

Opinion

Ted Anagnos

An appreciation

Ted Anagnos succumbed to illness late last month and Keizer lost one of its stellar citizens.

Anagnos was known for many different roles: businessman, husband, father, civic leader and coach. He was friend to everyone, even those he disagreed with politically.

The public most likely knows Ted Anagnos for his many years as a volunteer coach for Whiteaker Middle School and McNary High School. There are countless former school athletes who credit Ted for inspiring them both on and off the gridiron. His influence was felt by his former players long after they left school.

For his many friends in the business community (especially members of the Rotary Club of Keizer), it is Ted's quick and caustic wit they will remember most. For many, repeating stories Ted himself told, is the ultimate eulogy.

Ted Anagnos did not shy away from leadership roles. He chaired several city committees, was president of both the Keizer Chamber

of Commerce and the Rotary Club. His introductory seminars for new Rotary Club members are legend-

ary, what he called the Fireside Chats, held by the fireplace in his living room.

He was a hops broker before he moved to Keizer and opened his Edward Jones office in 1987. Before splitting his time between his

home and office in Keizer/Salem and a home near Lake Tahoe, he had moved to Merrill Lynch.

Earlier in his working years he was a high school football and wrestling coach in Lodi, Calif.

Married to Susan, father to Christopher and Tony, Ted leaves behind a legacy of a commitment to his community, his career, to Keizer's youth, but most especially to his family.

All of Keizer is richer for having Ted Anagnos as a citizen and as a community and youth leader. The best way to honor his memory is to emulate his work with our kids and within our city. —LAZ

editorial

Band boosters thanks supporters

To the Editor:

In March, Whiteaker Band Boosters held a bingo night to raise money for the middle school's band program. With the help of our dedicated parent volunteers, we were able to raise \$1,692 to pay for supplies, performances, field trips and scholarships.

Part of what made the event a success were the generous donations from McDonald Orthodontics, Keizertimes, the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, Egan Gardens, The Cotton Patch, Copper Creek Mercantile, Black Rock Coffee Bar, Odd Moe's Pizza, Adam's Rib Smokehouse, Subway, Little Caesars, Get Air, JC's Pizzeria, and Dairy Queen.

We want to thank all the volunteers and businesses that donated for their generous help supporting Whiteaker's band program.

Aimee Orr-Besa, president
Will Koenig, vice president
Jenn Wilson, secretary
Julie Olivo, treasurer
Whiteaker Band Boosters

Tobacco tax good for Oregon families

To the Editor:

As a cancer survivor and having lost four family members to cancer, I understand all this dreadful disease brings into your life. If there is any opportunity to fight back, I will do exactly that.

I want to reduce cancer rates and tobacco use. Did you know smoking causes nearly 30 percent of cancer deaths? Cancer is the #1 cause of death in Oregon.

Oregon lawmakers want to raise the price of cigarettes by \$2 per pack and make all other tobacco products like e-cigarettes more expensive. As an American Can-

letters

cer Society Cancer Action Network volunteer advocate, I support this because I know my voice is heard by my legislators.

A significant tobacco tax increase will keep kids from becoming addicted and help people quit. Lives will be saved from a preventable death. A \$2 cigarette tax increase will save nearly 13,700 Oregon lives. It will also help more than 31,000 adults quit smoking and reduce youth smoking rates by 21 percent.

It will also generate millions of dollars in new revenue. The state can use that money to fund Medicaid and programs to help reduce smoking rates. Sounds like a winning combination to me.

Senator Peter Courtney, please support this lifesaving tobacco tax increase. It will generate revenue, reduce tobacco use and save Oregon lives.

Kathy Ottele
Salem

Vote for Diane Watson

To the Editor:

I have had the privilege of serving on the Chemekata Community College Board with Diane Watson.

She brings Community College knowledge and history to the current board. She is always prepared for the meetings and asks important clarifying questions. She is adept at balancing the needs of the Community, Students and Employees.

Diane is running in this year's election and I encourage the Community to keep this valuable asset on the Chemekata Community College Board.

Joe Van Meter
Keizer

ZONE 2: Incumbent faces challenge from recent graduate

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and how to get things done. Unfortunately, most people think we can do things we currently cannot. Many things are dictated by the Oregon Legislature and the Oregon Department of Education and so are out of our reach. I am a mother of a recent graduate who attended Salem-Keizer schools from Pre-K through graduation. I am a tax-payer and understand how our decisions can affect family finances. My background is in information technology which is all about problem solving, I use these skills often. I currently serve as a Marion County Parks Commissioner, on Salem's Community Emergency Response Team and Marion County Amateur Radio Emergency Services.

Raul Marquez: I know how to work collaboratively with people from all walks of life to find solutions for the betterment of all our students. I have a proven record of getting things done and I hope to bring this mentality to the school board. As a high school senior, I raised \$412,000, to purchase a house, now known as Taylor's House, the first overnight youth homeless shelter in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Furthermore my experience as a recent graduate will allow me to better understand the needs of our students, parents and our educators so that we may better serve them.

KT: What motivated you to seek election/re-election?

MH: There is nothing I enjoy more than helping people. Regardless of who in the community it is, being able to be a voice for them gives me great satisfaction.

With any new job, it takes time to get acclimated and become proficient. It took two full years of watching, listening and having different experiences addressed on the board to get me to a point where I felt I could be a contributor and have my voice heard and respected on the board. For me to not run again would be to waste the time I have invested in our families and schools.

RM: I decided to run for the Salem-Keizer school board after an active community member asked me if I would ever consider running for the school board. This began a series of meetings which involved students, parents and other community members discussing the current state of the school district. I am honored to have been considered by several members as a strong candidate to represent Zone

2. Currently three of my siblings are enrolled in Salem-Keizer schools and it is important to me that all students receive access to the best education possible. Attending schools in Zone 2 provided me with the first hand knowledge about some of the needs of students that are not being met and about the inequities we are faced with as a district. I believe that I will be able to serve our community by providing a unique and fresh perspective to the school board.

KT: What do you feel is the most important issue facing the school district as a whole?

MH: Bullying and graduation rates. Bullying has ramifications far beyond those of just the action itself. The object of the bullying many times may feel alone and unable to continue with their education. They may experience physical affects like feeling sick or be highly stressed and unable to concentrate in class or on homework. In extreme cases it may lead to the student hurting other people or taking their own life.

Unfortunately, bullying appears to be out of control across our country affecting children and adults everywhere.

Graduation is the litmus test we use to determine if we are successful. We have made over all improvements every year that I have served on the board. We can improve these rates more by keeping students engaged by offering them opportunities like art, music, theater, sports, technical classes and a bully-free environment.

RM: I believe that one of the most important issues we are facing as school district is large class sizes. I experienced first hand what it is like to be in classrooms that were overcapacity. While as a district we are seeing large class sizes, we must acknowledge that there are schools, predominantly low-income and majority students of color, that are being impacted more than other schools. It is imperative that we address this issue through an equity lens.

KT: What can be done at the school board level to address that issue?

MH: We are a policy board; it takes a strong unified board who are all committed to the same issues to set the goals for the district and to enable and give the superintendent the resources needed to obtain our goals. We can also continue to have conversations with the community and partner with groups with expertise, especially in dealing with bullying and suicide pre-

vention.

RM: I believe that large class sizes derive from the lack of funding for our schools. If we fully funded our schools we would have the ability to hire more educators and provide additional classrooms for our students. We have a very unique opportunity to reduce class sizes with the bond that passed recently. It will be critical that we continue to have discussions through an equity lens to make the most from this opportunity. Furthermore, we must ensure that as a school board we work with the state Legislature to guarantee that we fully fund our schools. If passed, House Bill 2019 would allow for our board to have discussions surrounding how we can reduce class sizes while also addressing other issues we face as a district by providing \$2 billion for our schools. It will not be enough to depend on the changes made through the bond and funding from the state Legislature so it will be crucial that as a board we seek to create community partnerships with local businesses and organizations that will provide additional avenues for revenue, and create opportunities and resources for our students to gain hands on experience outside of the traditional classroom setting.

KT: What issues, if any, would you like to see the school board address with greater urgency in the next four years?

MH: Bullying is the most urgent issue facing our students in my opinion.

RM: I would like to see the school board empower parents, students and educators through the decision making process. I would like to see the board empower parents to be actively involved in their students education. I would also like to see the board diversify our staff and educators. Furthermore, I would like for the board to work to provide more staff training to meet the needs of students from diverse backgrounds and cultures. I would like the board to consider equitable policies that will enable more students, regardless of their income, to participate in our award-winning music programs and other activities. I want to see the board support CTEC and the expansion of CTE programs in the district. I expect the board to support students by providing mental health resources. I would like to see the board seek to improve graduation rates by providing them with the support and resources necessary.

LEGEND,

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challenges or step up the Celtic game.

"By the end of the day, we'd have talked to each other 15, 17, 20 times. We should have just gotten together. Between the two of us, we always thought a kid could be half a step faster," Nicholas said.

Anagnos' day job was as a financial advisor. His business involvement led him to the Rotary Club of Keizer which was another source of pride and involvement. Alex Miller got to know him through Rotary and Anagnos' "fireside chat," essentially the low-down on what Rotary is and what is expected of members.

"The big thing I remember was him telling me to bring my family to Rotary events and get them involved, too," Miller said. "We got to know each other as parents and Teddy really directed our boys."

Anagnos coached Miller's oldest son in his freshman football season, the young Celtics went 9-0 that year.

Even before the 9-0 season, Anagnos did everything he could to support the athletes he coached. He submitted weekly reports to *Keizertimes* on the freshmen teams' progress and soared beyond the call of duty as he tried to get as many kids' names in the paper as possible.

"He told me years ago that his passion was for high school kids. He was primarily a coach who did a little

bit of stocks and bonds on the side to support his habit," Miller said.

Fellow Rotarian John Doneth said the two bonded early over their interest in youth sports, Anagnos was coaching football and Doneth was an umpire for Little League.

"He had a tough-love style of coaching, but I think a lot of student-athletes are better off for having known Ted. He was a straight shooter and not shy about offering an opinion, but I always found him to be totally honest and he walked the talk," Doneth said.

Doneth and Anagnos had offices near each other at Staats Lake for a time and said many Saturdays were spent in each other's company sharing news of the students they were guiding and community developments.

Even in sports and activities where Anagnos wasn't a coach, he was a presence.

"He was always at the games whether we were at home or away," said Jim Litchfield, a former head coach of the McNary basketball program.

Litchfield and Anagnos met when the former dabbled in football coaching and their friendship continued thereafter. When one of the star athletes in the basketball program began experiencing troubles at home, Anagnos took him in and supported him through graduation. It was the first or only time he did that.

"He was a coach and in the inner circle and he would hear us talk about what was happening with the

kids. Eventually, he was there offering assistance," Litchfield said.

Anagnos gave generously to all the Celtic sports as well as fine arts activities at McNary in ways that were often unheralded at the time.

"He would do whatever he could whether it was giving them a meal, giving them a ride, giving them advice if the kids showed passion," said Jeff Auvinen, McNary's head football coach. Auvinen said Anagnos was as much a mentor to him as he was to the students when he first started teaching at the school in 1992.

"He always said he was going to make taxpayers out of our kids," Auvinen said. While that might seem like self-interest on the surface, it went much deeper, Auvinen continued, "He wanted them to be good people that are doing what they are supposed to be doing, that have a good job and good family, and are pulling their weight."

Even after Anagnos stepped away from his coaching duties and took up part-time residence in Nevada, Auvinen said there was a message on his phone every Friday after the games saying he'd watched the film and offering encouragement in all areas.

Keizertimes asked every person interviewed for this story where they thought Anagnos' passion for students arose from. To a one, they said it was his upbringing in Lodi, Calif.

"Sports were huge there and his coaches were his role models. I've heard so many stories about his coaches and what they taught him. He carried that over into his life and giving back to the community and the kids," Auvinen said. "I think they broke the mold after him, he had McNary blue running through his veins and we'll always remember him."

It was why whenever Anagnos dropped in to meet the latest batch of Celtic gridders Auvinen introduced him as "The Legend" Coach Anagnos.

Master Gardener fruit-thinning workshop on tap in May

OSU Master Gardeners will hold workshops teaching fruit thinning to help participants produce larger, better tasting, and better quality fruit.

Workshops for fruit thinning apple and pear trees will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15 at Pringle Creek Orchard 3911 Village Center Drive SE.

Additional workshops to teach participants fruit thin-

ning and summer fruit tree pruning will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, and 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 8 at the Marion Garden in Salem.

All workshops are free but pre-registration is required. To register and get more information on the workshops, visit marioncomga.org/event-registration/.



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phone: 503.390.1051 • web: www.keizertimes.com • email: kt@keizertimes.com



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