

## VOLUNTEER of the Week

presented by



**MEREDITH MOONEY**

### Where and how do you volunteer?

Currently, most of my volunteer efforts go toward a Community Partnership Team called Keizer United, where I hold the office of president. We hold monthly meetings that foster a rich environment of collaboration between community partners that serve various needs within the community. I serve on the task force for Keizer's Library: The Next Chapter. My role here is small, mostly a listening ear, encourager and fellow dreamer. But it is fun to watch this dream unfold and I look forward to serving more actively as opportunities arise. I also volunteer in the North Salem area, where I work. I serve on the McKay Commons Steering Committee, volunteer at Hallman Elementary, am a part of a Community Partnership Team called CaPES, volunteer at New Harvest Church helping create programs such as the After School Program, and Northgate Park Program.

### Why do you volunteer?

I volunteer because I want to love my neighbors as myself. I want people to know they are seen, heard and loved and that life is meant to be lived in community with others. That can't happen unless we meet people where they are at. I find most often God calls me to serve in areas that are quite outside of my comfort zone, but He always supplies what I need to show up and love others.



# Decriminalization movement's goals are lofty, the effects are already being felt locally

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

There are changes afoot at the Keizer Police Department as a result of Oregon residents passing Ballot Measure 110 (BM110), which reduces the penalties for user amounts of controlled substances.

Depending on the source, the new approach to heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy, LSD, psilocybin and other opiates is either a matter of equity or a hair's breadth from full legalization of all addictive substances. The reality is likely somewhere in between, but the measure triggered changes that are already in place at KPD.

"As opposed to pre-BM110 enforcement, custodial arrests are not an option. Officers enforce this new law by issuing violators non-custodial

citations to appear in court, similar to the procedure involved with issuing a traffic citation," said Lt. Bob Trump, KPD spokesperson.

Officers can no longer arrest someone for possession of the substances within the amounts defined by BM110. In a broader context, Keizer Police Department were not exactly overwhelmed with drug arrests before the new approach went into effect. KPD officers made 126 arrests for narcotic possession in 2019 and 117 in 2020.

Aside from reducing arrests, BM110 is expected to impact the everyday interactions between police and citizens. A large number of conversations begin by an officer making contact with a person and the individual consenting to a conversation. To make a stop based on suspicious activity, an officer

needs probable cause that a crime was committed or about to be committed. Suspicion that a person is in possession of user amounts of many narcotics will no longer fall under the list of viable reasons for probable cause.

The citation triggers one of two options for the recipient. They can pay a \$100 fine or report for an addiction screening and get connected with services that could help them get sober. The bill also redirects funding from schools, police and marijuana sales to stand up community addiction recovery centers throughout Oregon.

At the time of the citation, KPD officers will confiscate any drugs and those will now be disposed of by property custodians at the department.

"Once these substances are received by property and evidence personnel,



**Sam Goesch CLU, Agent**

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