

# KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## MCFD1 paramedic embarked on new journey at 63

By LAUREN MURPHY  
Of the Keizertimes

In the United States, seniors are eligible for early retirement at age 62. At age 63, Victor Hoffer began to work at Marion County Fire District #1 (MCFD1) as a paramedic.

"I was a probie to people who were 40 years younger than me," Hoffer said. A "probie" is slang for being the new guy. The experience was so unusual he decided to write a book about it.

Throughout his career Hoffer estimates that he has taken care of 84,000 people and delivered 22 babies. He said most people are lucky if they get to deliver even one baby.

When asked about the most memorable call he's been on, his face got serious, putting his arms on his knees he leaned forward, as if getting ready to tell a long story.

"May I tell you a little about respect and courtesy?" Hoffer asked, before beginning his tale.

He started to tell the story

from when he was working in Tigard. It had all the hallmarks of an epic hero's tale: a snowstorm, a woman going into labor and a patient almost refusing help.

When the paramedics got to the home of the woman who was giving birth they discovered that she, and her family – who were Muslims – were uncomfortable with letting her leave alone with all the male firefighters and paramedics.

The closest female paramedic was in Forest Grove. Instead of leaving and letting another crew take care of patient, Hoffer spoke with the family.

"I said 'sir, I understand you're Muslim. I have great fondness for the Muslim religion. How about we put your wife on a stretcher, cover her up, and then you can sit right next to her?'" Hoffer said.



Victor Hoffer

With a little communication and understanding they were about to take the woman to the hospital where she safely delivered the baby.

Hoffer told another story of an elderly woman that he had taken to the hospital. To calm her nerves during the ambulance drive, Hoffer told

her about his time as a hospital chaplain and they chatted about his schooling.

He gave her one of his trading cards – picture a baseball card with his picture, name and title – and she blew it up into a full sized poster, which she hung above her bed next to Jesus and Sean Connery.

"This is why I love doing what I do," Hoffer said. "I took 20 minutes to make her feel better, to give her happiness, and she took my card and blew it up."

For people who do not have loved ones who are able to accompany them to the hospital – a friendly, caring paramedic can make a world of difference.

In this time of the pandemic, where the elderly and medically vulnerable are supposed to be staying away from people, Hoffer has found himself as the canary in the coal mines. He



will go into a medical call first and determine whether the patient is suffering from COVID like symptoms or not to limit potential exposure of first responders.

Though first responders have a high burnout rate, Hoffer has been volunteering in fire and rescue for 40 years. His favorite part of the job is showing his patients love and kindness – soothing nerves of those in a medical crisis.

MCFD1 has experienced budget reductions due to the heavy failure in November. Hoffer was laid off from paid staff but is thankful for the

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opportunity to still volunteer. His book, *The 63 Year Old Probie*, is available for purchase on Amazon.

## College deadlines approaching

BY BROOKLYN FLINT  
Keizertimes intern

Deadlines for some key financial aid programs are approaching. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission's Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) is reminding students that anyone planning to take college courses any time from fall 2021 through spring 2022 should complete their student financial aid applications as

soon as possible.

OSAC awards more than \$100 million each year in state-funded grants and privately funded scholarships to help Oregon students meet their college expenses. Students can find links to applications at OregonStudentAid.gov.

In order to be considered for federal and/or state financial aid, students must complete the Free Application for

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA).

Students with undocumented status will fill out ORSAA instead of FAFSA. This includes those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

OSAC Scholarships allows students to apply for up to 40 scholarships with only one application. Scholarship funds are available for graduating high school seniors, undergraduate and graduate college students, GED students, undocumented and DACA students, homeschooled students and more.

The deadline for the OSAC scholarships is March 1.

Another option for financial aid is the Oregon Opportunity Grant. This is the largest state-funded, need-based

grant program. Oregon Opportunity Grants are awarded until funds are exhausted. All students need to do in order to be considered is to complete FAFSA or ORSAA form.

There is also the Oregon Promise Grant, which is for community college students only. Students interested must meet the minimum GPA requirements and enroll in a community college no later than six months after graduation. They must also complete a FAFSA or ORSAA form by their designated deadline. Depending on funding, awards may be limited to those under a certain Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) threshold.

FAFSA completion rates were 18.7 percent lower than they were at the same time last year.

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• Plastic Bottles and Jugs Only - NO bags, tubs, clamshells, bubble Pak, or other plastics.

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puzzle answers

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# WorshipDirectory

These Salem-Keizer houses of worship invite you to visit. Call to list your church in our Worship Directory: (503) 390-1051

**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
8:30 am • 10 am • 11:30 am • 6 pm  
**PEOPLESCHURCH**  
4500 LANCASTER DR NE | SALEM  
503.304.4000 • www.peopleschurch.com

**SAINT EDWARD Catholic Church**  
393-5323  
5303 River Rd. N., Keizer  
Father Gary L. Zerr, Pastor  
Saturday Vigil Liturgy: 5:30 p.m.  
Sundays: 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
La Misa en Español: 12:30 p.m.

**KEIZER CLEAR LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
a member of Open Door Churches of Salem-Keizer  
**REV. ALYSSA BAKER, Lead Pastor**  
Services are Sunday at 10 am (Nursery & Sunday School for Children)  
7920 Wheatland Rd N • 503-393-2402 • www.kclumc.org

**Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
4505 River Road N, Keizer • 503-393-4507  
www.FLCKeizer.org  
**Pastor Linda Matz Easterling**  
Sunday School - 9:00 am  
Worship Service - 10:00 am

**Keizer Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
6945 Wheatland Rd. NE 393-6843  
www.KeizerChristian.org  
Worship and Children's Church • 10:00 a.m.  
Office Hours 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

**COUNTRYSIDE Christian Church**  
9:30 am & 11:00 am Sunday Worship Services  
countrysidechristianchurch.org  
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**John Knox Presbyterian Church**  
452 Cummings Lane North • 393-0404  
**Pastor Peter Blank**  
Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Education Hour - 9:15 a.m.  
Nursery Care Available  
www.JohnKnoxPresKeizer.org