

VOLUNTEER of the Week

presented by



Tammy Wild

Where and how do you volunteer?

"I volunteer at the Keizer Heritage Museum located in the old Keizer School (Keizer Cultural Center). My main role is researching, compiling and displaying Keizer's history at the museum and online through our Facebook page "Keizer History," YouTube channel, and website."

What makes you volunteer?

"Our main goal is to preserve our history for future generations. If we don't document and share our heritage now, it will be lost. Sharing Keizer's history helps build ownership in our community - we all have a part to play in establishing a legacy. I want to give honor and recognition to those who have gone before us."

What does volunteering do for you?

"Serving at the Keizer Heritage Museum has given me a purpose and role to share and build on the knowledge of living here since the 1970s. I'm glad I can use my time and talents to benefit others through education and connection."

How would you get others to volunteer in their community?

"Start where you live to better your neighborhood - get the younger generation involved with picking up garbage or pulling weeds. There are many small ways to help. Share your family's Keizer history with photos, interviews and videos."

Keizer man sentenced to 16 years

By CHARLES GLENN
Of the Keizertimes

Kristian Mann, 23, of Keizer, was sentenced to 16 years in prison last week in a Marion County Circuit courtroom for first degree robbery and manslaughter in the 2020 shooting death of Salem resident Oscar Martinez at the Starbucks parking lot in Keizer Station.

Mann, along with Dasio Gonzalez, 23, of Salem, was initially charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm as well as delivering a controlled substance, but both men were quickly linked to the death of Martinez, and Mann was eventually charged with second-degree murder.

Circuit Court Judge Thomas Hart also ordered Mann to serve a three-year probationary period at the completion of his sentence. The drug and gun charges against Mann were ultimately dropped.

Last year, co-defendant Gonzales pleaded guilty to manslaughter and robbery and was sent to prison for 15 years.

The deadly encounter occurred in a Keizer Station parking lot in February of last year. Court records indicate Martinez was there to sell marijuana to Mann and Gonzales. When the two men attempted to steal Martinez's backpack, he fought back and was killed at the scene.

"I don't think there is anything I can say that will make anything better," said an emotional Mann at his hearing. "I've thought a lot about what [the Martinez family] have been through, and Oscar had his whole life ahead of him . . . I want to apologize for my part in what happened. This was not supposed to happen, but it did and here we are."

"I'm glad you've had the opportunity to reflect on all of that," Hart replied. "It was not a situation that I believe was planned, at the outset, but things got ugly in a hurry and the outcomes were really bad - not only for you but for everyone involved. There are no winners in this situation."

Prosecutors read statements from Martinez's siblings, and his mother spoke to the court through a translator.

"I would like you to know that my son was not a person to have issues with



Kristian Mann, 23, was sentenced last week to 16 years in prison for his part in an armed robbery and shooting death that occurred at Keizer Station in 2020. SUBMITTED PHOTO

anyone," said Maria Martinez. "He had many friends who loved him very much. He was very responsible with his two children and a hard worker."

She went on describe the turmoil her family has been experiencing, noting especially how close Oscar was with his younger brother, who had been experiencing severe depression and suicidal thoughts since the loss of his big brother and mentor.

"My 12-year-old daughter Gabby stays in her room all day and cries," she exclaimed tearfully. "My older son is in

Mexico and suffering also because of Oscar's death. It is very painful that he can't be here to grieve with us."

The court agreed to drop two of the lesser charges against Mann - felony possession of a firearm and delivery of a controlled substance. His final set of charges included Manslaughter in the First Degree and Robbery in the First Degree with a firearm.

Due to his prior record, Mann entered the hearing with a presumptive prison sentence of 66 to 70 months. However a prior court determined both crimes fell under Ballot Measure 11, carrying a mandatory minimum sentence of 120 months.

Ballot Measure 11 was a 1994 initiative setting minimum mandatory sentences for serious crimes. Two-thirds of Oregon voters approved the measure. Due to the serious nature of these crimes, Mann will not be eligible for early release due to good behavior.

Hart objected the defendant's negotiated cash award of \$5,000 to cover Mann's legal expenses, directing the court to ensure those funds went to the Martinez family, instead, to cover funeral expenses.

He went on to explain that both crimes were qualitatively different enough to justify consecutive sentences, ruling that Mann be sent to prison for 16 years with an additional three-year period of community service at the end of his incarceration.

Sorry

we were closed this week

**We will
Re-open next week**

Thank you for your understanding

**Salem Friends
of Felines**

WE HAVE MOVED >>> Our new location is 4157 Cherry Avenue, Keizer <<< 503-362-5611