

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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A groundbreaking First Citizen

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

As Vickie Jackson accepted the title and award of Keizer's First Citizen at a banquet Saturday, Jan. 19, she called out the previous First Citizen honorees in a line in front of her.

"They set the example for me to follow," said Jackson.

Jackson was one of four award winners during the banquet, which is an annual event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. Kyle Juran, owner of Remodeling by Classic Homes, was honored as Merchant of the Year. Brian Aicher was presented the Service to Education Award, and Larry Schmidgall was given the President's Award by current Chamber President Bob Shackelford.

Jackson's list of community involvement threatened to have presenter Joe Egli reaching for a glass of water, but the longtime owner of AccurAccounts broke new ground in one of Keizer's older institutions.

Jackson became a member of the Rotary Club of Keizer in 1990 – just two years after the club began admitting women – and served as the first woman president in 1998-99. She served as president again in 2014-15.

"Rotary taught me how to



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Keizer's newly-minted First Citizen, Vickie Jackson (second from left), shows off the clock she was gifted to represent the time given in service of the Keizer community.

give back to the community and how to be comfortable speaking in front of all you with all these bright lights," Jackson said.

Aside from Rotary involvement, Jackson has

longstanding engagements with the Keizer and Salem chambers of commerce, Gubser Elementary School Parent-Teacher Club, the Whiteaker Middle School Mom and Dad Squad,

the McNary High School Graduation Party, the Distinguished Young Women of Keizer program, and the Chemeketa Community College Advisory Committee. She's also had a guiding role

in the Keizer Big Toy project and the McNary High School Turf project.

"The list goes on and on," said Egli. "In addition to that, she's hosted nine exchange students and has an impeccable reputation."

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
FROM LEFT: President's Award winner Larry Schmidgall, Service to Education Award winner Brian Aicher, and Merchant of the Year Kyle Juran.

Legislators prep for two years in 'superminority'

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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Sen. Kim Thatcher and Rep. Bill Post, the two Republicans representing Keizer, are expecting a trying 2019 session.

Democrats hold a supermajority in the Oregon Legislature and the governor's office which means that Republicans have little recourse when it comes to stopping the bills they oppose without getting Democrats to cross the aisle. What Thatcher and Post are hoping is that Sen. Peter Courtney can reign in his party to some degree.

"He's the last Oregon statesman and that's what this session will be about," Post said.

"But he has a fractured caucus and I think it will be difficult to keep the more divisive stuff at bay,"

said Thatcher.

As far as their personal priorities, Thatcher is a chief sponsor of Senate Bill 321, which would modify the procedure by which a person convicted of a felony can request new DNA testing. "Oregon's laws are such that they have to prove innocence before ordering a new DNA test. [SB 321] would allow retesting before proof of innocence," Thatcher said. "We want to ensure that we have the right people locked up for rape and murder."

Thatcher's office is also looking into potential solutions to the state's housing crisis and alternatives to Democrat-endorsed cap-and-trade limits on carbon emissions.

"I am working with my staff who know some

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K. Thatcher



B. Post

Keizer resident plans park fitness stations

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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A few months ago, Jeff Davis approached the Keizer Parks Advisory Board with a big idea – putting exercise stations in every Keizer park – and an inkling of how to get started.

When he was younger, Davis benefited from his family's focus on fitness. It gave him access to a personal trainer and he's continued working out on his own for the past two decades. Despite those experiences, he struggled to incorporate his neighborhood park into his routine.

"I would go down to Wallace House Park where there's a great structure there for kids, but I couldn't get a pull-up in. There was no way to change the play structure's utility. I figured if I couldn't do it, then there would be other people at a loss for what to do," said Davis, a financial advisor with

Edward Jones.

Counting Keizer stalwarts Mark Caillier, Roland Herrera and Clint Holland among his influences, Davis decided to swing for the fences when it came to his proposal for outfitting all Keizer parks with exercise stations. He quickly learned that not all the city parks are ready for such equipment, but he has a plan – and a deadline – for what he calls Phase 1.

He envisions the first wave of equipment going into Wallace House Park, Claggett Creek Park, Meadows Park and Country Glen Park. He's already identified locations in the parks that are suited to congregation around the equipment without impeding on neighbors.

However, Davis wants to take advantage of about \$9,000 matching grants available through the Parks Advisory Board. That means the project has to be completed

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Church seeks eminent domain dismissal

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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St. Edward Catholic Church is asking that the courts dismiss an eminent domain complaint filed by the Salem-Keizer School District in regard to six acres of vacant land the district wants to expand McNary High School.

In response to the district request for immediate condemnation and possession, the church contends, in documents submitted to Marion County Circuit Court, that the school district did not comply with proper eminent domain procedure and has "failed to justify its need for immediate possession of St. Edward's property."

The allegation of improper procedure hinges on the district not establishing a fund for the estimated just compensation and instead seeking condemnation for immediate possession.

Additionally, the church

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McNary takes down West Salem on the mat

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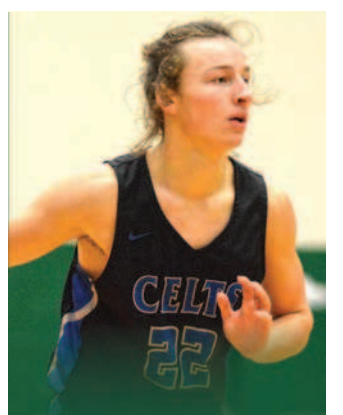
New owners, new space for Keizer gym

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Round robots unlock physics lessons

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Celtics defeat McKay in blowout fashion

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Growing

to better serve the Keizer community

This spring, we'll be expanding to a FULL SERVICE CLINIC in Keizer. We're bringing Orthopedic care, closer to home.

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