

# Keizertimes

SINCE 1979 • VOLUME 40, NO. 28

SECTION A

APRIL 12, 2019

\$1.00

## Shooting range bill moves forward

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

A bill that would supply an extra avenue of recourse to Keizer residents impacted by shooting taking place at a Polk County quarry passed out of the Oregon Senate Committee on Judiciary with a 6-1 vote Tuesday, April 9.

The bill (Senate Bill 1040)

allows the owner, operator and lessee of the property to be held liable for injuries resulting from bullets leaving the range. The individual discharging the firearm can also be held liable if the final bill passes both the houses of Oregon Legislature.

The bill is humorously site-specific and would only af-

fect "an active quarry or mine located on property adjacent to the Willamette River in Polk County and across the river from the City of Keizer," a result of amendments made to the original language.

Supporters and opponents of the bill turned out for a public hearing on the matter last week at the Capitol.

After closing the public hearing, Sen. Shemia Fagin called the original wording "a no-brainer. If you are going to own a property you should be taking care not to affect the property around you."

During deliberations Tuesday, Sen. Floyd Prozanski questioned limiting the measure to active quarries vs. inactive ones.

Rich Angstrom, president of Oregon Concrete Aggregate Producers Association, said the change was made to separate the intended property, owned by Lance Davis, from others in the area.

"There is a difference between this site and some closed

Please see RANGE, Page A8



**Track & Field season begins**  
PAGE B1

## Bill draws support, opposition at hearing

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

A bill that creates an extra avenue for pursuing injury lawsuits resulting from shooting at a Polk County quarry drew supporters and detractors at a public hearing at the Capitol Tuesday, April 4.

The bill was moved to the floor by members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary Tuesday, April 9. Sen. Kim Thatcher and Rep. Bill Post are sponsoring the legislation.

In testimony, Mayor Cathy Clark said the bill was necessary because of jurisdictional boundaries.

"We have crafted legislation that would allow us to work more proactively to protect the life and safety of our residents," she said.

Keizer City Manager Chris

Please see HEARING, Page A8



**Home & Garden SPECIAL SECTION**



PHOTO/Lyndon Zaitz  
The Rotary Club of Keizer held its annual Go for the Gold Raffle dinner and auction at the Keizer Civic Center on Saturday, April 6. The theme was Mardi Gras and everyone got into the spirit including (from left) Melissa Davis, Melanie Stiger and Raeanne McDonald. See more photos and the names of the raffle winners on Page 12.

## Missed quotas, dirty laundry nab spotlight at KPD union hearing

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

An objection to a administrative rule judge finding that Keizer Police Department's sergeants are supervisors – and therefore not eligible for union membership – was heard in front of all three members of the Employment Relations Board in March.

The hearing was a continuation of a request for union representation by Keizer's six sergeants that was initially denied in January. The board members have not yet made a ruling on the objection.

Unlike hearings that unfurled over two days in 2018, the objection hearing involved only attorneys from both sides. Daryl S. Garretson represented the union, the Keizer Police Association, and Kathy A. Peck represented the city of Keizer.

The Keizer Police Association contends that sergeants' duties do not rise to the level of supervisory and therefore warrant inclusion in the union. The city asserts that sergeants act as supervisors and have been for at least two decades.

Please see KPD, Page A7

## The choice in Zone 6

Voters face a decision between two starkly different candidates when it comes to who will represent the Keizer on the Salem-Keizer School District board of directors this May. We sat down with both candidates to go deeper on what they see as the key issues and the role of a director within the school district.

### Lee: Funding, continuity essential

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

For Chuck Lee, Keizer's representative on the Salem-Keizer School District Board of directors for the past 12 years, funding is the primary source of the district's woes.

"All of the issues we have from low graduation rates to lack of support for teachers with students coming from toxic environments, class size and everything else cost money," Lee said. "If we're serious about increasing the graduation rate and lowering class size and giving teachers support, we need the financial resources."

And the situation isn't getting any better. Gov. Kate Brown's proposed budget for the next fiscal year was at best a break-even proposition for Salem-Keizer and the most recent draft to come out of the Legislature's Ways and Means Committee would result in laying off 33 teachers, he said.

"It's one of the reasons why it was so attractive to partner with CTEC (Career Techni-



Chuck Lee

cal Education Center). For 30 years, one of the district's goals was to have a career technical space and the resources never came available," he said.

CTEC is a public-private partnership and Lee remains heavily involved with the funding and direction of the school through his position as president of Mountain West Group, an investment firm owned by Larry Tokarski.

Please see LEE, Page A7

### Bethell seeks a more granular role



Danielle Bethell

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

When asked what she sees as the top priorities for the Salem-Keizer School District, Danielle Bethell is quick to dole out anecdotes about interactions with parents and potential constituents along with her answers.

In part, it's a reflection of how she would seek to do business differently if voters elect her to the Salem-Keizer School Board in May.

"I think I have a different

lens to look at things through as a mom and a business owner. I have access to the emotional things going on and I have a good filter for those things and decide if they need to go to the school board or if it's something that can be worked out through relationships at the level of the district staff," Bethell said. "Because I'm so involved, people feel that I'm approachable and, regardless of the state of emotion, they reach out."

When one constituent reached out to ask why McNary High School wouldn't be installing a turf soccer field as the school undergoes major renovations, she saw in it a rebuke of the current trajectory the district is on in providing equal opportunity.

"We, as a school district, unfortunately feel that everybody is equal and every school should look the same. I think that competition in life is healthy and it's a conversation I want to have. We're turning it into a regime where everybody

Please see BETHELL, Page A7



**Ballers headed to Dominican Republic**  
PAGE A4



**Gragg a Hall of Famer**  
PAGE B1



See page B1 for more details



# SUV SALES EVENT



3555 River Road N, Keizer  
(503) 463-4853  
www.skylineforddirect.com