

Council talks inclusion Sept. 28

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer City Council plans to talk about its efforts toward greater inclusivity at a work session Monday, Sept. 28.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m., at the Keizer Civic Center, limited public testimony will be permitted toward the end of the meeting and that feedback will be used in a follow-up work session planned for October. Mayor Cathy Clark said there will be at least some discussion regarding a possible inclusivity resolution.

"I plan to present the structure of what has been included in such resolutions around issues of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. There are about five key topics these resolutions appear to

Please see COUNCIL, Page A5



The many paths to greater inclusivity

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

An inclusivity resolution is one way Keizer could demonstrate its commitment to providing an equitable atmosphere for all Keizer residents, but cities throughout Oregon and the nation have found unique ways to work toward equal justice and opportunity.

These are a few of the ones Keizertimes found:

- Keizer's neighbor to the south, Salem, has a Human Rights Commission. The commission, active since the late 1960s, works alongside city staff and a liaison from the police department. Commission members train to work with victims of hate activity. One of the most powerful things the commission does? Writing letters to victims of hate and bias crimes reminding them that not all their

Please see INCLUSIVE, Page A5



A new Brick in the Wall
PAGE A3



Información del votante para lectores españoles



PÁGINA A6

Art association prepares for digital show

PAGE A7



Following the money in local politics

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Aside from a desire to serve and a group of supporters, the major element in most elections is money.

With slightly more than a month left before voters choose their next elected leaders, Keizertimes took a look at local candidates' campaign finance activity to see which ones are leading in the money race.

All campaign financial statements are available to the public at secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar, but we limited our effort to candidates running to represent the residents of Keizer.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Ramiro (RJ) Navarro

RJ Navarro is a first time candidate, running against Rep. Bill Post with total contributions of roughly \$5,000. Only \$3,500 was in cash, the remainder was in in-kind services.

Navarro's largest expense thus far is \$750 for a statement in the Oregon Voter's Pamphlet.

Rep. Bill Post

(Running for fourth term)

Post started 2020 with a substantial war chest of almost \$44,000 held over from previous campaigns. Since the beginning of the year he's amassed almost \$80,000 in cash support. The

campaign has spent roughly \$118,000 this year to date.

His largest contribution thus far was \$10,000 from a Dallas business owner. Post's campaign also received \$3,000 in support from the Oregon Realtors Political Action Committee and \$2,000 from the Oregon Firearms Federation.

Post has contributed to the campaigns of Keizer city council candidates Kyle Juran, Ross Day and Laura Reid as well as Marion County Commission candidate Danielle Bethell. Post's major expenditures since the beginning of 2020 have been supporting the campaigns of other candidates.

MARION COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Danielle Bethell

Bethell, Keizer's representative on the Salem-Keizer School Board, had a small balance on her account left over from the school board run in 2018, but

she's pulled in a whopping \$64,000 since the beginning of the year. Bethell, a Republican, is running for a seat on the Marion County Board of Commissioners being vacated by Sam Brentano.

After approximately \$40,000 in expenditures, she still has cash reserves of nearly \$28,000.

Bethell's largest donor is Freres Timber Inc with a \$10,000 cash contribution. Freres Lumber Co., Inc., kicked in another \$2,500 in cash. The Oregon Right to Life Political Action Committee (PAC) gave \$7,500 to Bethell's campaign. The Jobs Political Action Committee, which is funded locally by Mountain West Investments and nationally by Anheuser Busch and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhARMA), contributed \$2,500 to Bethell's campaign.

Bethell's largest expenditure has been consulting fees for Salem-based New Media Northwest.

Please see MONEY, Page A7

SKPS board runs 4-hour marathon meeting

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

While the Salem-Keizer School Board addressed many items in their four-and-a-half hour meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 22 — such as the numerous technology issues with comprehensive distance learning (CDL) and Superintendent Christy Perry being named Oregon Superintendent of the Year — they couldn't escape the flood of criticism that once again took place during public testimony.

Over the last few months, the board has been under fire as members of the community have accused multiple board members of racism and have been displeased with their response to calls to remove Student Resource Officers (SROs) from schools.

Nearly every person that called in to the meeting asked for the removal of SROs from schools as well as the

Please see SKPS, Page A5



Saving more than just the children

By LAUREN MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Child sex trafficking has been thrust into the spot light with #SaveOurChildren, but awareness started long before the hashtag was trending. Organizations work with survivors, spread awareness and information on where to get help and some even execute rescue missions to get people out of the trafficking industry.

The Center for Hope and Safety, formally know as Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service, has been operating in Salem for the past 47 years. They work with victims and survivors of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and human trafficking.

The hashtag movement has revolved around sex trafficking, particularly as it relates to pedophilia, but it is worth noting that people can also be trafficked to provide labor. Human trafficking is often considered modern day slavery.

"[Trafficking] can affect individuals of all ages but, generally it does start with children who are groomed as young as 10 to 12-years-old to be brought into a life for sex and labor trafficking. Unfortunately it's a huge, huge issue," said the center's executive director, Jayne



COURTESY OF SALEM REPORTER
Jayne Downing (above) is executive director of the Center for Hope and Safety in Salem, which provides services for children and families coping with domestic violence and abuse.

Downing.

The Oxford Dictionary defines grooming as, "the action by a pedophile of preparing a child for a meeting, especially via an Internet chat

room, with the intention of committing a sexual offense." Popular apps with chat rooms include: Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and online gaming services.

In regards to the trending hashtag, "#SaveOurChildren" Downing had doubts about its effectiveness.

"Especially if the person is posting or encouraging

people to do things that could potentially be dangerous for them, and even the person they're hoping to help," Downing said, referring to posts about killing pedophiles and traffickers. She said sometimes gangs and drug affiliates can be involved, making the situation more dangerous.

Endorsing and encouraging violence goes against everything that the center stands for, Downing suggested that people educate themselves in depth about the issue and how it affects Marion County.

"People very often are looking for people to be walking up and down the street, [when they] think of trafficking. I think it's important to say here in Marion County where we get it the most is in hotels," Downing said.

Often times a trafficker will rent out a block of motel rooms and bring multiple

Please see SAVE, Page A7