

# Keizertimes

SECTION A

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

\$1.00

# Bills, bills, bills

With the Oregon State Legislature starting the 2017 session this week, *Keizertimes* checked in with Sen. Kim Thatcher and Rep. Bill Post about the bills they've submitted for consideration in the months leading up to the official opening. We sent both legislators questions regarding specific bills and put together a round-up of other issues they are tackling with proposed legislation.

## Thatcher's bills put focus on initiative law, E-Verify



Sen. Kim Thatcher

State Sen. Kim Thatcher (R-13) is sponsoring or co-sponsoring 19 bills that were submitted for consideration before the opening of 2017 session.

Thatcher's policy advisor Justin Brecht answered our questions in her stead.

**SJR 22** proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution prohibiting the Legislature from amending or repealing initiative law for two years after enactment. A two-thirds vote in both houses could override the prohibition.

**Keizertimes:** Is there a specific problem you hope to address with this bill? And, given that initiatives pass regularly without funding, are there

any concerns about this amendment causing budget problems?

**Brecht:** Well, this bill is modeled after Washington state's. This bill simply puts a check on the legislature tampering with the will of the people. If this causes any budget concerns, this bill does not eliminate the legislatures authority to deal with that issue. It simply requires a supermajority vote by the legislature within the first two

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## Post takes on abortion, minimum wage increases



Rep. Bill Post

Rep. Bill Post (R-25) will tackle abortion Oregon Health Authority reimbursements with HB 2125.

The bill would mandate that the OHA establish a grant program for organizations that encourage to carry pregnancies to term. Buried within it, the bill would also prevent OHA from reimbursing patients who seek abortions for reasons other than mother mortality, rape or incest.

**Keizertimes:** Are there established agencies that you could see applying for a grant from this program?

**Rep. Bill Post:** Any federally qualified health center. Oregon has many including in Keizer and Newberg. Also

agencies that provide services to women and children in Salem-Keizer that could be anyone from Catholic Community Services to Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action

**KT:** The bigger impact of this bill would be to impose restrictions on when OHA could reimburse patients for the cost of an abortion. Are you concerned about limiting womens' rights make decisions in their best interest?

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**KFD honors excellence**  
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**Where to turn for help with utility bills**  
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**PAST DUE**

CURRENT CHARGES				
Prd	Prd	Current	Current	
Reading	Read	Reading	Read	
Date	Date	Date	Date	
6/7/16	11-Sep-16	6/28/16	11-04-16	

**Civics lessons at Whiteaker**  
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**106-pounder saves McNary dual**  
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## Parks fee comparison

### Keizer fee options: \$0 to \$8

City	Fee
Portland	\$1.53***
Gresham	\$7.50*
Beaverton	\$6.05**
Tigard	\$8.50*
West Linn	\$13.01*
McMinnville	\$19.17**
Springfield	\$38.00**
Bend	\$28.00**
Medford	\$2.87*

The city of Keizer is asking residents to weigh in on their support of a fee to create a dedicated fund for Keizer parks. Options for an additional Keizer fee range from \$2 to \$8 per month, but it is entirely possible that no fee will be enacted.

*Keizertimes* looked in to what residents of other cities pay for parks services and found several cities that have enacted fees while others created special taxing districts.

For a basis of comparison, we have calculated what each city charges on a per month, per household basis regardless of whether the money is collected through a fee added to other bills or a property tax.

When calculating property tax fees, we used a home value of \$230,000, which is a little less than the recent average cost of a home in Keizer provided by zillow.com. To take the Keizer parks survey, visit [www.keizer.org](http://www.keizer.org).

\* City collects a fee. \*\* Funds collected by a special taxing district. \*\*\* Cost of a 2014 park replacement bond measure. Bonds do not cover the costs of continuing maintenance, only capital projects.

Reporting by Eric A. Howald, Graphic by Andrew Jackson

## St. Ed volunteers pitch in to help homeless families

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Stacey Armstrong, her husband and two teenage daughters were evicted from their apartment on Dec. 6.

"We were supposed to go to court, but we never got the paperwork telling us when we were supposed to be there. I dropped off a money order for the rent after hours, but the (apartment manager) said they never got it. It was devastating," said Armstrong.

She and her husband immediately put their name on waiting lists at local shelters, and spent the next two weeks living in motels. When that became too expensive, they moved to a cabin in Champoeg State Park.

"We bought a little cooking stove and tried to treat it like a camping trip," Armstrong said. "We've been lucky to have very understanding bosses who have helped us with scheduling."

Stacey works full-time in a fast food restaurant and her husband works full-time in retail in Beaverton. Their daughters attend a Salem high school.

Last week, the Armstrongs were spending evenings and nights in Keizer's St. Edward Catholic Church, a parish that participates in the Interfaith



Volunteers Letha Caron and Annie Chan serve up meals as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network at St. Edward Church.

Hospitality Network (IHN). IHN is a non-profit collective of 19 local churches transitioning homeless families into homes of their own. Fortunately, the Armstrongs were preparing to sign a lease on a new apartment in Salem on Jan. 26.

"This has been amazing because it's allowed us to stay together as a family and they will help us cover rent once we get to the new apartment," Armstrong said. "The new apartment is with a second-chance

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## Caden Berry memorial draws family, friends

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Caden Berry, the Claggett Creek Middle School seventh grader, who was strangled to death in his apartment last month, allegedly by his mother, was remembered as "happy, loyal, smiling and a true friend" at a memorial Saturday, Jan. 28.

About 100 mourners turned out at Keizer's Dayspring Fellowship to remember the boy and family teachers and friends shared their encounters with him.

"If you've ever been to a school in the summer, you realize how empty it is, you start to understand how valuable a person like Caden is to making a building, like Claggett, come alive," said George Krause, a Claggett teacher.

Grit and work ethic defined Caden as a student, Krause continued, but it was his smile and laughter that contributed to the community of the school.

"The world now has a bit less of that. As hard as it seems right now, I believe it's up to us to step into that gap," Krause said. "We need to be Caden's smile and

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