

Christopher better prepared for second term on fire board

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Ron Christopher will continue to bring a fiscally conservative voice to the Keizer Fire District Board of Directors.

Christopher, a Keizer resident for more than 30 years, defeated Shannon Riddell-Norstrom 2,311 to 1,329 votes in a May 16th election.

"I am proud to represent my community with decisions I feel they would make themselves," Christopher said. "I want to continue to support our KFD, both professionals and volunteers at the most cost effective way possible without compromising the safety of our KFD staff

or members of our community."

Christopher was first elected to the board in 2013.

"A 48-month term sounds like a long time. It isn't," Christopher said. "I feel I needed that time to prepare

me to make educated, informed decisions based on first-hand experience. I feel confident that I can make a good decision for our community, taxpayers and fire services employees with the experience I have gained during the past four years as a member of the Keizer Fire Board."

Christopher said the toughest decision he made during his first term was voting against a 6 percent cost of

living increase for KFD's professional firefighters when the consumer price index was at only 2-plus percent.

Christopher has said the biggest issue facing KFD is succession.

"We are going to be losing some very excellent long-term fire service employees to retirement in the next years, just like many other government agencies," Christopher said. "We need policy and updated structure in place that meets the needs of the Keizer community in 2017 and beyond to accommodate these personnel changes."

Christopher's father was a volunteer firefighter in Redmond for more than 40 years and his uncle was the Redmond fire chief for over thirty years.

"I have a strong affinity to the profession of fire service," Christopher said. "Fire service has been a part of my entire life and I am proud to contribute to the services provided in my home town."



Ron Christopher



KPA awards scholarship

Submitted Miguel Araiza, second from left, was recently awarded the Sheila Goodman Memorial Scholarship by the Keizer Police Association. Also pictured from left, McNary High School Principal Erik Jespersen, Darsy Olafson (KPA President), Carrie Anderson (KPA Secretary), and McNary High School resource officer David Zavala.

The Keizer Police Association recently awarded the Sheila Goodman Memorial Scholarship to Miguel Araiza at McNary High School.

Araiza has been highly involved in McNary's band program, Salem Youth Symphony, and National Honor Society. He is planning on

attending the University of Northern Colorado after he graduates.

The Scholarship was founded by the Keizer Police Association in 2009. In 2010 the name of the Scholarship award was changed, with the family's permission, to honor Sheila Goodman who passed

away that year. Sheila was the daughter of Keizer Police Sgt. Jeff Goodman, and was a graduate of McNary.

The KPA continues to be honored to support the memory of Sheila, the students of McNary High School, and the community of Keizer as a whole.

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