

# RUN, continued from Page A1

sidewalks, we have continued to work together to make Keizer a great city. In fact, in 2015, Keizer was named the fourth happiest city in Oregon."

Clark also looks forward to new ownership of Schoolhouse Square, roadway improvements, work to be done by various citizen committees and working with other local governments to tackle the issue of homelessness in the area.

"I am honored to serve with six hard-working community members on our city council," Clark said. "Together, we strive to listen to you and each other to keep our city on track as a great place to live and do business. And I believe that we have even more to look forward to celebrating this year."

Parsons has been busy since first joining the council. She opened an insurance agency, but retired last year. She has stepped away from some responsibilities, but has chaired the Community Build Task Force and got married last year. Now, she's ready to accomplish more as a councilor.

"I'm going to run again," Parsons said on Tuesday. "I'm running for council. It's not my time to run for mayor. I'll be on council at least for

four more years. I have some unfinished business."

That includes more work on the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) issue, as well as finishing work on the Big Toy play structure at Keizer Rapids Park.

"I want to see the construction of everything done with that," Parsons said of the Big Toy. "I want to see it through. And the UGB is something we all want to work on. There's a lot of things. There are a lot of old ordinances and resolutions sitting in archives and people are taking advantage of that. We have to keep changing them."

Parsons anticipates Schoolhouse Square "will look much different" 18 months from now, but feels any potential grocery store would have to go elsewhere.

"I want to see us sell the rest of Area A in Keizer Station," Parsons said. "I want to see some of that money be used for revitalizing River Road. I want to see more work on River Road. Parts are nice, but other parts are not so nice. The vacancy rate is going down."

Parsons noted Clark wants her to work more with the mayor on transportation issues.

"I have to do that in four years, not one year,"

Parsons said. "If I do want to become mayor down the road, knowing all the issues is important. The whole thing is so massive. I've learned a lot already about transportation, but I have so much more to learn. I think four years is the learning curve."

Parsons likened her initial stint on council to being a freshman in school, with another term being her junior and senior years.

"I can better serve the city now than I could three years ago," Parsons said. "The hardest part was familiarizing yourself with each of the committees and the demands of them. You have to know them all. The budget, oh my goodness. The first time I was on the budget, it was very complicated. Three years later, I'm getting it. At first I thought anyone could do this. But it takes a lot of work and effort. It feels like I'm going to school again, with a lot to study. I want to make sure I can ask intelligent questions."

Parsons feels her experience means she can serve the city well for at least four more years.

"I don't know how many more years I'll serve," she said. "I will continue to listen to the people. If that's four

more years or two more years beyond that, I can't tell you. I will serve as long as I am effective and the people feel I am effective. When I'm not, it'll be time to step down."

Freeman noted her decision to run wasn't easy.

"I've been mulling it around," she said. "It's one of those things where I go back and forth. It's the same thing I did when I applied the first time. Time commitment is always a factor. I had to look at it again. With my husband, we always have a good family conversation. I have good family support, which helped me decide to run."

After approximately 30 months on council, Freeman is just now feeling comfortable.

"I feel I am finally understanding things that have been in play in past councils," she said. "It takes a while to get up to speed on those items. I want to continue those discussions. Budget time is one of my favorites. I want to continue that. The Volunteer Coordinating Committee is one of my passions."

Before throwing her name into the hat to fill the vacancy in 2013, Freeman asked around to figure out how much of a time commitment there would be. The answers ranged from two hours a week to 20 hours.

"I've found my time spent will depend on the length of the agenda," Freeman said. "I give kudos to the city staff for giving us as much information

as they can, without bias. They tell us here's the history, here's what happened, here's all the information to make a good decision. They are very neutral."

Freeman is usually quiet during meetings, which she said is in line with her nature.

"If I have questions, I will ask the staff," she said. "I try to do my homework to make sure I have as much information as possible."

Freeman likes how the councilors get along.

"Council works really well together," she said. "We all bring different sets of skills, but we all work well together. We respect differences but work well together. We're all different. That's a benefit. We have a fabulous staff and a great community, as seen with the Big Toy and the turf field (at McNary High School)."

Just in case you're wondering, Freeman doesn't see herself being mayor anytime soon.

"I applaud Cathy and Lore before her," Freeman said. "Being mayor is a full-time job in itself."

While those three are running again, that's not the case with Koho.

"I'm not running again," Koho said on Tuesday. "I've known that for probably a year. I've been pretty open about that with those on the council and some people in the community, encouraging a variety of people to consider running. I've been on the

council about a dozen years all told. It's fun and I've enjoyed it, but it's time for someone younger. One term was enough this time."

Koho predicted Keizer's parks, UGB issues and possibly grocery stores will be hot topics for the fall.

"Those are probably the three things that will motivate voters the most this time," he predicted.

Koho referenced how many times he has run.

"I've been on the ballot for each of the last four decades," he said. "That's enough. It's time for fresh faces. I'm no longer a fresh face, at least that's what the mirror tells me every day."

Koho wouldn't mind seeing multiple fresh faces vying for his seat and the others.

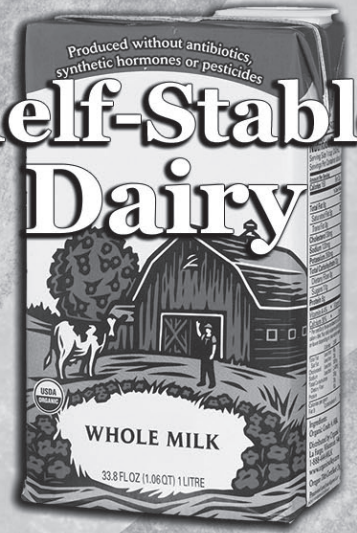
"I'd like to see some competition for the seats," Koho said. "We're usually lucky to get competition for half the seats. It's good for the community to have dialogue."

In the 2014 election, Clark ran unopposed as did councilors Roland Herrera and Brandon Smith. Amy Ryan defeated Matt Chappell in the only contested race.

In 2012, Christopher defeated David McKane for mayor, Parsons defeated Eamon Bishop and Chappell for her seat and LeDuc beat write-in candidate Smith, who had decided late in the race to defend his seat. Koho returned to the council in an unopposed race.

# 10 Most Wanted

Shelf-Stable Dairy



Soup



Tuna



Pasta



Vegetables



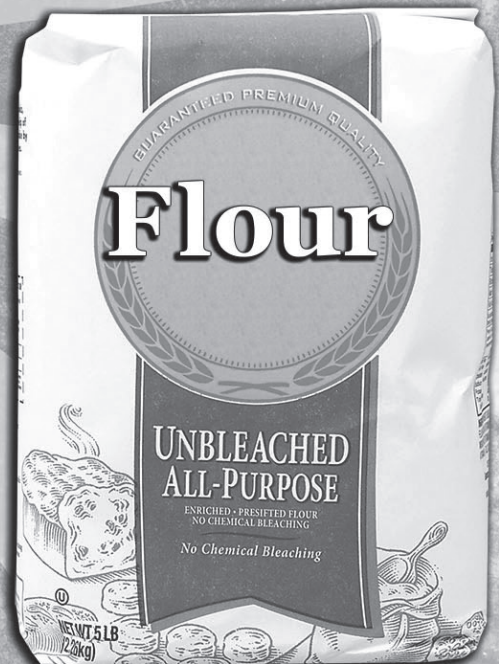
Peanut Butter



Fruit



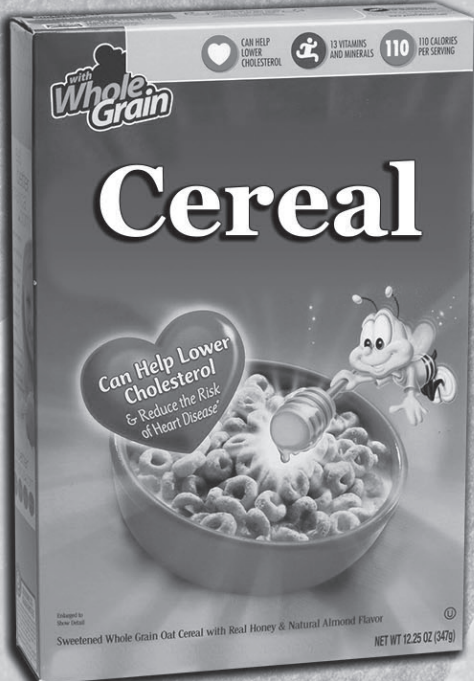
Flour



Tomato



Cereal



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