

Residents call for gun violence proclamation

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A group of Keizer residents turned out at the Keizer City Council meeting Monday, June 1, to implore city leaders to adopt a proclamation recognizing June 5 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

They didn't get what they hoped for, but they did shine light on the issue of gun violence in heartfelt ways as they talked.

Councilor Kim Freeman, who acted as mayor pro temp in the absence of Mayor Cathy Clark, said the request to approve the proclamation arrived too late in the hour to reach the city's agenda.

"We did receive the information a little later than normal and the mayor is out of town. She likes to read through the proclamations and work to get them worded appropriately," Freeman said.

Despite the disappointment, proponents of the action remained vocal in their support. They also encouraged others of a similar mind to wear orange on June 5.

"I remember growing up and being told not to out down Plymouth or Clearview at night. We didn't heed

those warnings and one of my friends was shot," said Ramiro "RJ" Navarro. "She was hit in the back twice. We need to come together as a community and say this needs to stop."

Resident Cyndi Sweeney was brought to tears recounting the final minutes of a cousin, Heather Alvarado, who lost her life in the mass shooting at a Las Vegas concert in 2017.

"She was there with her 14-year-old daughter and threw herself over to take those bullets and she left behind two other children and a husband," Sweeney said. "Instead of putting all these band aids on, can't we just face it?"

Michele Roland-Schwartz, executive director of the Keizer-based Sexual Assault Task Force, connected the dots between gun violence and domestic violence.

"Many of you know that when COVID hit our community, were those in violent relationships suddenly forced into close proximity to their abusers. Requests for shelter from abusive relationships doubled in the weeks after the pandemic hit compared to last year," Roland-Schwartz said. "We look at guns as a public

health issue. One of the ways that we address it is bringing awareness and working toward prevention."

Keizer resident Carol Doerfler read the names of all the child and adult victims of the mass shooting in Newtown, Conn., in 2012 as she made her statement.

"As of 2018, there were 7,000 more children who were killed by gunfire. This can never, ever happen again. Please wear orange on Friday, June 5."

The testimony brought some members of the city council to tears prompting Freeman to request a moment of silence for all at the meeting to compose themselves.

In the streets



KEIZERTIMES/Lauren Murphy
Demonstrators took to the streets of Keizer Tuesday, June 2, in support of worldwide protests happening in the wake of the murder George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minn.

Oregon Garden hosting cruise-in movies

The Oregon Garden presents the Cruise-In Cinema: *The Rise of Skywalker*, Friday, June 5 through Saturday, June 6. The gates open at 7 p.m. and the movie will begin at dusk. Sound is delivered by FM radio.

County Health officials have given the Oregon Garden health guidelines that they must adhere to:

There will be a 100-vehicle capacity.

Six foot distance must be maintained by all people.

There is no alcohol or smoking allowed at this event.

Concessions must be or-

dered online and will be delivered to your vehicle.

Unless taking a necessary bathroom visit, attendees are asked to stay in their vehicles at all times.

If choosing to sit in the back of a pickup attendees

must be wearing a mask.

All lights should be off during the screening of the movie.

In addition to purchasing a ticket, attendees can purchase concessions to support the Oregon Garden.

Tickets must be pre-purchased online, adults are \$6, children and garden members are \$4, children 4 and under get in for free.

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*Who says so?
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