

Keizertimes

SECTION A

DECEMBER 11, 2015

\$1.00

Dieker leaving as chamber leader



Christine Dieker, executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, speaks during an open house event at the Kaiser Permanente clinic in Keizer Station in December 2014.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

It hasn't happened in a while, but the Keizer Chamber of Commerce is looking for a new executive director.

Christine Dieker took over the position in March 1998 and has been in the position since, aside from a few turbulent months in 2003.

But that is changing: Dieker submitted her resignation to the chamber's Board of Directors on Dec. 2. The board accepted the resignation.

"I have growing opportunities," Dieker told the *Keizertimes*. "I do not have another job lined up or one targeted in the near future. I'm very blessed with a family that's supportive, a husband (Tom) that can provide our income. I don't have to hurry up and get a job on the financial side of things. I am open, but semi-retiring. I still have some work left in me. There will be some opportunities for me, but nothing is lined up."

Bob Zielinski, the current chamber president, knew there were family considerations but was still surprised by the timing.

"She's been kind of talking about her mother's health and she has grandkids who are here," Zielinski said. "There

have been comments (about retiring) made periodically, but I didn't think it was serious. But she's certainly put in her time."

That time began in 1998, when longtime State Farm agent Sam Goesch was serving as the chamber president.

"I like to think I hired Christine Dieker," Goesch said. "That was a hard year. We decided the chamber was an institution worth saving. We started looking at someone to run it day-to-day. We had two candidates. I lobbied hard for Christine Dieker. She had been involved with the Courthouse (Athletic Club), and was president of Keizer Soccer Club. I didn't know anyone in Keizer that didn't know Christine. Where do you find that kind of credential? I like her. She's one of my favorites. I'll brag about being the one that hired her."

Goesch noted he had gotten a heads up the move was coming.

"She talked to me maybe a month ago about this," he said. "Things evolve and she feels it is time. It will be hard, because of the loss of the institutional memory. I think she did a great job for us."

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Mural meeting
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City extends Volcano lease

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Play ball, for a bit longer.

After several executive sessions to discuss the matter, members of the Keizer City Council unanimously agreed Monday to extend the ground lease with the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes.

City staff has been working with Jerry Walker, owner and president of the Keizer-based minor league baseball team, on terms for an extension of the ground lease on the property behind the Target in Keizer Station and near Interstate 5 where Volcanoes Stadium is situated. The original lease was signed in January 1997, the year Walker, along with wife Lisa, brought the baseball team to town.

By the original lease, the Volcanoes weren't going to be leaving anytime soon, since the lease had an expiration date of Jan. 6, 2026. That's even more the case now, since the first amendment to the lease states the lease now expires on Jan. 6, 2036.

"There's also a possible eight-year extension after that," city attorney Shannon Johnson said Monday evening. "We have been working with the Walkers for several

months."

The revised agreement calls for rent from ticket sales to be increased from 5 to 5.5 percent in 2026. In 2031, that rent increases to 6 percent. Meanwhile, the current 20 percent rent for parking lot fees will remain the same.

The lease amendment also included some changes for community events. For example, by Feb. 15 each year, the Walkers are to let the city know what days they'll be using the stadium and parking lot from April 1 through the next 12 months. Within 30 days, city officials are to submit a list of requested community events at the stadium and parking lot to the Walkers.

Any events in the stadium or parking lot needing concessions prior to Oct. 31, 2017 will be required to use the Walker's concession vendor, but for any events in the parking lot after that date a different vendor can be chosen.

Johnson noted the Walkers are getting a \$2.25 million loan from Key Bank.

"We are just consenting



J. Walker

to the loan," Johnson said. "There is no liability on the city's part."

Councilor Amy Ryan appreciated the work put in over the last several months.

"On behalf of myself, I want to reiterate how much I appreciate the details being worked on," Ryan said. "We also took care to do what's best for the city."

Mayor Cathy Clark nodded in agreement.

"I concur with that," Clark said. "I also thank staff for the work put into this."

Councilor Dennis Koho, who was mayor when the Volcanoes first came to town, pointed to what the owners of Salem-Keizer Sports Enterprises have done.

"I want to thank the Volcanoes for the \$1 million they have contributed to the city these last 19 or 20 years," Koho said. "It's been a good partnership, I think."

Clark went a step further. "Indeed, it has certainly raised our stature," she said.

The Volcanoes are the Northwest League Class A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, the team that has won the World Series three of the past

Please see LEASE, Page A3

Silver Bells for holiday parade



The McNary High School Marching Band performs in the 2014 Festival of Lights Holiday Parade. The band will be in this year's parade, which starts at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The weather outside might have been frightful this week, but on Saturday night there's something delightful.

It's the second Saturday of December, which means it's time for the Festival of Lights Holiday Parade in Keizer.

This is a milestone year for the parade, which is pretty strongly hinted at with this year's theme: Silver Bells.

Indeed, this is the 25th anniversary of the annual night parade, which started in Salem and moved to Keizer in 2011.

Per usual, the parade starts at the corner of River Road and Lockhaven Drive at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12 and heads south along River Road. The parade disbands at Glynbrook Street, with some entries heading to the Skyline Ford lot further south for the After Glow party.

Bud Pierce, a longtime medical cancer doctor in Salem and an early entrant in the 2016 race for Oregon governor, is serving as the parade's grand marshal, which has caused angst among some.

Pierce expressed surprise at being named grand marshal.

"It's a great honor," Pierce told the *Keizertimes* last week. "It's a once in a lifetime honor. It's a surprise. I'm happy to have the chance to do it. I don't know why I got the honor. I was very surprised to get the call. They asked if I wanted to do it, I said that would be great. You try to work hard and be a good citizen. This was completely unexpected."

The day's events aren't just

limited to the parade. A Glow-On party, a new addition last year, returns this year at 3 p.m. in the parking lot of Columbia Bank at 4260 River Road, where River Road and Manbrin Street meet.

Also at 3 p.m., runners can start signing up for the Glow Run, a 5K race that starts at the bank at 6 p.m. and goes until 7. Because of those events, vehicles will only be allowed to cross River Road at Chemawa Road. Manbrin and Dearborn Avenue, which were periodically opened to vehicle traffic in the past, will be closed to vehicles this year.

"We focused on doing the runs a bit differently this year," parade CEO Cheryl Mitchell said. "We wanted to have more of a glow effect, so we changed the glow logo and the run name. All of the pre-parade activities will be at the bank. Those in the run will have special seating in the bank parking lot to watch the parade."

Everyone who signs up for the run will get a flashing Santa hat and a clip-on safety light.

Two other new additions from last year are being carried over this year. The \$500 cash prize for the Grand Sweepstakes award winner — which went to May Trucking a year ago — is back, as is the After Glow Celebration in the Skyline Ford parking lot at 3555 River Road N.

With the parade starting at 7 p.m., the After Glow Celebration should get going around 8:30. Keeping with

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LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME
SALEM-KEIZER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SKSD gets grant for \$14 million
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Keizer youth councilor
PAGE A9

MHS boys beat No. 3
PAGE A12



Rollin' in it at WMS

Submitted
Ashley Doerfler, Grace Trammell, Paytonn Wirt, Noah Gould, Megan Provost, Alyssa Richardson, Kacey Whitfield and Bailey True gear up to paint at pantry at Salem's HOME Youth and Resource Center. For the full story, see Page 5.

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