

# Public Square

Public Square welcomes all points of view. Published submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Keizertimes. Submit a guest opinion, column or letter to the editor to publisher@keizertimes.com.

## We don't ask, we act, in a crisis

We salute all the First Responders, organizations, businesses, governments and individuals that jumped in to help as our fellow Oregonians faced disaster with the wildfires afflicting many areas of western Oregon.

When disaster strikes, our community doesn't ask—it acts.

While financial donations are key to any relief and recovery effort, Keizer donated time, food and needed items for daily living for hundreds of people, many who lost everything.

Residents of Keizer have been affected by the thick smoke that has blanketed the Willamette Valley since the fires in the Cascades began. Loss of property is shocking. Breathing hazardous air is harmful to the vulnerable among us. Dealing with

bad air pales in comparison to those who lost property, which is shocking on its own. The loss of life of those in the path of the wildfires is tragic.

### editorial

More than the community's thoughts are with the victims of the fires. What is not with the victims is judgment. Volunteers in times of disaster don't ask the political or religious views of those they are helping. It is almost a certainty, once the fires extinguish and the smoke blows away, that the blame game will begin. Debates will rage about forest management and adequate firefighting resources, but debates need to be put off for now. Rescue, recovery and relief are the watchwords of the day.

Disasterous events are always bookended with stories of loss and tragedy on one end and stories of heroism on the other end, such as a man driving his vehicle (reported by *SalemReporter.com*), packed with belongings, who rescued Bonnie Sullivan, who was alone. She rode in his trunk until safely taken to Mehama. More tales of heroism, no doubt, will begin to surface, as shock begins to fade.

Political and cultural disagreements do not exist when people are helping others in time of tragedy and disaster. There will be many stories to be told of the Great Oregon Wildfires of 2020. One chapter will how people forgot about themselves and jumped in to help.

—LAZ

## Information slays dragons

By ERIC A. HOWALD

When medieval cartographers charted the edges of the known world, it was a frequent practice to pencil in monsters in the areas that had not yet been discovered, typically a dragon-like figure.

Our oldest known usage of the phrase "here be dragons" appeared on a globe produced in 1504, the area on the east coast of Asia bears the Latin phrase "hic sunt dracones." In the face of the unknown, the early mapmakers used dragons to urge caution when venturing into those spaces. Since that time, "here/there be dragons" has been applied most uncharted areas of human exploration, internal and external.

Eventually our ancestors mapped the entire world and the dragons disappeared.

For a while, a few years back, I volunteered as a tutor to adults students working toward their GEDs. I was tasked with guiding students through language arts and critical thinking. While we had textbooks to rely on and prepare with, the hardest part of the job was finding ways to remind students why they were making the effort in the first place.

One evening, I brought up the old maps and idea of dragon-infested, uncharted lands as a way to illustrate how others had gotten themselves through the struggles. Seeing the entire world took effort and time and exploration but, once the old mapmakers had the de-

tails pinned down, they knew their place in the world. That knowledge empowered them to change the world, or at least have more control over their small piece of it, in countless ways.

I hadn't thought about that night in a long time, but there were two instances in the past week that made me feel like I was trying to draw a map of the world without enough information.

The most obvious one was the fires devastating the forests along the Cascade Mountains, as literal a dragon as we are likely to encounter in modern times. It started breathing smoke and ash into town Monday evening. Forty-eight hours later, I didn't feel as though anyone was getting any better information than we had at the start. It's improved with baby steps since then.

During the first two days, the main sources of information everyone was told to watch—social media outlets of the Marion County Sheriff's Office—were only updated a handful of times.

One possibility is that things were moving more quickly or more slowly than I imagined and the rapidly changing, hellish colors outside the door were throwing off my senses. Another possibility is that those in charge didn't feel there was the time to prioritize communications with anyone outside the blast zones. Either situation is understandable, but neither ex-

cludes the absence of more up-to-the-minute information.

A third possibility is avoiding incitement of a panic, but panic grows as quickly in a void as it does in any well-oxygenated environment.

At the same time that was unfolding, I had a high school junior at home anxiously awaiting the release of their schedule for fall classes. Salem-Keizer Public School officials and principals had told all students to expect their schedules Tuesday, Sept. 8. McNary's schedules weren't released until nearly 36 hours after the expected drop. There wasn't a peep from the school district personnel as to what was happening or what caused the delay.

Students throughout the district have already been deprived of so much this year that when the schools tell them they will deliver on a certain date, it's going to sound like a promise even if that word isn't used. Disappointment is inevitable to some degree, but the district could have allayed students' fears with a few well-chosen words.

One of these situations pales in urgency to the other, but both are illustrative of the need for better communication from our local leaders. Without information to tell us otherwise, human instinct is to conjure dragons in the dark spaces. No one wants a panic, but a regular stream of reliable information, delivered in the appropriate tone does not provoke panic. It slays dragons.

(Eric A. Howald is the managing editor of the *Keizertimes*.)

## Re-elect Bill Post

To the Editor:

Just when you think 2020 couldn't be any worse, we find ourselves in another emergency situation with the wildfires destroying our lands, homes, communities and our animals.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all the families affected by the evacuation. One thing I am incredibly grateful for is state Representative Bill Post. Not only does he keep his constituents up to date about the wildfires, he reaches out to all of Oregon.

Bill informs us how to help our neighbors, where

### letters

the need is, what resources are available, and other important information. In a time of tragedy, Bill finds a way to bring us together and lead with a servant's heart. Please join me in re-electing Bill Post to House District 25 as he continues to show up for his constituents over and over again.

**Lauren Cook Keizer**

## Vote for Dylan Juran

To the Editor:

In this year's city council contests, there are very

clear choices to be made. My choice for Position #2 is Keizer native and McNary High School graduate, Dylan Juran.

He is young, but no Johnny-Come-Lately. Dylan has a long-term commitment to the community and to public service. He is an independent businessman, serving as a technical consultant to two non-profits. Not an ideologue, he is exactly the kind of young, moderate, tech-savvy individual the city needs.

As a 50-year Keizer resident with an eye to the future, I am proud to support Dylan Juran for Keizer City Council, Position #2.

**Carol Doerfler Keizer**

## police scanner

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 6

12:04 a.m. - Unlawful possession of methamphetamine in the 4000 block of River Road N.  
3:55 a.m. - Menacing use of weapons in the 4000 block of Crater Avenue N.  
7:22 a.m. - Identity theft in the 3000 block of Partridge Lane NE.  
6:17 p.m. - Arrest for physical harassment in the 3000 block of Partridge Lane NE.

### MONDAY, SEPT. 7

6:46 a.m. - Restraining order violation in the 2000 block of Kennedy Circle NE.  
10:22 a.m. - Traffic accident injury at the intersection of Cherry Avenue NE and Manbrin Drive NE.  
6 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Blvd.  
6:30 p.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 900 block of Hopkins Court NE.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 8

1:58 a.m. - Mail theft at the intersection of Orchard Court N and Windsor Island Road N.  
5:22 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft

in the 800 block of Weeks Drive NE.  
3:42 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 6000 block of Field Of Dreams Way NE.  
11:11 p.m. - Aggravated assault in the 1000 block of Mistwood Drive NE.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9

9:59 a.m. - Identity theft in the 3000 block of Homestead Court NE.  
3:57 p.m. - Restraining order violation in the 3000 block of Partridge Lane NE.  
4:18 p.m. - Identity theft in the 100 block of Apple Blossom Avenue NE.  
5:23 p.m. - Theft by deception in the 200 block of Menlo Drive N.  
7:48 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 4000 block of River Road N.  
9:20 p.m. - Burglary in the 5000 block of River Road N.

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

10:03 a.m. - Bench warrant at the intersection of Cherry Avenue NE and Weeks Drive NE.  
12:59 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 4000 block of River Road N.

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

1:30 p.m. - Assault in the 5000 block of River Road N.  
6 p.m. - Theft in the 300 block of Churchdale Avenue N.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

2 a.m. - Vandalism in the 1000 block of Juniper Street N.  
12 p.m. - Theft in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Blvd.  
1 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 5000 block of Windsor Island Road N.  
5:05 p.m. - Robbery in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Blvd.

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

12:04 a.m. - Stalking in the 6000 block of Wheatland Road N.  
12:13 a.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 5000 block of Willow Leaf Street.  
3:30 a.m. - Driving under the influence of intoxicants at the intersection of 7th Avenue NE and Faymar Drive NE.  
7:50 a.m. - Burglary in the 5000 block of River Road N.  
7:57 p.m. - Aggravated assault in the 300 block of Hazelbrook Drive N.

## Blood Drive at St. Ed Sept. 25

St. Edward Catholic Church in Keizer will host an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, Sept. 25, from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED-

CROSS or sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org using sponsor code stedwardskeizer.

St. Edward Catholic Church is located at 5303 River Road N.

## sudoku

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

3			6	1				
6	8		3	4	9		7	
				9			3	
			5			9	8	
	9	8		4		5	6	
7	3			8				
	6			2				
5		2	7		6		8	9
			4	5				6

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### WEEKEND YARD SALE

Two family yard sale. Fri, Sept 18 and Sat, Sept 19 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm 1055 Lockhaven Dr N, Unit 43 in Keizer. Lots of decor items, furniture, Star Wars decor, crib, motorcycle helmet and jackets. Lots of nice clothes from kids to adult priced to sale.

### SERVICES

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### SERVICES

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## Share your opinion

Submit a letter to the editor, or a guest column by noon Tuesday.

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# Keizertimes

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