

# KEIZER PUBLIC SQUARE

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## DAs support Paige Clarkson

To the Editor:

We are four elected District Attorneys from very distinct geographic locations across Oregon who strongly believe Paige Clarkson is the best candidate for Marion County District Attorney, because she is a champion for crime victims, holds violent criminals accountable and is a statewide criminal justice leader.

As colleagues of DA Clarkson, we experience her leadership qualities firsthand as she stands up for crime victims time and time again, even if it upsets our state's most powerful elected officials. And while she is unafraid to speak truth to powerful people, she is also willing to work with competing interests to make the justice system more fair and efficient. Paige has worked closely with the statewide criminal defense community and other advocacy groups on issues like bail reform and pretrial discovery, and developing reasonable reform that doesn't put community safety at stake.

If you haven't met DA Clarkson, you should also know that she is inspiring, experienced and a person of integrity. We urge the voters of Marion County to re-elect District Attorney Paige Clarkson, a vote for justice for crime victims and a balanced approach to prosecution.

**DA Jeff Auxier, Columbia County**  
**DA Kelsie McDaniel, Union County**  
**DA Aaron Felton, Polk County**  
**DA John Wentworth, Clackamas County**

## Put question of public library out to voters

To the Editor:

I am in support of libraries, but it has to be done right. Keizer needs to stand on its own, but most importantly it needs to be done in a very sound fiscal way.

We do not need to do funding with a, well—it may cost you more in a couple of years when this stop gap funding is proposed to cease. What then? If we want to continue, does the price go up? Does it double, triple or what? Let us learn from some of the history of us not being "equal partners." I will use the Willow Lake Treatment Plant as an example and the "sewer surcharge." It took us forever to get that mess straightened out and the charge to go away.

If it is put to the voters and they say yes, then it can be a line item in the budget for all to see and understand. There are those of us in this community that keep on top of things that are occurring or being proposed that affect this community. Many of us also have very busy lives and do not follow things that are being done by our government or being proposed to our city. The Keizer Library is an example of what we *can* do. Can it be better? Absolutely. We have come a long way in this community since my family moved here in the early 1960s. We have done very well, in my opinion.

Now, let us get all the facts: what it takes to make this happen in a responsible

## Letters

way, how much staff does it take, how many hours will it be open, in other words we need to have a budget idea of what this would cost us: salaries and benefits, insurance, utilities, maintenance, equipment needs, just for a few things. What type of standard do we have to meet and what will that cost be? Is it going to be a city position to run this or are they (librarians) answerable to a staff person or city council as a whole?

The last couple of years have been a challenge for all of us, our life has not been normal. We are getting back to an even keel, but this could stop all the progress we have made on getting back to normal. So, I am asking with all due respect that you put this out for a vote. Let us hear from as many of Keizer's citizens as possible,

**Jacqueline Moir**  
**Keizer**

## Ending suffering and death from cancer

To the Editor:

Having lost both parents, two younger sisters, several relatives, and many friends to cancer, I have learned how important it is to fight back—to hopefully end another person from having to hear those devastating words, 'You have cancer.' Too many fellow Oregonians often face such a journey.

Earlier this year, President Biden reignited his cancer moonshot to accelerate his commitment to end cancer. As a long-time advocate with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, I was excited to hear this. I also felt *hope* to hear the emphasis on prevention and early detection. Specifically, finding ways to detect cancer earlier, especially for cancers with no available screening tools.

Currently in clinical trial status under the FDA are several multi-cancer early detection tests or MCEDs, new technology that with one blood test could screen for dozens of cancers. Research is still ongoing to determine the impact of these tests, including a study at OHSU in Portland. A single blood test may be less invasive and more accessible than existing early detection tests, expanding screening opportunities to traditionally underserved communities and helping to reduce cancer disparities.

Ensuring individuals have access to them will be critical. That's why I'm calling on Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden to support legislation to create a pathway for Medicare coverage for these tests once approved by the FDA and proven to have clinical benefit. All five of Oregon's Congressional House Representatives have signed on to co-sponsor the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act. It's time to stand together to end cancer as we know it.

**Kathy Ottele**  
**Salem**

## Everyone talks about weather

By GENE H. MCINTYRE

The weather may be the most-oft discussed matter in humankind. In an American era when the divisions that divide us have become too vast in number to keep up with and extreme in point of view, weather remains a subject easy to bring up and discuss.

How is that so? Well, it would seem to be easy to pin down and verify. Who can take issue with whether it is raining or not and determine it's a clear day when the whole sky is blue. Yet and halt! We all of us actually do have differing views on the same weather phenomenon, taking sides on whether the weather is too hot, too warm, too cool, too cold, etcetera. That way we stay "in shape" for the controversies to soon follow thereafter.

April, this year, was like old times for me. Having been born and raised in Astoria, I recall Aprils in the years of my childhood as just as rainy as the one we tried to enjoy here, now a last month memory. Having been home-school-principal's office-bound for months, the Astorian youth could never plan on playing softball, baseball, track and field outside (there was no soccer in Astoria in those days), until sometime in June, unless you wanted to try to run with two inches of mud attached to each high-top Keds.

Spring 2022 has been more interesting to me than many others experienced

## Guest COLUMN

since I moved to Salem for a job in 1972. Concentrating on April and these first two days of May, I cannot recall going from winter to spring, to winter to spring (and repeat switch multiple times) more often than this year. Specific related actions: I'm not much of a wardrobe fanatic, if one at all, but I can't recall putting my woolies away and taking my cotton shorts and shirts out more often to repeat the same than over the last five weeks.

The neighbors and I, while we seldom have anything resembling a heated exchange, agree whenever we see one another nowadays exchange a weather-related grimace or a big smile in contrast to what's usually of late the latest political campaign event or commercial. Well, we know for sure the primary will be over soon and thereby entertainment on TV will get back to normal—until the onslaught starts again way too far ahead of the November general election. We could (but unfortunately won't) copy the United Kingdom and other democratic republics whose periods preceding political elections wisely endure by law for only one month of weeks, not 24.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)

## County deputy DAs: Vote for Paige Clarkson

To the Editor:

We are a group of current, retired and former Marion County deputy district attorneys and law clerks and we very much encourage you to reelect Paige Clarkson as your District Attorney. We have worked with Paige and we hold her in the highest regard.

Paige has dedicated her entire career to public safety, victims and this office. She began as a law clerk in 1998 and then an attorney immediately upon graduating from law school in 1999. She has served as a Deputy District Attorney, Trial Team Leader and now as your elected District Attorney. Paige has prosecuted and gone to trial on every kind of criminal case imaginable—from shoplifting to murder. Over her lengthy career she has trained a multitude of attorneys to do the same.

This work is challenging in the best of times. Even more so over the last few years. Paige has led us with unmatched integrity, compassion and dedication every step of the way. The mantra of this office is and has been: "Do the right thing, for the right reason, every single day."

The office has several specialty court programs (mental health, veterans, drug) that have assisted us in achieving that goal. Little else is more gratifying to Paige and her deputies than seeing defendants who want and are amenable to treatment, get the help they need to change their lives and the community for the better. If you examine the list of people who endorse Paige for reelection, you will find graduates of these programs.

While rehabilitation is always the goal of prosecution, there comes a point when, due to the nature of the act or the defendant's criminal history, the only way to protect the public is to seek harsher sentences. In these cases, Paige has instilled in us a solemn dedication and commitment to seek justice and protect victims and the public. Because of her leadership, we do not take this responsibility lightly.

The ethical duty of every prosecutor is to "Do Justice." Nobody has worked harder and with more dedication toward that goal than Paige Clarkson. She is the only qualified candidate in this race. Marion County Deputy District Attorneys stay in this challenging work for all of these reasons, and because of who Paige is and what she stands for. We will continue to do so when she is reelected. Please join us voting for her on May 17.

**Current:** Matt Kemmy, Katie Suver, Brendan Murphy, David Wilson, Shannon Sullivan, Evelyn Centeno, Nicole Theobald, Braden Wolf, Katie Semple, Drew Taylor, Justin Barbot-Wheaton, Allie Knodell, Kyana Hughes, Christine Herrman, Melodie Dickey, Meghan Kamps, Natalie Barringer, Robin Klein, David Sorensen, Dan Olsen, Conner Egan, Concetta Schwesinger, Tim O'Donnell

**Former:** Drew Anderson, John Knodell, Sean Kallery, Mahalee Evans, Rachel Klein, Kurt Miller, Toby Tingleaf, Melissa Alison, Ashlee Cadotte, Erin Greenawald, Doug Prince, Bryan Orrio, Patrick Lowney, Nick Triplett, Alicia Wilson, Amberlynn Howell  
**Retired:** Jean Kunkle, Joe Hollander, John Turner, Henry Loebe

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TO SUBMIT

a **letter to the editor** (300 words), or **guest column** (600 words),  
 email us by noon Tuesday: [publisher@keizertimes.com](mailto:publisher@keizertimes.com)