

Keizer Iris Festival returns May 14 to 17

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

In less than two months, Keizer's biggest annual event returns.

The 28th annual Keizer Iris Festival will take place Thursday, May 14 through Sunday, May 17.

Per usual, the highlight event of the weekend is the parade on Saturday sponsored by Valley Credit Services, which starts at River Road and Lockhaven Drive at 10:30 a.m. and proceeds south along River Road through town.

The main parade will be preceded by a pet parade and a fun run.

"About 30,000 to 40,000 people pack the streets for the parade," said Joe Egli, the former Keizer City Councilor who is once again serving as festival chair. "You can still put a float together."

The theme for this year's festival is Early Riser.

The first official event is the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. on May 7.

Iris Festival activities will be centered around the Keizer Lions Club again this year. The



Egli

festival moved there last year due to growth at Keizer Station. With several events in the area, part of Cherry Avenue will be closed for the weekend.

weekend.

Iris Festival weekend kicks off on May 14 with the noon kickoff luncheon sponsored by Eagle Home Mortgage. The Keizerfest Tent will be the site for that and will also be the home for live music throughout the weekend, including until midnight Friday and Saturday nights.

Egli noted one of the big changes this year centers around beer.

"When you go into the tent, we have decided to take care of our local people first," Egli said at last week's monthly Keizer Chamber of Commerce luncheon. "We've gone out to the Salem Brewers Guild and will have them pour beers for us. It's good beer, brewed in our backyard. They are enthusiastic about

craft beer. Each of the four or five vendors will have three beers on tap."

There will be several running events throughout Iris Festival weekend, including both a marathon and a half-marathon on Sunday and several for children on Saturday.

"Everything we do is run by our volunteers," Egli said. "This is our community hard at work. Whatever you want to do, we'll find a job for you. Tell us when you can help and what items you'd like to do."

Audrey Butler, president of the Keizer Chamber, emphasized how the event runs on volunteers.

"We need volunteers," Butler said. "We had around 200 last year."

The *Keizertimes* produces the official Iris Festival guide each May and offers the best in coverage of all Iris Festival events, including photo galleries from the weekend.



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

There will once again be plenty of rides and other exhibits when the 28th annual Keizer Iris Festival takes place in mid-May. Many of the activities will be happening on or around Cherry Avenue for a second straight year.

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KEIZERTIMES file/Craig Murphy
Parishioners fill St. Edward Catholic Church's new building during its dedication ceremony in Feb. 2014.

St. Ed church wins national design award

Since opening early last year, the new St. Edward Catholic Church building in Keizer has earned plenty of raves locally.

The raves are now national as well.

Portland-based di loreto-ARCHITECTURE earned a 2015 Wood Design award from the WoodWorks Wood Products Council for prominent use of wood in the design of St. Edward.

The annual national competition had 160 submittals, with 16 awards announced. St. Edward was the only Oregon winner.

The \$4 million church has

11,700 square feet of space and replaced a building that was 40 years old and deemed too small. The new building can be arranged to seat up to 750 people by adding seats to the entry narthex and aisles. The building also includes a sizable balcony.

The interior of the church has beams, arches and other woodwork using locally sourced Douglas fir and Oregon white oak. The exterior woodwork also uses Douglas fir, in addition to cedar. The interior arches are visible from the outside thanks to a skylight that goes around the entire building.



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Center 50+	La Hacienda Real Restaurant	Starbucks, Keizer Station
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Cathy Clark, Keizer Mayor	Trenton LeBaron, DDS	Joe Taylor
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