

Opinion

Public art and Keizer's quality of life

Via social media, we asked our readers: Does public art contribute to Keizer's quality of life?

These are selected responses:

Do I think public art improves the quality of life? Yes. Do I think it improves it enough to be worth what it costs to commission the piece, have it installed and provide life-time upkeep? No.

I'd much rather see that money go towards schools, police/fire, homeless shelters.

Making something that is functional as well as beautiful is one thing. Putting up a statue just because there's an empty spot in a park or along a street is a poor use of our tax dollars.

—Deanna Gregory

I love the art in town and love seeing it when I am out and about. It shows that we care about our city and want it to be beautiful, adding to pride and livability.

—Shelly McPherson Egli

Those lovely sculptures add some elegance and interest to the busy day-to-day bustle of the River Road corridor.

—Mary Athens

We all learn to draw before we learn to write, we learn to sing before we learn to speak. Art is with us from birth to death in the very art selected for our gravestone, wall or urn.

Artists are small business owners,

the same as mechanics, jewelers, roofers, plumbers, electricians and newspaper owners.

Public art is part of the tapestry of our community, it enriches our environment and allows our children to experience art that is free and accessible.

—Lore Christopher

Public art allows us to have that moment of beauty that is so badly needed in our lives. All we have to do is take a moment to appreciate it

Those lovely sculptures add some elegance and interest to the busy day-to-day bustle of the River Road corridor.

—Debbie Napier

I love seeing the art throughout town. And it's made me so mad to see it vandalized in the past. It makes me smile each time I drive by one.

—Valerie Olsen Feliciano

Yes. Any piece of art contributes to quality of life as we live in a mostly urbanized area. I also enjoy the one down by Sonic and the one across from Dutch Bros.

—Jennifer Marie

Yes yes yes! Art enriches our lives! Art beautifies our city!

—Terri Kridelbaugh La Masa

My mom lives here and tells me how much she likes the art and fountains. They make her feel at home.

—Cathy Clark

what's
your
view?

Brown's vaping ban is overkill

On Tuesday, October 15, the ban on flavored vaping in Oregon began.

I am strongly opposed to this ban, but, to be very clear, I don't think inhaling anything into one's lungs is wise. I was a smoker myself until about 25 years ago and quitting was the smartest thing I've ever done. Still, I feel very strongly that we all have the right to choose whether to use those products.

When the Governor Kate Brown announced that she was enacting a six month ban on "flavored vaping," I was immediately alarmed and asked legislative counsel by what authority she could do that. Here is a condensed version of their answer:

"The Governor is the state's chief executive officer and functions as the head of the executive branch of government, with the duty to "take care that the [l]aws be faithfully executed."

The Oregon Constitution specifies the extent of the governor's direct powers, and the other branches of state government, including the legislature. Of course, the governor's power is not unlimited; the governor may not, for example, require a state agency to take an action the agency has no power to take.

Although Executive Order 19-09 has been referred to as a "ban" on vaping products, the two relevant provisions of the order merely direct the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt temporary administrative rules banning vaping products. In other words, a ban on vaping products will not take effect until the OHA and OLCC actually adopt rules enacting a ban."

On October 11, the OLCC and OHA both adopted those rules. That, in effect, created the ban that started this week. I joined with our House Republican leader Christine Dragan when she released this statement:

"Banning vaping products won't help solve this problem. We need more research into what is happening, and how we can make sure this doesn't happen again! There are obvious health issues associated with vaping, but we don't know the full story here. We need more research into what is causing these illnesses and deaths."

On the same day, the state announced another two vaping-related illnesses in Oregon, bringing the total

Art evokes an emotion. Does it contribute to quality of life? Yes, I believe so. Art in our community or any new cultural experience we are exposed to, is a form of education. We should always be learning. I've witnessed children pointing and admiring some of the art forms in Keizer—the story poles outside the civic center, for example. This is local history in action. These are not publically funded. This art is placed and funded by grants for public art and in partnership with the Keizer Community Foundation.

—Audrey Butler

Absolutely! Hope we continue to see new ideas and items of interest along River Road. Would love if items were related to businesses, too. Would love to see more.

—April McVay

I feel like art is the source of life.

—Sara Gresley

There is no question, public art improved the quality of life. No matter how you feel about something, it causes some discussion.

—Lynne Hogue Erickson

Most certainly.

—Kathy Kaplan

Absolutely! I love it.

—Laura Godwin

Yes.

—JoAnne Beilke

to 11. Federal investigators have tallied nearly 1,300 cases in 49 states and 26 deaths, including two in Oregon, linked to vaping. Tobacco products are known to cause about 480,000 deaths a year in the United States, dwarfing the deaths so far linked to vape products. This inconsistency is problematic. Not to mention the concern of the "slippery slope" of "bans" of anything. What will the government decide is next on the "bad for you" list?

Lastly, I am greatly concerned for the vape/smoke shops in my district that will be drastically affected by this ban. One shop told me that this ban was "90 percent of her business" and that "she wouldn't survive this." State and federal health officials have connected most of the illnesses to vape oils with THC, the key chemical in marijuana, not nicotine liquids as well as the delivery system that could already be illegal to sell.

Lastly, protecting young people from this product was clearly addressed in 2017 when the legislature passed SB 754, which banned the sale of all tobacco products to anyone under 21. I am calling for greater enforcement of existing law and the protection of the rights of those over the age of 21 to use this product.

(Bill Post represents House District 25. He can be reached at 503-986-1425 or via email at rep.billpost@oregonlegislature.gov.)

Compassion can make all the difference

"Children learn what they live" was the keynote idea used in 1972, as an inspiration for a poem by Dorothy Law Nolte. It provides a list

of positive admonitions to apply in the raising of children by caring persons who seek to develop mentally healthy, physically well, appropriately confident children who can cope with grace and style with life's challenges during their youth and later, throughout their entire lives. Fortunate for the sake of our children, many Americans have followed the poem's advice.

The poem came to mind when I first learned the story about Parkrose High School security guard and coach, Keanon Lowe, who disarmed a student at the school and then embraced the young man in a

tight hug, commenting to him that he was there for him and that the young man had a life worth living. From the video footage, Lowe's

hug was returned, the young man relaxing and finding comfort in the embrace, discovering compassion after high anxiety.

During my growing-up years, when anything was deemed "wrong," and witnessed or discovered by an adult, parent,

teacher, principal, self-deputized local citizen, etc., what followed was punishment by inflicted pain, plus a lecture, then the harsh consequences. It may be generous on my part to characterize my shenanigans back then as child's play, with no intention to cause harm or damage. Nevertheless, what almost always followed

were hard feelings, hatefulness and thoughts of how to get even for the battery and tongue lashings.

The Parkrose School District assumed a position common among so many of our school people where, presumably to cover themselves from criticisms and a lawsuit, they came down on the side of bureaucracy. That means, unfortunately, that humanity there has taken a back seat to authoritarianism up front as is so common in too many of our schools. Meanwhile, the incident could have been advertised as one way to handle young people under adverse conditions.

The 19-year-old was saved from harm to himself and others while the intervention by Coach Lowe just may have set him on a life course that will avoid bad behavior in future stressful situations. It was an extraordinarily positive approach to youth that can be duplicated and serve as a good example and a means to proceed with caring interventions when it's perceived that a perpetrating youth is not bent on carnage, but needs help.

As for me, with age and experience under my personal belt, my credo is to view most people as good. It has held up, always, when first and foremost, I practice respect for my fellow Americans and treat them that way before anything else transpires.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer. He shares his opinion frequently in the *Keizertimes*.)

DOMESTIC: 'There's a lot of fear for either the man or woman'

(Continued from Page A1)
— the lethality assessment — but it can be critical to making sure "the correct resources hit at the right time to surround these people and get them safe," said Cara Steele, KPD's crime analyst.

Completing one more form might not seem like a cutting-edge, crime-fighting tool but, for a crime that thrives under a cloak of shame and guilt, KPD officers are doing their best to make it an effective one.

Domestic violence incidents are not something a casual reader could easily pick out of *Keizertimes*' weekly reports on police activity. The specific incidents might register as charges of assault or strangulation, far more won't yield any charges, but many originate as calls to 9-1-1 reporting domestic disturbances.

Copeland is aware that incidents of domestic violence are likely as underreported in Keizer as they are elsewhere in the country. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that roughly half of domestic violence incidents go unreported.

The kid gloves with which the newspaper treats these incidents is, at least in part, a reflection of the caution police use when approaching the scene of a domestic disturbance.

"There's a lot of fear for either the man or woman calling in that they've been assaulted by their spouse. Once the cops get involved, the courts get involved and it could mean a complete family break-up," Copeland said.

For that reason, and others, KPD officers try to respond to domestic violence calls in pairs. Unlike a confrontation between two strangers in which victim and aggressor might be more clear-cut, the victim can just as easily become aggressive toward police if an arrest threatens to upend their world.

In some cases, charges can be pursued even if no physical contact was made. However, if a victim was physically assaulted in any way, an automatic arrest is triggered. That might seem like painting with a broad brush in terms of consequences, but Copeland is grateful for the law that requires it.

"It takes the decision to arrest away from the officer and away from the victim. It also makes it easier for the victim to come back to the suspect and say, 'I didn't want you arrested,'" Copeland said.

TRICKS, continued from Page 1

at Deepwood Estate, 1116 Mission St. SE, Salem. The registration fee includes one souvenir photo per family, crafts, activities and treats. Costumes are encouraged. Children (12 and under) are \$5 and adults are \$2 each. For more information visit tinyurl.com/y3ouue2.

Spooktacular Family-Fun at Natrual Grocers, 4250 Commercial St. SE, Salem. Fun family trick or treat celebration. For more information visit tinyurl.com/y2q4qk34.

Sunday, Oct. 27

Anniversary & Halloween Psychic Fair from 3 – 6 p.m. at Journeys A

After interviewing the parties at the scene, Steele looks over the call logs to make certain the domestic violence assessment has been completed. If it hasn't, she might request the responding officer return to the home and have the victim complete one. If it has been completed and Steele can track previous reports from the same address, she consults with KPD Det. Arsen Avetisyan. Avetisyan can call on the address and try to find out whether there are more serious charges that can be pursued that might keep a victim safe for a longer period of time while the suspect cools their heels in jail.

"There is also a countywide threat assessment team that I am part of where we get together around a table and talk about the cases where additional threats have been made and what we can do about it," Avetisyan said.

In the most severe cases, a few extra hours or days can be invaluable to a victim.

"What the victim needs is time and the courage to break the cycle with help from other community resources," the detective said.

For the victim, Avetisyan said, being struck by a partner is a life-changing event.

"It goes from that emotional moment of, 'Oh my gosh, you hit me. I'm calling the cops,' to one of facing the reality that they may not know where they are going to eat tomorrow. In a lot of situations, the offender is the breadwinner."

Using the assessments, the context and history they provide, allows the police to see increases in frequency and severity as they develop and hand over a more solid cases to the district attorney's office for prosecution.

Keizer has been spared some of the ugliest outcomes. The three officers who participated in the interview with the *Keizertimes* recalled only two incidents in the past 21 years where domestic violence led to a fatality. The most recent involved Peter Zielinski who was convicted for a second time this year of killing his wife. The other one, in 1998, still sticks with Lt. Bob Trump.

"She did absolutely everything she could do under the law to protect herself. If doing a little more paperwork on our end spares one of our current detectives a memory like that it's well worth it," Trump said.

Center for Your Soul, 805 Liberty St NE, Suite 2. A yearly Halloween/ anniversary event where readers, intuitives, psychics, healers and others offer the opportunity to re-align essences. Entry is free but prices vary per practitioner.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Annual Halloween Kids Concert and Family Fundraiser Carnival, 3 – 6 p.m. in the Chemeketa Community College Auditorium, 6 E Campus Loop, Salem. The event will start with a music program and 13 activity booths will follow the concert.

Trunk or Treat at Keizer Christian Church, 6945 Wheatland Rd. N., from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Trunk or Treat for the neighborhood, in the event of rain the festivities will be taken indoors.

traffic court

SPEEDING

Edward Boyd Clarkson, \$145; Ariana Valdez Rosas, \$145; Richard Allan Reynolds, \$165; Erick Maldonado, \$265; Anna Rebecca Kupferman, \$342; Andrew Courtney Joseph Hair, \$600; Kayley Anna Sibley, \$135; Drake Eric Salinas, \$145; Laurie F Dawkins, \$135.

NO LICENSE

Mario Leonel Bravo Castro, \$235; Rafael Camacho Sepulveda, \$235.

NO INSURANCE

Esteban Jose Hernandez, \$600; Marcus Andrew Fitz-Henry, \$600; John Robert Allen Bailey, \$600; Jason Edward Alba, \$600; Cecillia Marie Arroyo, \$600; Jennifer Ann Welty, \$600; Gregory Allen Coldiron, \$600; Robert Wallace Finley, \$600; Prisilla Kanani Jones, \$600; Elizabeth Cervantes Alejandre, \$245; Marcos Efrén Lopez Gonzalez, \$235; Marissa Esther Fredericks, \$265; Alex Stephen Peters, \$235.

DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED

Esteban Jose Hernandez, \$1,258; Jose Maria Salmaron Mendoza, \$1,258; Marcus Andrew Fitz-Henry, \$1,258; John Robert Allen Bailey, \$1,258; Jason Edward Alba, \$1,258; Andrew Courtney Joseph Hari, \$1,258; Alyssa Nicole Fox, \$1,258; Cecillia Marie Arroyo, \$1,258; Jennifer Ann Welty, \$1,258; Andrea Mary Stedwell, \$1,258; Gregory Allen Coldiron, \$1,258; Robert Wallace Finley, \$1,258; Michael Gary Logan, \$1,258; Travis

Dillon Keerins, \$1,258; Keith William Crosen, \$265; Francisco Espinosa Velazquez, \$440; Garry Edwin Wahl, \$440; Marissa Esther Fredericks, \$492.

NO PROOF OF INSURANCE

Randy Wayne Matyear, \$642; Michael Gary Logan, \$600; Drake Eric Salinas, \$75; Randolph Rivera Rodriguez, \$265; Rafael Camacho Sepulveda, \$235.

USE OF MOBILE DEVICE

Holden Johannes Howard, \$235.

FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE

Brian James Buchholz, \$125.

OTHER

Brett Andrew Lowes, \$115, failure to wear a helmet; Esteban Jose Hernandez, \$150, failure to register vehicle; Marcus Andrew Fitz-Henry, \$1,258, careless driving; Julia Ruth Robinson, \$157, smoking in motor vehicle when child was present; Drake Eric Salinas, \$385, failure to install ignition interlock device; Erick Daniel Azurdia, \$115, careless driving; Araina Day Ault, \$115, failure to use safety belts; Mario Leonel Bravo Castro, \$115, failure to use safety belts; Joshua Joseph Matre, \$40, defective muffler; Jeffrey William Vargo, \$115, failure to use safety belts; Stephen Michael Darr, \$265, improper lane change; Judith Marie Mansfield, \$40, failure to renew vehicle registration; Alex Stephen Peters, \$40, improper display of validating stickers.

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