

# KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Support for Chet Patterson

To the Editor:

As a professional firefighter in Seattle I sometimes get the opportunity to throw my support behind a politician at the local or state level who would have an impact on issues that are important to me and the citizens of the city where I work. Never have I had the chance to support someone whom I can wholeheartedly throw my entire faith and support behind. My father is Chet Patterson and he is running to serve Keizer on the Keizer Fire District Board of Directors in Position 3.

Chet Patterson doesn't just have the skills and qualities to be successful serving on the board, he has the experience to back it. Not many people in recent history can claim that they helped form a city. Chet Patterson can. My father isn't just a resident of the city, he is a founding father. His experience serving on the first city council, writing the first city budget and volunteering in different capacities gives him insight and wisdom that is unparalleled. His integrity and values led him to step away from the council for a time when he felt that his young family needed his attention more than the city. I benefited from his decision and learned a valuable lesson. Family comes first. As my sister and I grew and became busy with our own activities he returned to the city council. In 2010 I was proud to be in attendance when my father was awarded the Keizer Heritage Award, recognizing his contributions to this city.

My father had a front row seat to my discovery of the fire service. The Keizer Fire District Explorer Post fostered my early love and interest of all things firefighting. My dad supported me as I transitioned from Explorer to Resident Volunteer in Polk County and then to student at the Chemeketa Community College Fire Program, and he celebrated with me when I was hired to work in Seattle. My dad has a good understanding of the fire service today and the challenges from the volunteers to the professional and cities big and small. He's seen it first hand.

The fire service is under ever increasing pressure these days to do more with less while still maintaining appropriate staffing levels and response times. The ability to plan for the long term and budget for training, staffing, apparatus, facilities, etc. is crucial. My dad has had decades of experience managing budgets of millions of dollars and conducting long term planning. Keizer needs his experience.

Please vote for Chet Patterson for Keizer Fire District Board of Director Position 3. Don't just settle for someone who wants to play nice with the neighbors. Be proud of this city and cast a vote that will help to take your Keizer Fire District into the future.

Aaron Patterson  
Seattle

To the Editor:

The one thing that is important to me when I vote is the knowledge of the people seeking a particular office.

Chet Patterson is a candidate for the Keizer Fire Board. He has a strong financial background and is a current member of the Keizer Fire District budget committee. I have seen him at past budget meetings and many district and advisory committee meetings over the years. He is deeply familiar with the needs of the district and knows what is needed to keep the citizens of Keizer safe and protected. It is because of his knowledge and dedication to the Keizer Fire District. I am voting for Chet and encourage you to do the same.

Bill Quinn  
Keizer

To the Editor:

Keizer Professional Firefighters are proud to endorse Chet Patterson for Keizer Fire District Board Position 3.

Chet has a long history of service to Keizer and its citizens. Chet was instrumental in the incorporation of the city of Keizer and served as one of its first city councilors. Incorporating the city of Keizer, Chet had to work side by side with numerous agencies including the city of Salem and Marion County. His experience with working with other agencies will be a great asset to Keizer Fire District. Chet is the only candidate that truly under-

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stands interagency cooperation.

Chet is a proud veteran that served as a Hospital Corpsman, he understands the importance of training and having the proper equipment to get the job done. These aspects are critical in ensuring our firefighters can perform their jobs.

Chet is a member of the Keizer Fire District budget committee and is a regular attendee of our board meetings and planning meetings. He will easily be able to hit the ground running if elected to the board. Chet has worked tirelessly for the citizens of Keizer and he will be there for them if elected.

For Chet, the citizens of Keizer and the well-being of Keizers firefighters come first. Please join us by casting your vote for Chet Patterson.  
**Brian Butler, President  
Keizer Professional Firefighters**

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Chet Patterson for the Keizer Fire District Board of Directors.

Chet has been involved with the fire district as member of the budget committee and is seen regularly at the monthly fire board meetings. His presence shows that he is interested in how the fire district operates. Through our meetings together I find that he is well prepared and seeks to understand before he makes a decision. He will be an asset to the community and the board.

Please join me and vote yes for Chet Patterson for the Keizer Fire Board of Directors.

Greg Ego  
Keizer

To the Editor:

I would like to express my support for Chet Patterson as director of the Keizer Fire District for Position 3.

I first became acquainted with Chet while we were both working together on the feasibility study to incorporate the city of Keizer, in approximately 1980. We served together on the original city council after the successful incorporation in 1982, as two of the original five councilors.

He demonstrated amazing financial ability and budgeting expertise, while we had only a single part time city recorder. I have great respect for his ability and desire to do good things for our community, and obviously is still dedicated to the good of Keizer. I heartily endorse Chet Patterson.

Phil Bay  
Keizer

## Support for Betty Hart

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Betty Hart as she runs for the Board of Director's Position 5 on the Keizer Fire-District board.

I have known Betty personally and professionally for nearly 25 years. I am pleased she has decided to be a candidate for the Board of Directors.

Betty exhibits key knowledge, skills and qualities I look for in our community leaders. Betty is an independent thinker who will be looking for creative solutions to any issues. Betty has the experience serving on boards and commissions and has a strong background in financials and budgets. Betty has already shown she is an active participant in district meetings and events and I am pleased she is willing to carry on that interest by running for a board position. Betty will represent you, the voter and constituent effectively.

For those of you who don't know Betty Hart, I urge you to familiarize yourself with how she would represent you on the board and to cast a vote for her.

Michael Kurtz  
Keizer

## Support for Jim Taylor

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Jim Taylor for the Keizer Fire Board. I have not personally worked with any of the



## Earth Day should be every day

Earth Day occurred on April 22. Considering the fact that the human population is going about spoiling every facet of our one place to live in the whole universe—other than the International Space Station—it'd be in our best interest to recognize and do something about saving our unique world, every day of our lives. The following column is one small contribution to doing something about saving ourselves:

As a child growing up in the 1950s on the Oregon Coast, it was a pleasure to breath air so clean and fresh. Even as a young person, though there was no opportunity for me to compare it to any other place on earth, I had an inkling that that place for breathing had to be among the world's finest. In that time and place there was one way the air could be spoiled and that was by way of getting close to a rig spewing diesel fumes.

Over the years of my life it has become a scientific fact that contaminated air causes sickness and death. Regarding diesel exhaust in Oregon these days, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that it causes 468 premature deaths per year. This figure is greater than the number of deaths from murders and drunk driving.

So, not only is there the tragic end-of-life factor involved but the

gene h.  
mcintyre

huge expense, too. Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality estimates that up to four billion dollars is lost every year here to due

to premature death, disease and lost work days due to breathing those insidious fumes.

Unfortunately Oregon, once a progressive state that led efforts nationwide to clean up the environment and the air we breathe, has fallen away from its once top-ranking status. Nowadays, Oregon has the least protective diesel standards on the west coast. We could catch up and be a contender for top spot through political action as one quick means to this end would be to adopt California's more health-protective diesel programs for both on-road and off-road engines. After all, when the Environmental Protection Agency approved California's program, Oregon was signaled by the EPA to join the effort.

A brief look at diesel fumes discovers that its ultra-fine particles can travel deep into the lungs and can even pass from the lungs into the bloodstream. Then, at the very least, long term exposure, which is the fate of many an Oregonian's work and living place

these days, has been proven linked to lung and bladder cancer, heart attacks and many other health maladies. Children are the most vulnerable because their lungs are still developing while they on average breathe 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults breathe.

Since our politicians have chosen to ignore this problem, Oregon is becoming the dumping ground for older diesel engines. When our legislature recognizes how serious this matter is, these politicians and the governor will hopefully see to it that old diesel engines in many machines throughout Oregon are not permitted for use in Oregon, remembering that new diesel engines emit 99 percent less soot than engines manufactured even a decade ago.

Our elected residents in the state capitol respond to public demands. Your representative should know about the perils of diesel fumes in older diesel trucks, off-road construction projects and other commercial rigs that spew the poisons leading to sickness and early death. Let them know what you now know and ask for action.

(Gene H. McIntyre's column appears weekly in the Keizertimes.)

## Representing means respecting others

As you probably already know, here in the Oregon Legislature, there are two political parties, one of which is in a "supermajority" in the Senate and one shy of "super majority" in the House. That means we (Republicans) can't really move a whole lot of bills we'd like to, nor stop ones we don't like.

What I've discovered over the past few months is the importance of developing relationships. Many people think you have to compromise your beliefs to build relationships. But I've found you don't need to at all. You can treat people with respect, admire them for who they are and agree to disagree on certain policy. It also doesn't hurt to eat breakfast and lunch with them in the members-only lounge. In that relaxed setting, the D and R label seems to melt away and we can see each other as friends, not as opponents in this legislative process.

So, no, I was not able to stop Senate Bill 941, the "universal background check" bill. Yet because of relationships I have built in this building, the

other candidates, but I have worked with Jim for more than 15 years in local, community projects and policy decisions that matter to all of us in Keizer. As a lifelong Keizer resident Jim cares deeply for the quality of life and people of his home town. He has no agenda other than to respond and serve the people that elect him.

In the years that he was a city councilor, Jim would speak his mind, hold his position and at the same time be open-minded to new information and ideas when presented. The thing I appreciate most about Jim is his ability and willingness to listen, understand and respond to Keizer resident's concerns.

We are all concerned about our community safety, security and cost and Jim is well qualified to represent us on this issues. Jim Taylor has been a long and strong supporter of Keizer Fire District, I am confident in his ability to budget for the necessary items and reject items that will not add

from the  
capitol

By BILL POST



Democrat majority leader invited me to be a guest committee member during the hearing in the House Rules committee. It was an honor to participate in the discussion and to help provide a balance to the committee.

Not every issue is partisan or contentious however. Over the past few weeks we have passed bills that would put a major dent in sex trafficking (HB3040). Sadly, Oregon is a leader in the nation in sex trafficking and I am proud we were able to move a bill forward to make it easier to arrest the perpetrators. Another bill I am especially pleased with passed the House on a bipartisan vote. HB2317 increases the statute of limitations on rape, one of the most heinous crimes

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to our safety and security.

Jim is also a relationship "bridge-builder," his influence on the Keizer Fire Board will continue the work already begun under his watch to have our competing fire districts work more effectively together and that will benefit all of us in service and cost. Join me in voting for Jim Taylor for Keizer Fire District, we'll be glad we did.

**Lore Christopher  
Keizer**

## State appointment is an affront

To the Editor:

Governor Kate Brown's appointment of Bruce Buckmaster to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

is a direct affront to the sports fishing anglers of the state.

Buckmaster is a lobbyist and strategist for the Columbia River gillnetters. Sports fishing groups have spent countless dollars and hours trying to overcome the strangle hold powerful gillnet interests have had over the commission, and the governor's office.

The governor had one thing right: *transparency*. Anglers can see right through this one.

It's time to step up anglers. Let your state senator know you are against this appointment. Numbers count. Don't sit back and wait for someone to do it for you.

G.I. Wilson  
Keizer

The Keizertimes welcomes all points of view.  
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