

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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FOR THE WIN

Students get their game on, learn respect for all

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Parents: Imagine for a moment two teams of soldiers fighting in and around a virtual battlefield. Points are scored for each member of a team that is eliminated. The score is tied 49-49 and your son or daughter pulls off a 360-no-scope kill that wins the game.

How would you react? Would you know what to do or say?

Now, what if the action was taking place on a football field and the same child kicked the winning field goal?

"If your kid makes that kick, you're screaming in the stands and telling everyone, 'That's my baby,'" said Jamie Harris, founder of Satellite Gaming, an after school club offered at Claggett Creek and Whiteaker middle schools and McNary High School. "Our goal here is to basically say to parents that there are students who work really hard at video games. You may or may not approve, but if they are playing the games as much as some other kids play sports then let's encourage them to use it in a positive way."

Each week, Harris and oth-

er volunteers in the program cart in Xboxes and cables to the schools and set up gaming areas where students can play shoulder-to-shoulder. For some students, it's a chance to play games they might not otherwise have access to, for others it's a chance to play alongside other players in a world where most multiplayer gaming is now done online with anonymous friends, but Harris is using it as an opportunity to change the way they approach online life.

"I'm a big advocate for online gaming, but we usually get the purpose of an online alias wrong. We begin to abuse it and it becomes a free ticket to say whatever you want and get away with it, but the real idea is keep our own identity safe while experiencing online interaction," Harris said.

By putting online opponents in the same room where they can celebrate victories together and see the faces of defeated foes, Harris removes the anonymity of online interaction and, he hopes, paves the way for more positive experiences all around.

READY PLAYER 1
When Satellite Gaming



arrived at Claggett Creek Middle School two years ago, Marcos Zepeda and Jacob Mackley were two of the first brave students to take a chance and attend the meetings held every Monday afternoon.

"When it first started there was maybe 10 people, but we've gotten word out and more people have shown up. Now we have a max of 21 people," Marcos said.

Jacob said the idea of "couch-style" gaming, with combatants playing elbow-to-elbow was much more fun than what he had experienced

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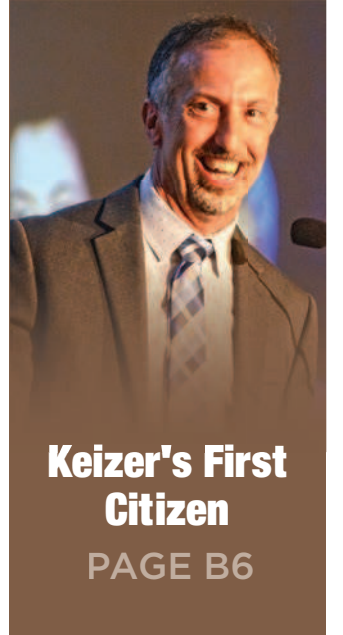


KEIZERTIMES/Random Pendragon and Eric A. Howald
TOP: Jamie Harris, founder of Satellite Gaming, checks in on some club members. ABOVE: Dylan Fischer grabs a controller while Peyton Sisomphou plays.



District champs
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Arboretum accomplished
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Twin swimmers lead pack
PAGE B1

Keizer's First Citizen
PAGE B6

At long last... Walmart opens

With more than three dozen early, eager shoppers lined up outside the entrance to Keizer's new grocery store, Walmart by Winco, store manager Derrick Dukes unlocked the doors 30 minutes earlier than planned.

Since 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, the traffic into the store was non-stop. Shoppers were

excited that Walmart had finally opened, many who said they were Winco shoppers.

The store has similar products to a Winco store except it has no deli or bakery. Walmart has about 100 employees, most whom live in Keizer.

TOP RIGHT: Evelyn Barrett, daughter Hayley Barrett and granddaughter Maharani Barrett, 2, were some of the first shoppers on opening day. The Barretts, regular Winco shoppers, live at near the store. They say they waited "months and months and months" for the store to open.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Shade Cruse of Keizer, was shopping for Super Bowl snacks. He said he was a regular Winco shopper. It's our "exclusive store of choice," he said.

LEFT: Anita Evans, of northeast Salem, who worked for the company years ago, is still a fan of Walmart. "It's a great place to shop, the store is clean and very well laid out," she said.

PHOTOS/Andrew Jackson



Clark to seek third term

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark announced she will seek a third term as the elected leader of the city in an interview with the Keizertimes Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Clark, who has served two terms as mayor and four as a city councilor prior to that, said the city is still in a transitional period and more work needs to be done.



C. Clark

"We've done a lot of really good things but some were starting to show some wear around the edges. The funding that we had

was not meeting the needs for some time with police and parks," Clark said. "We have a seriously understaffed city, and we've done all we can with technology and the tremendous talents of city staff. We have other departments where we need to take that look."

When asked for an example, she cited management of the Keizer Civic Center.

"We started off putting those responsibilities on the city recorder. Tracy (Davis) has done a wonderful job of establishing policies and procedures that work, but she is going to want to retire ... eventually. We will reach a point where

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Mandatory reporting changes head to Legislature

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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A Oregon Senate bill submitted to the 79th Oregon Legislature that would modify Oregon's mandatory reporting rules was set to be considered at the committee level this week.

The bill, SB 1540, amends the state's rules to define reportable offenses as sexual contact or intercourse as those in which lacked consent – or the victim had the inability to provide consent – for teens and young adults between the ages of 14 and 21, if one of the parties is

more than three years older, or if there is reasonable cause to believe the relationship was the result of force, intimidation or coercion.

Sponsored by Sen. Sara Gelsler (D-Corvallis) and Rep. Bill Post (R-Keizer), the bill seeks to address the underlying law that prompted the Salem-Keizer School District to issue new mandatory reporting guidelines in October 2017.

Prior to the changes, Salem-Keizer School District (SKSD) teachers were required to report incidences of suspected neglect or any type of abuse to

the Department of Human Services, but the new guidelines expand reporting to most sex-related issues. New instances that would require reporting include: a student inquiring about birth control options after admitting to sex with a partner; reports of a pregnancy; a student confiding in a teacher after being kicked out of his home for divulging a sexually active, same-sex relationship.

District administrators said the new policies were meant as a "clarification" of existing rules, but the change sparked

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