

Bud Pierce wants Oregon to go back in time

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The way Bud Pierce sees it, the good people in Oregon are being constrained.

And if the clock could be turned back about 30 years, that would be fine with Pierce as well.

Pierce is a Republican nominee in the Oregon governor race, going up against Allen Alley, Bruce Cuff, Bob Niemeyer and Bob Forthan in the May 17 primary. The winner of the primary will face the Democrat nominee — likely current governor Kate Brown — in the Nov. 8 special election.

Since Gov. John Kitzhaber resigned amid a political scandal in February 2015 and Brown took over, repeated bombshells have shaken up a number of key leaders in state agencies. There has also been the continued fallout of the Oregon vs. Oracle battle over

the doomed Cover Oregon healthcare debacle.

"I believe in the capability of the people, at all levels, in and out of government," Pierce said last week during a meeting with the Keizertimes editorial board. "We need to turn the people loose and focus on what the target is."

Pierce, an oncologist by trade who served as grand marshal in last year's final Festival of Lights Holiday Parade, believes there is a correlation between employment, substance abuse and mental health issues.

"When people have that anchor (a job), they tend to be okay," Pierce said. "Every Oregonian should have the dignity of having a great job. If they don't have that anchor, they do a lot to replace that. The mental health issue is huge. It all blends into substance abuse. The final piece to focus on is to help us all live together.

When we come into conflict, how do we resolve that?"

Pierce readily acknowledges he is "feisty and combative" and has surrounded himself on his campaign with such people. He said that goes back to his medical background.

"I developed that as a doctor, since there are so many impediments to people getting the care they need," he said. "I believe that you answer every question and be truthful. I'm not a refined person. I have clear ideas of what I want to happen. I'm a janitor's kid. I want people to have a job and I want janitors to be okay with their job. If we accomplish that, we'll be fine."

Pierce said regulations mean Oregonians are not reaching their true potential.

"We need to stimulate entrepreneurship," he said. "People are not able to step out and innovate. We have the opposite happening: people

are afraid to have their own business. Maybe we could give tax breaks. We have talented people, but not enough of them are out there. We need to stimulate and encourage them."

Pierce feels the state should go back to having a strong executive department, like when Victor Atiyeh was governor in the 1980s.

"The agency head was answerable to him and he would interact with the agencies," Pierce said of Atiyeh. "There were commissions appointed by the governor. Those commissions had real oversight over the agency. It was a more successful system. We need to have the leaders in place that have a heart for the mission of the agency. Right now we have the governor who appoints an agency head, who has to answer to both legislators and laborers. We need to return to the 1980s."



Bud Pierce, a Republican candidate for Oregon governor, talks with the Keizertimes editorial board last week.

KEIZERTIMES/
Craig Murphy

If elected governor, Pierce said he would want to reform education and also have budget cuts for all state agencies. He would also like to see more of an emphasis on higher quality legislation, as opposed to a high quantity of legislation.

"I'm really uninterested in a large volume of legislation that is not well laid out," Pierce said. "I want to use the veto as little as possible. I don't like having secret negotiations.

I would rather have the press there when I meet with the minority leadership. We need transparency, not issues decided behind closed doors."

Pierce said state government can learn from businesses.

"There are many great government employees that just need to be turned loose to do a great job," he said. "There are just layers of bureaucracy. No one does that in the real world."

KPIC members working on another project

By CRAIG MURPHY
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The cow pasture in Keizer won't always be the way it is now.

Members of the Keizer Points of Interest Committee (KPIC) want the current form to be remembered.

At recent meetings, KPIC members have talked about taking photos of the current Savage House/Keizer View Dairy/Herber Farm/cow pasture property.

In a surprising September 2014 vote, Keizer City Councilors rejected a proposal from developer Mark Grenz to convert the property to 120

apartment units. That decision was appealed to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA), but it's believed a revised proposal will be brought to councilors soon.

KPIC members are planning to research the history of the Savage House in addition to taking pictures of how it looks today. That way, if the property is indeed developed into something else, there will be information to put on a sign near the property.

Jill Bonney-Hill, KPIC chair, noted at the April 19 meeting she has found some basic information, such as who bought and sold the

property over the years. Sherrie Gottfried suggested talking to JoAnne Beilke at the Keizer Heritage Center to see if there is any known history of the property.

Bonney-Hill noted a book from city deputy recorder Debbie Lockhart had a picture and briefly talked about the historical home.

"We need to get pictures of the house, even the rundown building with the cows," Lockhart said.

Gottfried had an idea of where to put a sign containing photos and information.

"If we put it in Claggett Creek Park looking up (to the

property), we could put the sign there," she said. "It would be cool to talk about what it produced, dairy truck deliveries, pictures of the cows, things like that."

KPIC member Anita Zahniser volunteered to go into the park and take pictures of the property as it stands now.

In other KPIC business:

• While that project is in the early stages, KPIC's Oral History project continues. Zahniser noted she has to get non-interviewee release forms signed per a recommendation by city attorney Shannon Johnson, since first and last names were mentioned in

an interview she recently did. The project entails interviewing some of Keizer's longtime residents to learn stories from the city's early days.

"I have the form and need to get the three men to sign it because their names are mentioned in the interview," Zahniser said. "I can get the release form signed or have that part blanked out."

Lockhart suggested just using first names as a way to bypass the issue, a suggestion KPIC members liked.

• KPIC members were expected to be at the May 3 Keizer Budget Committee meeting -- and indeed were --

to talk about funds for a flood history sign at Keizer Rapids Park. Lockhart suggested a request to submit and showed it to KPIC members.

"I think it's awesome," Gottfried told Lockhart. "You did an amazing job. Thank you so much. It's beautiful. We all owe you I don't know what, but it's something wonderful."

• Bonney-Hill said she will put a mention on the KPIC Facebook page asking for more volunteers to join the committee. There are still two vacant seats on KPIC, which has led to a lack of quorums recently and thus cancelled meetings.

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