

Coburn hangs up the axe

Keizer Fire District

By LYNDON ZAITZ
Of the Keizertimes

Tim Coburn, one of the most recognizable faces of the Keizer Fire District is retiring after a 35-year career in firefighting. His last day is March 30.

A Keizer native and a 1984 graduate of McNary High School, Tim began his career as a volunteer with the district in August 1987. Within 12 years he was a paid professional firefighter. It was the result of his quick action when he saw dark smoke one day while eating lunch at home. He peeked around and found some arborvitae ablaze.

There was nobody around. No one answered when he banged on the door of the house. He grabbed a water hose at the home and starting spraying the arborvitae.

"I heard a siren go off, saying to myself, 'Come on, come on,' Coburn remembered. Seconds later he heard the fire trucks heading his way, to his relief.

Sam Orcutt, one of the responding firefighters, later suggested that Coburn should sign up to be a volunteer firefighter. He did. He signed the necessary

paperwork and soon was in training.

A life saving incident that happened when he was 20 years old also figured into his later career. While living at home, getting ready to leave, he heard his mother yelling at his father, Marvin. Tim went to the living room to see what was happening. His mother said he couldn't wake his father, who was sitting on a couch.

Tim checked for a pulse, found none and discovered he was not breathing. He pulled his dad from the couch, laid him on the floor and began CPR. He instructed his mother to call 9-1-1. Tim continued CPR until the medical unit arrived. Marvin was rushed to the hospital. He survived.

Later, Dan Woolley of the fire district asked Tim to come down to the fire station. When he arrived he was presented with a plaque honoring him for saving his father's life.

Over more than three decades with the Keizer Fire District, Tim Coburn has seen the best and the worst of life, interacting with people in the community. "In the old days, there were two or three calls a day," he remembers, "Today, we

have up to 20 calls a day." Ninety percent of calls today are medical related.

When asked about memorable calls he's been part of, Tim is quick to name two. The first was an OB ***** (obstetric) call. A woman was 37-weeks pregnant and ready to give birth. Tim and others were in the

back of the ambulance when the baby arrived. "It was a proud day," Tim said.

The second memorable call was less joyful. He and other firefighters responded to a house fire. Tim was on the second crew to enter the house. Looking about, the crew observed lots of jars. "Uh oh," he said to himself, "We should get out." It was a meth lab, within blocks of the Keizer fire station. Tim and the others had to return to the station to shower to remove any meth on themselves.

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PHOTO/Courtesy of Keizer Fire District

KPD polices problems, not people

BY CHARLES GLENN
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer Police Department has one of the lowest officer-to-resident ratio of any city in the state of Oregon, and Chief John Teague says that's largely due to a philosophy called Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) - a complex, holistic policing philosophy designed to improve efficiency and reduce crime.

"You've probably heard the term community policing, but that's just one aspect of POP," said Teague.

"It became kind of a theme in the industry, and we leaned into it heavily here in Keizer," he said.

Community policing is a pro-active, as opposed to reactive idea, designed to address criminal problems at their source, sending officers out into the community in order to understand it, get to know the people individually, and form

casual, as well as, official partnerships.

Teague said in the past, police departments would pull out the community policing tactics from the larger problem-oriented model and make that the central effort of the department, but he said there is far more to POP than just community policing.

"We know from the research that community policing, by itself, doesn't contribute to a reduction in crime," he said. "It just develops good relationships and makes that process more formal. By itself, it just doesn't work."

What does work, said Teague, is a more fully-realized POP program, which for Keizer, includes a four-officer team called the Community Response Unit (CRU) and a full time crime analyst, working together with the four shifts of patrol officers to identify, track and prevent crime.

The CRU team doesn't regularly patrol with the other officers, and they don't always get dispatched in a detective role, but they can join patrol officers or assist in gathering evidence. Their key role, as is every role in POP, is communication.

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