

Sibling rivalry saves city thousands



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Blayne Elder with Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark. Elder completely rehabilitated a gazebo in Chalmers Jones Park as his Eagle Scout project.

“I wanted to make sure he knew the size of the project he was about to take on...”

— Robert Johnson, Parks & Facilities Manager, City of Keizer

for the City of Keizer for 13 years and said he has never seen a scout take on this big of a project for the city.

“I wanted to make sure he knew the size of the project he was about to take on. There's a lot of surface area that is not

easy to get to. It's a multi-step process with a lot of details,” Johnson said.

Elder brought his proposal for the project before the parks board on Aug. 13. It was estimated that the Elder would save

the city more than \$9,000 in labor costs, which is why it was an easy decision for the parks board to give their stamp of approval.

“It was a no-brainer decision. The labor was a big saver for the city,” Johnson said.

The Keizer parks department paid \$650 for Elder's supplies through the parks matching grant.

Elder received paint discounts from the Sherman-Willams paint store in Keizer.

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BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

Blayne Elder had wanted to be an Eagle Scout since he was eight years old.

“It's the final rank of scouting and the ultimate achievement. It looks great on a resume and shows you put forth the effort and work,” Elder said.

One of the prerequisites for achieving Eagle Scout status is to perform a service project for the benefit of the community.

Since both of his older brothers were Eagle Scouts, Elder, a freshman at McNary High, wanted to make sure that his service project went above and beyond what his brothers did.

“My main motivation was to beat my older brothers. It was to go big or go home,” Elder said.

Most Eagle Scout service projects are done over the course of a weekend. However, Elder decided to tackle a much bigger project — cleaning and painting the gazebo next to

Keizer City Hall.

With the help of members of Troop 20 and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Elder was able to finish the project in two months.

“I knew it would be benefitting to the community if I did it. It ended up looking so great,” Elder said.

Robert Johnson has been the parks and facilities manager

COVID changes continue roll through city hall

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

If he had it within his power to do some things over again, Keizer Finance Director Tim Wood might have taken a softer approach to turning off residents' water last month.

“We probably would have started with door hangers instead of shutting off water, but our intent was good and it led to some real tears of joy once we were able to talk with residents and get them help,” Wood said. “We might not be righting the ship for them, but we can give them a healthy start to keep going.”

In October, Keizer officials began shutting off the water those with delinquent bills but, as Wood said, the intent wasn't to punish. The city has access to more than \$1.1 million as a result of the CARES Act passed by Congress earlier this year, but the money must be spent by Dec. 31 or it disappears. Wood arranged partnerships

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Hanging holiday cheer

Dylan Schmidgal (left) and Tony Newberg attach decorations to a light pole along River Road North in the early hours of Sunday, Nov. 22.

For a photo of the entire crew that put together the annual effort, see Page A5.

KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon Zaitz

What's



As Oregon moves back into an activity freeze, Keizertimes put together a list of open businesses.

While some businesses, such as gyms, and other organizations will close temporarily as a result of the new freeze on activities to stop the spread of COVID-19, just as many are hanging on.

At keizertimes.com, readers can access a mostly-comprehensive list of Keizer businesses still serving customers one way or another. If you are planning for personal

services such as a haircut or massage, it's best to call the business before showing up. Walk-ins are probably a thing of the past at least for a while.

Only make essential trips and stay home as much as possible.

We will happily add to the list if you notice a business we've forgotten, send additions to reporter@keizertimes.com.

City will try to reign in some attached buildings



By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Accessory structures, such as attached garages and shops, take many forms in Keizer. At its latest meeting, the Keizer Planning Commission approved building code amendments to help reign in the variance found throughout the city.

“There's been a lot of skirting of the rules,” said Shane Witham, interim development director for the city. “I

would like to clarify what an attached means and what will qualify as one going forward.”

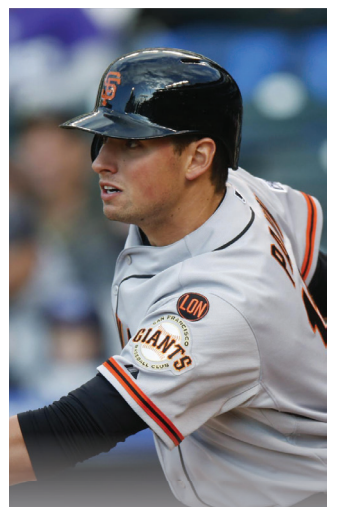
Engaging in sometimes heated discussions with residents over the issues isn't exactly out of the ordinary at the city's planning department. Some applicants for accessory structures simply put up a single board between the main home and the accessory dwelling and try to call it good.

The accessory dwelling

changes that will now be forwarded to the Keizer City Council include:

- Defining accessory dwelling units as separate from accessory structures.
- Putting in place setback requirements that are triggered by the average height of the building. For example, if an accessory structure's roof peaks at 26 feet and the outermost edges of the roof line

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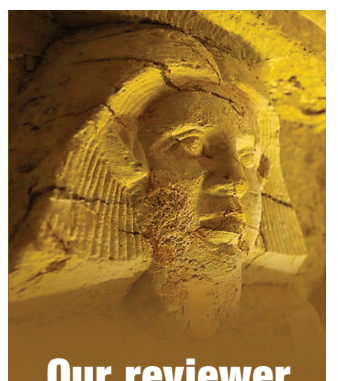
Panik lands at No. 8 on all-time Volcanoes list

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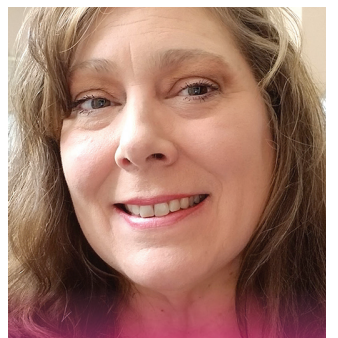
Celtics make huge push for better grades

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Our reviewer suggests exploring an ancient tomb

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A \$1,000 win for community food bank

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