

## KPD union bid fails

Sergeants dispute roles despite signatures stating otherwise



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/Andrew Jackson

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Police Department (KPD) sergeants sought access to the Keizer Police Association union over two days of hearings in 2018, but the effort appeared handicapped from the get-go.

Five of the KPD current sergeants testified on behalf of the Keizer Police Association (KPA), which they were seeking access to, in July and September of 2018. The hearings took place at the Employment Relations Board with Administrative Law Judge Martin Kehoe presiding. While the request was denied an objection has been filed.

The sergeants contend that their duties do not rise to

“I didn’t read it. I have clearly defined goals and I’ve seen how other sergeants do business. I honestly don’t feel I need a document to tell me what my job is.”



— Sgt. Trevor Wenning

the level of supervisory and therefore qualify for inclusion in the KPA.

While the sergeants took issue with the job description issued by the City of Keizer Human Resources Department, all of them had signed statements and

checked boxes indicating no changes were needed within a year prior to their request for union inclusion.

Some sergeants took responsibility for signing the job description while others said it was presented to them at the last minute and under

Judge sees merit in some arguments, not enough

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

An effort by the Keizer Police Department’s sergeants to join the Keizer Police Association union was dismissed by an administrative law judge in late January.

The dismissal follows two days of hearings on the matter that took place in 2018. (See related story *Sergeants dispute*.) However, the dismissal is not likely to be the end of the discussion, said Machell DePina, human resources director for the City of Keizer. Keizer’s police are a department of the city and thus work in conjunction with city staff policies and procedures.

“The Keizer Police Association, via their attorney Daryl Garretson, has filed an objection to the administrative law judge’s proposed order so this issue is still far from over,” DePina said.

Please see ROLES, Page A5

Please see JUDGE, Page A5

## Best of show



McNary High School senior Laura Gillespie won Best of Show in the annual student show at the Keizer Art Association gallery. For all the winners and more photos, see Page A3.

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

## Board fires starting gun on parks workout projects

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

A proposal to install fitness stations in Keizer parks has entered the sprint stage.

Jeff Davis, a Keizer resident and local financial advisor, has talked with the city officials and representatives for about six months about a plan to install fitness equipment throughout Keizer’s parks system. In less than 48 hours, Davis’ project turned from a vision into something he’ll have to make good on.

On Monday, Feb. 11, Davis received the endorsement of the Keizer Rotary Foundation to the tune of \$25,000 over two years and approval for a \$7,832 matching grant during a meeting Keizer Parks Advisory Board Tuesday, Feb. 12.

“Thank you all. I’ve gotten

so much great advice and guidance,” Davis told the members of the parks board.

Davis’ grand vision was covered last month in the *Keizertimes*, but funding to begin work on a scaled-back Phase 1 came to fruition quickly.

In addition to financial backing, Davis said Rotarian Bob Zielinski has offered use of an excavator and an employee to run it and Herc Rentals offered use of additional equipment during down time. That leaves the largest outstanding need to begin moving forward assistance

with installing concrete pads. Those with the know-how and ability are encouraged to contact Davis at 541-905-5192 or via email at jeffd@live.com.

Please see WORKOUT, Page A8



“If this goes well, and we learn along the way, we might be able to do more next year.”

— Jeff Davis

## Eminent domain defense might be breaking new ground



Paul Diller

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Usage of eminent domain claims to take possession of property needed for public use is older than America itself, but the defense being deployed by St. Edward Catholic Church to ward off a claim by the Salem-Keizer School District is distinct. And

it’s part of a handful of cases that could one day reach the highest court in the nation, according to a professor at Willamette University Law School.

“The church is asserting here that the fact that they are a religious entity should make it harder to take their land. It’s an argument buttressed by

the relatively recent Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RIULPA),” said Professor Paul Diller, who spoke with the *Keizertimes* as part of a monthly on-air interview segment at the studios of KMUZ on Friday, Feb. 8.

RIULPA was passed in 2000 in response to the U.S.

Supreme Court striking down the Religious Freedom Restoration Act that was designed to curtail government action burdening religious organizations. RIULPA is much more narrow and applies specifically to land use.

“RIULPA is often used when they think [churches]

Please see DOMAIN, Page A8



Keizer hoopsters All-American finalists

PAGE A14



Whiteaker cabaret on deck

PAGE A3



Keizer school shares valentines with seniors

PAGE A8



Swimmers denied shot at state

PAGE A11



0 88267 02324 6



With a fully redesigned interior, an available mighty 456-horsepower engine, enhanced suspension for absolute driving comfort or a sportier driving style, and xDrive intelligent all-wheel drive (available on most BMW models), the all-new BMW X5 is always ready, no matter the challenge ahead.

Learn more about the all-new BMW X5, and enjoy exceptional offers at BMW of Salem.

BMW of Salem • 1151 Van Ness Ave NE, Salem, OR 97301 • (855) 408-6768 • BMWofSalem.com  
©2019 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.