

moments of **LUCIDITY**

ANALYSIS

Pride, protest & lingering questions

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

1. Joys of Unburdening

No one knew quite what to expect but Keizer's first LGBTQ+ Pride Fair felt like the best party ever hosted in the city.

It took place Saturday, June 12, at Chalmers Jones Park behind the Keizer Civic Center. Bubbles filled the air, Superman and Cinderella were taking photos with visitors, drag performances were lighting up the crowd and faces.

Jubilance is permeable when people are unafraid to be themselves, and Keizer's Pride Day was an explosion of it. The entire effort was brought together through Keizerite Claire Snyder's sheer force-of-will, and enlisting dozens who followed her lead.

For outsiders, it can be difficult to comprehend the significance

See **PRIDE**, page A11

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City manager candidate in hot seat



Photo by ERIC A. HOWALD of Keizertimes

Wes Hare responds to questions from city councilors Monday, June 14.

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

The primary candidate for the city's interim city manager job had an informal interview for the job at a Keizer City Council work session Monday, June 14, but he almost didn't show up.

Wes Hare, the candidate, said he was on the phone with Keizer human resources manager and planned to withdraw his name from consideration until his wife told him to show the council who he is.

"It triggered a lot of self-analysis and I decided I would tell the council why I was interested," Hare said. "I do not walk away from challenges."

Hare said he was angry after City Councilor Ross Day attempted to malign his reputation at a city council meeting a week prior. Day said a previous encounter, in a legal matter in which he represented an Albany business owner, while Hare was city manager there left him with a negative impression. The verbatim critique itself was much more pointed with Day saying he had trust issues regarding the candidate.

According to court records, Day is listed as an attorney in a dispute over right-of-way assessments in Albany. Day himself was absent for medical reasons from the proceedings Monday.

In addressing Day's perceptions, Hare said he did not remember ever meeting Day until the matter came up in the council meeting.

"My perspective on the issue is very different from his. I am sincere when I tell you what he said is inaccurate," Hare said.

Turning to other matters, Hare spoke

about his experience as city manager in Oak Ridge, La Grande and Albany as well as time spent in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka consulting on efforts to establish local governments.

Mayor Cathy Clark asked about Hare's approach to the job of an interim city manager in the wake of sudden departures.

"What heals is consistent leadership

A city manager should try to bring out the best in people. You do that by listening and trying to hear what people have to say.

— **WES HARE**
Keizer interim city manager candidate

from the council," Hare said. "What you are asking your city manager to do is hold staff accountable for good performance."

Councilor Elizabeth Smith asked whether Hare could play a part in helping the city include more people at higher levels in city discussion. Hare was Albany's

staff liaison to a human relations commission that was intended to assist in doing just that.

The Albany commission experienced troubled times, Hare said, but success depends on the mission and definition of success.

"If [the goal] is to bring peace and harmony, then it probably isn't the route to take. If it's to raise difficult questions and try to come up with answers, then I think it was a success," Hare said.

Councilor Roland Herrera asked what

See **HOT SEAT**, page A16



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