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KPD sgt. triples student award

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

McNary graduate Jorie Skipper knew she was getting a \$1,000 scholarship from the Keizer Police Association Friday, May 29, but Jeff and Liz Goodman had another surprise in store.

After officers Kevin DeMarco and David Zavala presented Skipper with the \$1,000 Shayla Goodman Memorial Scholarship, Sgt. Jeff Goodman announced that he and his wife would triple the award to \$3,000.

Goodman is retired but still working with the Keizer Police Department while the city works out the finances to hire a new officer. His daughter,



KEIZERTIMES/ERIC A. HOWALD
TOP: Jorie Skipper learns that Keizer Police Department Sgt. Jeff Goodman and his wife, Liz, will triple her \$1,000 scholarship from the Keizer Police Association, the Keizer police union. ABOVE: Skipper with her family and members of KPD.

Sheila "Shayla" Goodman, is the scholarship's namesake.

As a parting gift, members of the Keizer police union (KPA) asked if Jeff and Liz would like to be part of presentation this year. The couple opted to take that participation a step further.

Goodman said he'd always kept the presentation of the scholarship at arm's length, because Shayla's death is still raw, as it would be for most parents. Shayla died at age 18, the result of being injured in an ATV

accident in Florence, Ore., in 2010.

"The scholarship is important because I know that there are good kids that are coming up in our community. Both of our kids were raised here, went to school here, went to McNary," Jeff said.

"Shayla always dreamed of going to college and this is a way to help another student reach that goal," added Liz.

Skipper plans to attend Seattle Pacific University and study nursing.

Cherriots lands federal grant for electric buses

Oregon Rep. Kurt Schrader announced a \$3.5 million-dollar grant from the Department of Transportation (DOT) that will be used to purchase five electric buses for Salem Area Mass Transit District (SAMTD) as part of the Low or No Emission Vehicle Program.

"I am very pleased that Salem-Keizer Transit was chosen by the DOT to receive these much-needed funds," said Schrader.

Schrader wrote a letter of support of this program on behalf of SAMTD to the Department of Transportation on May 8.

"I led a letter to the DOT requesting these funds to purchase electric buses to replace five of the agency's oldest buses that have been in use for over 15 years," Schrader said, "These new battery-powered, electric buses will dramatically reduce emissions, lower operating costs and will be far more reliable for Salem area passengers."

"By replacing our oldest vehicles with our first battery-electric buses, this grant is a monumental step toward enhanced service and modernization of our vehicle fleet," said SAMTD President Ian Davidson.

The new buses will be used on Route 11 Lancaster Drive, which runs between Keizer and South Salem. This service corridor will be re-branded under the project as the "Electric Bus Corridor," providing access to major employment, education, and health care destinations including the Mill Creek Business Park and Chemeketa Community College.

"I would like to thank Congressman Schrader for his support in securing the funding to make this project a reality," Davidson said.

"Transit investments should be a top national priority and I am proud to have worked to secure this much needed funding," Schrader said.

Chase takes KPD to Gervais area

A 25-year-old Vernonia man led Keizer police officers as well as officers from other agencies on a chase through country roads before crashing into a ditch and fleeing on foot Wednesday, May 27.

The driver was arrested by members of the Marion County Sheriff's Office about 100 yards from the car.

The incident began about 11:30 a.m. when a motorcycle officer from the Keizer Police Department attempted to stop a green Subaru Legacy near the intersection of 7th Avenue Northeast and Faymar Drive Northeast. The driver accelerated away from the scene attempting to elude the officer.

Shortly after the chase began, the driver turned into a cul-de-sac and forced the pursuing officer off the road as he made his way back out, according to police officials.

Other KPD officers joined the pursuit and soon the chase moved north of Keizer on River Road North.

The pursuit continued east on Waconda Road Northeast and then the driver turned north on Howell Prairie Road Northeast.

A Gervais Police Department officer successfully deployed spike strips near the intersection of Howell Prairie Road and Mt. Angel/Gervais Highway. The pursuit ended

near the area of 12900 Howell Prairie Road NE when the Subaru's driver drove through a ditch and fled on foot.

Christopher Matthew Levi Benzel, the driver, complained of minor pain and was transported by ambulance to Salem Health for an evaluation. He was later transported to the Marion County Jail.

Benzel was arrested on an outstanding warrant and is charged with attempting to elude police in a vehicle and on foot, attempted first degree assault, criminal mischief, reckless driving, reckless endangering, unauthorized use of a vehicle and unlawful possession of heroin. His bail was set at \$85,000.

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