



**JULY 9-10**

The Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged, a Keizer Homegrown Theatre Production, indoors at the Keizer Cultural Center, 980 Chemawa Road N.E. Tickets are \$15. keizerhomegrowntheatre.org

**JULY 9-11**

Marion County Fair, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Concerts, performances, contests and more. Admission charged.

**JULY 10**

Joe Stoddard at Keizer Rapids Park Rotary Amphitheater. Gates open at 5 p.m., show starts at 6:30 p.m. Free.

**JULY 15-17**

The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged), a Keizer Homegrown Theatre Production, 7 p.m. indoors at the Keizer Cultural Center, 980 Chemawa Road N.E. Tickets are \$15. keizerhomegrowntheatre.org

**JULY 15-18**

KickinCancer Festival. A local nonprofit with a mission to empower cancer patients is fundraising with special events including a baseball game, golf tournament, awareness walk and concert. Multiple locations, costs vary. kicking-cancer.org

**JULY 18**

Eight Unparalleled Plays, a production of the 45th Parallel Playwrights, 3 p.m. matinee and 6:30 p.m. evening show indoors at the Keizer Cultural Center 980 Chemawa Road N.E. Admission is free.

**JULY 24**

The Willamette Valley Comedy Club presents Amy Miller and Johnny Pemberton at the Keizer Cultural Center, 980 Chemawa Road N. Tickets \$20. Show starts at 8 p.m. pnwcomedy.com

**JULY 23**

The Willamette Valley Comedy Club presents Ken Hamlett and Cheri Hardman at the Keizer Cultural Center, 980 Chemawa Road N. Tickets \$12 or in advance or \$15 at the door. Show starts at 8 p.m. pnwcomedy.com

# Navarro will be Keizer's voice on Cherriots board

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

It's not exactly surprising that Ramiro "RJ" Navarro wants to advocate for veteran accessibility as part of his new role as Keizer's representative on the Salem Area Mass Transit District (Cherriots) board of directors.

"The first thing I would like to work on is reducing fares for veterans," Navarro said. "Cherriots doesn't offer a discount for veterans right now," Navarro said. Navarro is the veterans program manager for Project ABLE, a group that offers peer support for those experiencing mental health difficulties and medical conditions.

"One of the big things we do through Project ABLE is connect those with mental health and addiction problems to community resources. Having a discounted fare for a group like veterans reduces one more barrier to people finding help," he said.

Navarro was nominated for appointment to the board by Gov. Kate Brown and confirmed by senators in their most recent legislative session. Representatives to the Cherriots board were elected until 2019. Brown proposed, and the legislature approved, appointments to align the district's structure with similar agencies in Portland and Eugene. He is replacing Colleen Busch who was elected twice and served as a director for six years.

"Colleen did a lot of hard work and I am hoping to build on that," Navarro said.

Navarro wants to pick up where Busch left off in advocating for a greener fleet of Cherriots vehicles. In 2020, Cherriots received

a \$3.5 million federal grant to replace five of its oldest buses with battery-powered models that reduce emissions and lower operating costs.

"Those are going to be on Route 11, which means one of the charging stations will be at the Keizer Transit Center [in Keizer Station]," Navarro said. Route 11 runs between Keizer and South Salem using Lancaster Drive.



Navarro

Navarro has two route changes he plans to advocate for. The first is extending Route 14 to Keizer Rapids Parks to make it more accessible for visitors without transportation or those who need assistance. Navarro recently coordinated a kayaking event at the park and one disabled attendee used Cherry LIFT to attend.

"I would like to see us offer more opportunities for Cherry LIFT out in the [Santiam] Canyon area," he said. "We have a lot of veterans out that way who struggle with mental health, who have trouble filing disability claims and who need to access medical appointments. They are ideal candidates for

those services."

He is already researching grant options, intended to support rural veterans, that might fund the canyon expansion.

Other Cherriots board appointees this year were Sara Duncan, a longtime Salem resident who manages Sassy Onion Catering; Maria Cecilia Hinojos Pressey, a current board member who works as operations manager for farmworkers union PCUN.

# Schools relax some masking policies

As a result of lifting pandemic restrictions throughout Oregon, Salem-Keizer Public Schools (SKPS) are updating their mask requirements for students.

The following changes took effect July 1:

- Students are required to wear face coverings indoors and on school buses until further notice.
- Staff are required to wear face coverings indoors when in direct contact with students. This applies on school buses as well. Direct contact is defined as within 3 feet of a student for 15 minutes or longer.
- Staff and students are not required to wear face coverings outdoors.
- Anyone may choose to wear a face covering in situations when it is not required.
- Physical distancing will continue

indoors with at least 3 feet of distancing when possible.

Certain accommodations for medical needs or disability may be necessary. In addition, Salem-Keizer Public Schools leaders have met with Marion County Health and Human Services and Polk County Public Health to discuss both adult and student protocols and will continue to closely monitor the protocols and adjust as

necessary.

The district plans to provide full-time, in-person instruction, five days a week in September. District officials hope the new protocols will position SKPS to return students and staff to school without the need to wear face coverings in the fall.

Parents are expected to receive additional information before the beginning of the school year, Sept. 7.

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