

Keizertimes

SECTION A

FEBRUARY 16, 2018

\$1.00

Board backs parks smoking ban 7-1

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

After a public hearing and lengthy debate, the Keizer Parks Advisory Board is moving forward with a recommendation to ban smoking in Keizer parks.

Board members voted 7-1 to recommend the action to the Keizer City Council. Matt Lawyer was the lone voice of dissent on the issue at a meeting of the board Tuesday, Feb. 13.

The recommendation will go to the council and suggest revisiting the current Keizer parks ordinance and replacing existing language that pertains

to smoking in areas of high fire risk with an outright ban.

The suggestion of amending the existing ordinance, rather than creating something whole cloth, came from the board's newest member, Zaira Flores Marin, who attended her first meeting prepared to cite chapter-and-verse.

Flores Marin said that a smoking ban represented a first step in "more of a cultural change in the city."

Smoking is already banned in Salem and Marion County parks as well as Oregon's state parks.

The handful of residents who offered testimony on the issue favored

the ban, but it was testimony from of Marion County and speaking in her role as a Keizer resident. Bouska said that smoke free rules and policies are typically self-enforcing and that previous attempts at mitigating smoking in Keizer parks, like designating smoking areas in each park, are hampered from the outset. Please see BAN, Page A8

"When we as Keizer citizens say we care about health, we can send a stronger message"

— Kerryann Bouska
Keizer resident

Bond passage would have far-reaching effects

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

If voters approve a \$619.7 million Salem-Keizer School District (SKSD) bond measure in May, improvements at McNary High School and Gubser Elementary School will be some of the first in the district to receive renovations and redesigns.

While those projects would be among the first to undergo construction, the bond plan includes improvements or maintenance projects at every school in SKSD.

As the second largest high school in the district, administrators have long planned for McNary to be near the top of the list, but Gubser was more of a surprise, said Superintendent Christy Perry.

"Gubser is one of the most overpopulated elementary schools right now. We tried placing an additional teacher there to help with class sizes, but there simply wasn't enough space in the building," Perry said.

There is still an additional teacher at Gubser, but they float throughout the building and assist where they are needed most, she said.

In that sense, improvements at Gubser — including three

At a glance: Keizer's place in SKSD bond

<p>McNary High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 new classrooms 1 new science lab 2 career technical education spaces Dedicated special education class space A new flexible learning space Replacement classrooms (13,700 sq. ft.) Repurposed/renovated space for admin and support staff Redesigned parking lot and additional parking Purchase of additional property and relocating sports fields 	<p>Keizer Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 new classrooms Dedicated cafeteria and kitchen Library upgrades 	<p>Cummings Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cafeteria expansion Sidewalks along campus
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new classrooms, a dedicated cafeteria and kitchen and gym upgrades — will have the effect of lowering class sizes. That will not be the case for all schools, but bonds can only pay for capital improvement

projects and not continuing budget items like teacher salaries. The latter funds are much more volatile and heavily dependent on state funding set by the Oregon Legislature. The biggest single change

district-wide, if the bond is approved by voters, will be increasing capacity at five of the six high schools to 2,200 students. At McNary, that will mean about 200 more students than are currently enrolled, but

it will also mean that the portable classrooms some classes use will be replaced with permanent structures. The bond will cost a homeowner \$1.24 more per \$1,000. Please see BOND, Page A2



HOME

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Brianna Ramos-Gasca checks out her new bedroom at a Keizer home built by Habitat for Humanity. Girl Scouts who led her to the room — and helped decorate — wait in the hallway.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

In the course of eight days, Salem Habitat for Humanity handed over the keys to two new Keizer families.

On Saturday, Feb. 3, Construction Manager Dave Connell presented the Ramos-Gasca family with their keys to half of a new duplex on Alexis Lane North in Keizer. The family of four — including mother and father, Arturo and Sara, and daughters, Brianna and Jessica — were welcomed by Habitat staff and volunteers and led through the home for the first time by members of Girl Scout Troop 10048 and

Brownie Troop 10133. "It's something we've dreamt about for a long time," said Sara, after accepting the keys. "There is no way, shape or form that we could have pulled this off without each and every one of you, that's a guarantee."

The build was sponsored, in large part, by Thrivent Financial, which has contributed more than \$800,000 to Salem Habitat over the course of its last eight builds. A week prior to the Ramos-Gascas getting its keys, Habitat handed over the keys to the Ramos-Gasca's new neighbors, the Wuelfing family.

Please see HOME, Page A8

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Preparing for the hand-off

Cathy Clark's vision for a third mayoral term

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Mayor Cathy Clark announced she will be seeking a third term as Keizer's mayor last week, but the crux of her vision for the city is less about what she will do during a third term and more about paving the way for those who follow her.

"I'm very purposeful and I want to reach Gen Xers and the Millennials. I know they are very busy with families and have a lot demands on their time, but we have got to make sure that we are taking the long view," Clark said. "If we are going to have a vibrant legacy that continues, the next generation has to be ready for it and the ones working right now have to be okay with them changing it."

Clark served eight years as a member of the Keizer City Council before being elected as mayor in 2014. Prior to those duties she served on several of the city committees. In her time as public servant, Keizer has undergone wide-

spread changes ranging from nascent stages of what is now Keizer Station to leading the charge to implement fees that created stable funding for parks and police services in 2017.

"We had established great parks and a responsive police department and a fantastic planning department, but a lot of those good things were beginning to show some wear and doing nothing was not an option," Clark said.

Now she feels that other departments within the city need that same look, not the least of which is the future of Keizer's Civic Center.

"If we don't properly staff it and maintain it, we won't have it," she said. "We will have to look at all the revenue streams and come to a decision regarding the resources available and how the oversight (of the facility) looks in the future."

In a city where the most frequent response to any problem is "volunteer," Clark also wants to take a harder look at. Please see CLARK, Page A8

Boys on top of GVC b-ball

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Not-So-Newlyweds

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Learning to fly

PAGE A4

Statebound

PAGE B1



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