teague said another option under consideration is offering fingerprinting services at the Keizer police

station rather than sending individuals to the Oregon State Police.

“I don’t think people should just acquiesce to the higher fees,” Teague said. “We should prove that we are deserving.”

The parks fee is projected to remain at \$4 per for the foreseeable future, but it is up for review each year. That fee has paid for widened pathways throughout Keizer’s 19 parks, a new playground at Meadows Park, a portion of the bathrooms at Keizer Rapids Park, the rehabilitation of Carlson Skate Park, a new sports court at Willamette Manor Park, two new employees and new equipment among thousands of other dollars in improvements.

Councilor Kim Freeman

Police Fee Increase Proposal

Fiscal Year	Police fee revenue (\$)	Increase from prior year (\$)	Monthly fee (\$)	Monthly increase (\$)	Annual fee (\$)
2019-20	680,000	--	4.00	--	48.00
2020-21	906,000	+226,000	5.33	+1.33	63.95
2021-22	1,256,000	+350,000	7.39	+2.06	88.66
2022-23	1,464,000	+208,000	8.61	+1.22	103.34
2023-24	1,791,000	+327,000	10.54	+1.92	126.42
2024-25	2,028,400	+237,000	11.93	+1.40	143.18

Source: City of Keizer

asked that both police and parks officials prepare a one-sheet report showing what the fees have accomplished so far.

“I would also like to see a report on what would happen if the parks fee was decreased to make up for the increase in the police fee,” Freeman said.

CITY: ‘The kids stormed the fences’

(Continued from Page A1)

Clark then turned to work being done in the city’s parks, a result of a parks services fee attached to utility bills in late 2017. Aside from the first flushing toilets in a city park, Clark highlighted how improvements increased usage at Carlson Skate Park.

“The kids stormed the fences the day it was ready and it’s been busy ever since,” she said.

Clark is also anticipating a rework of the master plan for Keizer parks. The current plan is nearing a decade old.

“Part of that revision will be making sure the parks are meeting our current needs and wants,” Clark said.

Clark thanked residents of

west Keizer for rising up to keep Keizer a safer place by standing up to the owner of a quarry across the Willamette River where unsafe shooting had taken place.

“I have to thank everybody involved in that who made sure the safety of our community was paramount,” Clark said.

She lauded several businesses that chose to invest in Keizer during the past year and applauded the arrival of “hamburger travel and tourism,” and took the time to laud the efforts of city staff to make it easier to redevelop properties of River Road North.

“What we are saying to those property owners is come and make those spaces more

productive for you and the community,” Clark said.

Up next, Clark said, is convincing Major League Baseball that they are wrong in trying to shrink the number of minor league teams.

“Major League Baseball doesn’t seem to get the importance of Minor League Baseball to our communities,” she said.

Even with additional challenges on the horizon in terms of meeting needs for the city’s homeless residents and continuing to pay for the climbing cost of police services, Clark said the city would continue to rise up.

“We are up to the challenge of providing the resources for Keizer to continue to be a premier place to live and work. There is no doubt that whatever comes our way, we are up for the challenge,” she said.

CRIMP,

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increases, Keizer will still have some of the lowest water rates in the region between Albany and Portland.

“The biggest driver of our rates is not having to treat it,” said Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works director. “We pump out of the aquifer, add a bit of fluoride and send it to the homes.”

Keizer Finance Director Tom Wood said property tax revenues are expected to drop by about \$60,000 in the coming year. The city is out of large spaces to develop and small, infill developments will not make up for the losses.

The city had to absorb more than \$123,000 in accrued time off payments for retiring employees during the past year and expect to pay out another \$91,000 in accrued time off payment next year.

“One of the reasons we are

seeing this happen is that we have a lot of employees who were hired around the same time and who have spent the majority of their careers with us,” said Chris Eppley. Such payments have ranged from \$14,273 a year (2014-15) when two employees retired to \$123,000 last year when 11 employees retired.

With the stock market on a rollercoaster, Wood said there is also reason to be wary of how much the city will be expected to contrib-

ute to the Public Employees Retirement System.

“It could be a \$250,000 hit,” Wood said.

In better news, Wood said the projected budget for the Keizer’s 2020-21 year will be the first since the 1990s to have it expenditures and revenues in alignment. Typically, the city has budgeted for more than it takes in and makes cuts throughout the year. This is the first year, city employees won’t be asked to make those cuts on the fly.

“We have a lot of employees who were hired around the same time and who have spent the majority of their careers with us.”

— Chris Eppley
City manager

looking back

5 YEARS AGO

Keizer PD uses old Roth’s for training
Last week KPD officers went through some training scenarios in the vacant building.

10 YEARS AGO

Funds for River Road upgrades used to buy land at Keizer Station
About \$637,000 set aside for River Road improvements and other urban renewal projects will instead be used to buy land at Keizer Station.

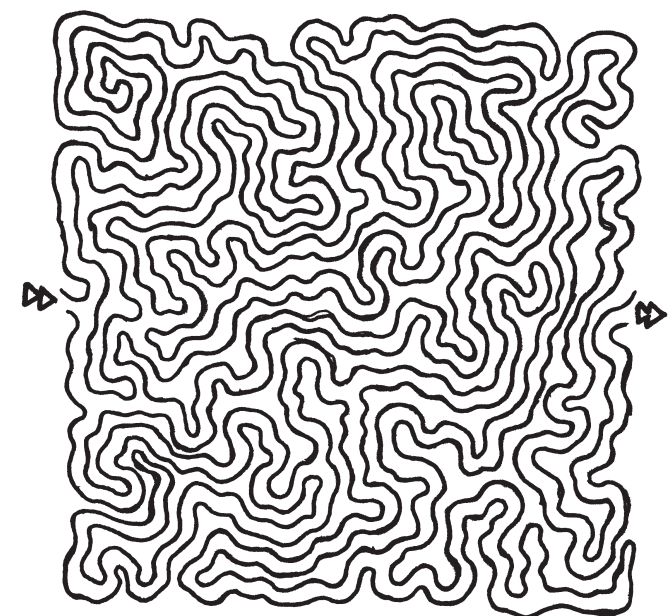
15 YEARS AGO

Chemawa bridge gets green light
The Keizer City Council has authorized city staff to enter into an agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation to complete the preliminary engineering of the new Chemawa Road bridge across Claggett Creek.

20 YEARS AGO

Public gets shot at school names
The Salem-Keizer School District is trying to settle on a name for the new elementary and middle schools soon to be built in south Keizer.

maze



Maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

sudoku

4		1	5	2		3	
3	2	9			6		
				9	5		
		5		8			
9	1	2	8		5	3	
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