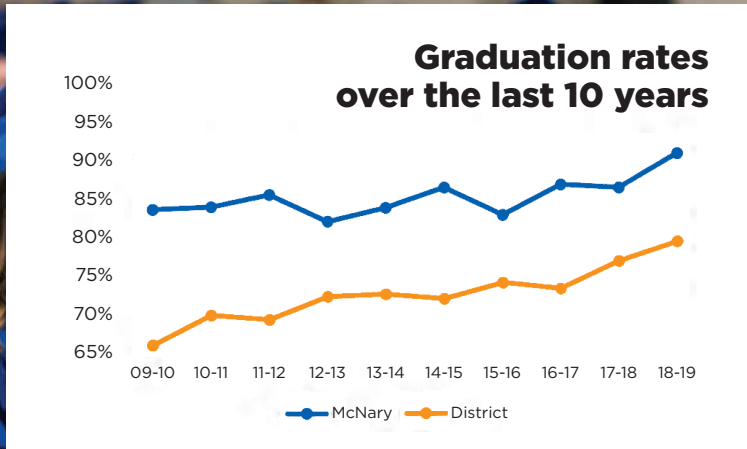


## McNary among highest grad rates in district



By **MATT RAWLINGS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

On Thursday, Jan. 23, the Oregon Department of Education released the 2019 graduation rates for all high schools in the state.

The numbers showed another year of growth in Salem-Keizer and McNary High proved to be a bright spot for the district in multiple areas.

McNary's graduation rate in 2019 was at 90.78 percent. It was the second-highest rate

"When people feel attached to a family, which is what we are trying to create here, they are going to give greater effort, and that's what we are seeing that across the board."

— Erik Jespersen, McNary Principal

in the district and almost 11 percent higher than the state average. It's also McNary's best graduation rate in more

than a decade. "The first level of credit goes to the staff that we have. We have an amazing education

team that works their tails off working with kids and their families," McNary principal Erik Jespersen said. "All of our teachers are working with all of our kids. There's just a really good spirit of cooperation among teachers and staff members. It's an attitude that we're going to do everything we can for kids all the time."

One of the aspects that sets McNary apart is how they serve students with disabilities. McNary graduated more than 76 percent of their special ed-

ucation students in 2019 — a 24 percent jump from 2015.

Jespersen, who is in his sixth year as the McNary principal, believes that the big difference is having a system that serves students with special needs that is "innovative and responsive."

In the past, students with a Individualized Educational Program (IEP) would be

Please see GRAD, Page A8

Submitted by Salem-Keizer School District



**Changes coming to youth football?**

PAGE A14



**Lunch with lawmakers**

PAGE A3



**Mandalorian is worth your time**

PAGE A4



**Cuffed in Keizer**

PAGE A5

## Teacher-coach arrested for disorderly conduct

A former McNary High School teacher and assistant coach with the softball team was arrested after allegedly verbally assaulting a victim of sexual assault at a restaurant in Keizer Station.

On Friday, Jan. 24, Trisha Ebbs was at Hop N Drops, 6295 Keizer Station Boulevard, at approximately 9:30 p.m. with her husband and several other people. When a 20-year-old woman was seated at another table with her father and another

friend, Ebbs recognized the 20-year-old as the victim of a sexual assault investigated by a Marion County Sheriff's Office in 2017. Ebbs was with the parents of the now 21-year-old man who was investigated and later convicted of the assault against the victim present at the restaurant that evening and a second minor, female victim.

A few minutes following the victim entering the restaurant, Ebbs walked to where the woman was seated

and began screaming at her hurling expletives attributable regarding Ebbs' belief about the circumstances of the 2017 crime. Restaurant employees and witnesses said Ebbs was "on top of" the second group when describing the interactions.

The woman's father, attempting to intervene and defend his daughter, pushed Ebbs away.

Security video of the

Please see ARREST, Page A6



Trisha Ebbs

## Sangsters see more on horizon after 1st Citizen

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

As far as Hersch Sangster knew, he was attending the Keizer First Citizen Banquet to deliver a speech on recent developments in the Salem-Keizer Area Transit District.

"I was going over my notes and adding stuff and it wasn't until I heard Vickie (Jackson) say bicycle that I realized what was going on," Hersch said.

"And I was wondering when they were going to call him up to give his speech," added Mary Ann Sangster, Hersch's wife of 44 years. She was just as in the dark about the reason the couple was there.

While Hersch was the named recipient of the First Citizen award, anyone who knows the longtime Keizer couple will be unsurprised to learn that they feel the journey was a joint venture. Mary Ann is in charge of where the clock Hersch received will be placed in the Sangster home.



Mary Ann and Hersch Sangster

Hersch and Mary Ann have been involved with school-related groups since their oldest child was in fifth grade, and stayed involved long after their youngest had

graduated. They are a pair of the most stalwart members of the Salem Bicycle Club as well as co-founders of the

Please see CITIZEN, Page A6

## Task force set to wrap up charter draft review

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Keizer Charter Review Task Force is planning to finish its initial review of a revised city charter Tuesday, Feb. 4, at between 6 and 8 p.m. Among the topics to be discussed is Section 44, an addition to the charter that marginalizes members of the LGBTQ+ community, which was approved by Keizer voters in 1993.

There is time for public testimony on any issue related to the charter during every meeting.

Section 44 prohibits the city from extending minority status to individuals based on sexual orientation and expending funds that "promote homosexuality or express approval of homosexual behavior."

The effort to pass the measure in Keizer was a last-ditch attempt by members of the No Special Rights Committee and Oregon Citizens Alliance to put in place such language wherever they could. After

several attempts to have similar measures passed statewide, the groups targeted a more limited number of individual cities and counties where they thought the ideas might gain traction. Keizer was on the short list and didn't disappoint the idea's supporters when it hit the ballot box. Voters approved the measure with a 55 percent majority.

Actions by the Oregon Legislature rendered the changes unenforceable, but it remains a blemish on the city. Other cities that adopted similar changes — Springfield, for example — found themselves losing opportunities to host events, like conventions, as a result of having the language on the books.

In 2019, members of the city council voted to convene a task force to review the charter with one of the express purposes being to remove Section 44. Voters will still have to approve any changes at the ballot box.

Please see CHARTER, Page A8

**DARE TO DREAM**

BMW CERTIFIED

A Certified Pre-Owned BMW comes with more than just the thrill of owning The Ultimate Driving Machine®. It comes with the peace of mind of having a comprehensive warranty, and the confidence of knowing that you didn't sacrifice performance for price.

Certified Pre-Owned by BMW. Legendary performance for less than you think.

Exceptional offers through BMW Financial Services.

**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.

