

LIBRARY: Organizers eye fall 2021 or 2022 ballot

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action committee that assists in establishing new libraries and maintaining old ones, among others. Herb has also applied for a grant through the Oregon State Library to re-enlist the help of Ruth Metz Associates, which consulted on the last library task force.

Herb's interest in moving the issue forward comes from raising three school-age children in the city and as a business development manager at Baker & Taylor which has allowed her to visit libraries throughout the country and see their impact. Baker & Taylor is a book distributor specializing in libraries and schools.

"Libraries aren't dusty old warehouses of books anymore," Herb said. "They bring people up out of poverty by giving them access to the internet or loaning out hotspots so residents can have wifi in their home. Libraries are critical to the structure of our society and democracy."

While books remain the most circulated items, the spaces libraries become are fertile areas of innovation. Some recent efforts include renting out garden plots, adding Maker spaces with items like 3D printers and helping kids talk to parents in prison.

Late last year, Herb applied for a \$45,000 grant through the Oregon State Library to rehire Ruth Metz and it has already made it through the first round of scrutiny. She will find out in May if the Keizer project qualified and work toward putting the question of establishing a special library district to voters in

the fall of 2021 or spring of 2022. The grant request included endorsements from the executive director of the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service (CCRLS), Rep. Bill Post and two members of the Chemeketa Board of Education.

Keizer is the largest city in Oregon without a public library. Herb envisions a library with 10 to 15 paid staff members, including certified librarians that would qualify the library for CCRLS membership, about 90,000 items and bevy of public access computers and public wifi. CCRLS membership would allow the library to qualify for additional funding and opportunities like interlibrary loaning, cataloging and an exponentially faster internet connectivity.

The cost is estimated to be about \$1.3 million annually, which includes a materials budget of roughly \$75,000 per year. If voters were to approve the creation of a special library district, the cost would be about \$30 per capita. That is roughly half what it costs to pay for a full, annual membership at the Salem Public Library for current Keizer, Brooks and Gervais residents.

"My dream would be brand new construction with some sort of beautiful outdoor space that reflects Oregon and wired for 21st Century use," Herb said.

If the grant succeeds, Herb will begin planning community outreach efforts. Residents interested in taking part should watch the Keizer Community Library website, www.keizerlibrary.org.

"Libraries are critical to the structure of our society and democracy."

— Jane Herb

Pro Life rally planned in Salem March 8

Dr. Haywood Robinson, former abortion provider and director of medical affairs and education of the 40 Days for Life project, will tell the story of the effort in Salem on March 8.

Robinson will speak at the Salem 40 Days for Life Grand Opening Rally, which is set for 3 to 4 p.m. at Planned Parenthood, 3825 Wolverine Street NE, Salem.

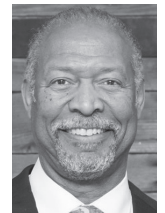
40 Days for Life is an intensive campaign that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. Since 40 Days for Life began, 16,742 mothers have chosen life for their children; 196 abortion workers have quit their jobs; and 106 abortion centers where 40 Days for Life vigils

have been held have gone out of business.

Salem is one of over 500 communities around the world conducting simultaneous 40 Days for Life campaigns from February 26 through April 5.

Robinson is a former abortion provider who has participated in numerous campaigns throughout the world—including across the United States and Africa.

To learn more about 40 Days for Life, visit: www.40daysforlife.com. For information about the Salem campaign, visit: www.40daysforlife.com/Salem.



Robinson

HISTORY: Three previous task forces came up empty

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Cooperative Regional Library Service, which would give it access to library materials throughout the region. Another faction advanced the idea of a 21st Century library focused on providing access to technology with a smaller collection of books and periodicals.

A second library task force convened in 2002. It recommended moving forward with the 21st Century library so long as an agreement could be reached that included membership in the CCRLS.

In 2004, a third iteration of the library task force tried to negotiate with CCRLS for an agreement that would allow the issue to be put to voters. CCRLS was unsatisfied with the groundwork Keizer had done because no professional librarian had been part of the process. Keizer enlisted the help of a library consultant, Ruth Metz Associates, and conducted a poll of Keizer residents. Fifty-nine percent of those surveyed supported a new library and roughly 47 percent said they would support it through a new tax.

When the city council received the report, it agreed to put the measure on the ballot if the supporters raised half of the \$40,000 it would take to do so. The money never materialized and the economy was tanking as a result of the Great Recession at about the same time.

The new effort is hoping to build on the work that has come before with an actual library proposal, not the 21st Century model.

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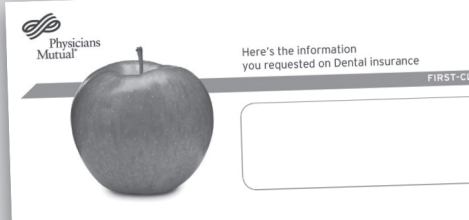
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crossword

Memorial Days

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

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- 11 Roll of money
- 14 Similar
- 15 Major artery
- 16 ___ Town
- 17 April 14
- 19 Hwy.
- 20 Word of assent
- 21 Of little depth
- 23 Small units of wt.
- 26 On one's toes
- 29 In the center
- 30 Gastronomic black gold
- 31 Third Friday in January
- 35 Curve
- 36 Action-film caper
- 37 Pool party
- 38 At this point
- 40 New York lake and county
- 42 Starchy thickener
- 43 Dill seeds
- 45 Nuts' accompaniment
- 47 Abraham's nephew
- 48 Fourth Sunday in October
- 50 Three: It.

DOWN

- 1 General Arnold, to buddies
- 2 Guido's note
- 3 Japanese currency
- 4 Stamp of approval
- 5 Humbles
- 6 Long-nosed fish
- 7 Louis XIV, e.g.
- 8 Cetaceans
- 9 Beehive State resident
- 10 Hats
- 11 April 7
- 12 Self: prefix
- 13 Nancy, of fiction
- 18 All one's possessions

- 22 Upbeat tones
- 23 Author Greene
- 24 Brown, in Barcelona
- 25 April 24
- 27 Spanish-born pianist
- 28 Wing
- 32 Verdi opera
- 33 Fine light yarn
- 34 Hit the horn
- 39 Set of values
- 41 Position
- 44 New York Indians
- 46 ___ Todd
- 49 Widow
- 54 Kitty comment
- 55 Earthenware jar
- 56 A tarot card
- 58 Italian princely family
- 61 Anger
- 62 Move swiftly
- 63 Apiary sound
- 64 Cyprinoid fish
- 65 Kind of pal

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