

Parsons unopposed in re-election bid

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Marlene Parsons' reasons for seeking a second term as a Keizer city councilor can be boiled down to two words: unfinished business.

"The biggest reason is that The Big Toy isn't finished, I want to be there to help guide it to completion with the federal grant we received," said Parsons, who will finish her first term in January. "River Road is also starting to perk up and I'm looking forward to the new

businesses that are popping up and helping with that transition. There's just a lot of unfinished work."

Parsons (formerly Marlene Quinn) was elected to the city council in 2012, the winner of a three-way contest. This time, she'll run unopposed for Position 3 on the council in the election November 8.

Parsons sees the future of River Road North as one of the larger issues the city will tackle in the near future. City officials are hoping turnaround in property owned by the city in Keizer Station will create funding to reinvest in River Road redevelopment.

"There's quite a few of the old houses still on River Road that could be redeveloped and set the sidewalks back. The landscaping is still looking pretty rough in parts and we want all of it to look nice," Parsons said.

Parsons is a proponent of plans to commemorate the total solar eclipse in Keizer in 2017 as a way to bring fresh eyes to the city.

"There will be a lot of people who have never been to Keizer before and, if they look around and see we have spaces available, it's a great time to be putting our best foot forward," she said.

Two of the top items on the city's agenda in the coming months will be funding

for additional public safety officers and parks services. City officials are in the process of collecting feedback on fees added to utility bills that would create dedicated funds for both services.

"That's going to be a contentious issue, but public safety is a major concern and I think people are starting to come around," said Parsons. "I think that if we do it gradually we will have success. We don't have to do the whole thing all at once, but if we increased \$2 a year over three years, we'll get to where we need to be," she said.

Finding funding to enhance both services is high on her list of personal priorities.

In addition to efforts already in the works, Parsons is continuing to work with Oregon state Rep. Bill Post to lobby the United States Postal Service to give Keizer a dedicated ZIP code. She stressed that the two are working jointly on the issue.

"We want to think about what's better for Keizer and the people of Keizer in the long run, and the demographics that are associated with ZIP codes are attractive to business," she said.

Keizer's current 97303 ZIP code includes portions of Salem and will frequently come up associated with Salem in Google searches.



Marlene Parsons

Homegrown premieres *The Guys* September 8 at Kroc Center

Keizer Homegrown Theatre debuts *The Guys* Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Kroc Center.

The play centers around the fallout of 9/11 and the lives of the firefighters the terrorist attack touched. Nick, played by Joe Botkin, a NYFD captain is struggling to write the eulogies for the memorials of his men lost in the collapse of the Twin Towers and is introduced to Joan, played by Nyla McCarthy, a New York editor who comes to his aid. It was written by Anne Nelson and directed by Linda Baker.

Dates and times are Sept. 8-10 and 15-17 at 7 p.m. There will also be a matinee showing on Sept. 11 at 4 p.m. The matinee showing will include a talk-back with the cast, director and audience following the performance.

The play will be performed at The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, 1865 Bill Frey Drive N.E. A special fundraiser will be held on 9/11, \$5 of each ticket sold will be donated to the Firefighters Cancer Support Network.



Submitted
Nyla McCarthy and Joe Botkin rehearse for Keizer Homegrown Theatre's production of *The Guys*.

port Network.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, and available at the door. There will be no reserved seating. All first responders can buy one ticket and get one ticket free for any

performance. Tickets can also be reserved via email at keizerhomegrown@gmail.com.

For more information go to www.facebook.com/kh-theatre or www.keizerhomegrowntheatre.org.

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Round and round

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The roundabout at the intersection of Chemawa Road Northeast and Verda Lane Northeast will open Friday, Sept. 2. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. to commemorate the completion of the project. The public is invited to attend.

Join the Movement

Over 670 people have taken the Marion County Master Recycler class to learn about waste reduction, recycling, composting, and consumption. Become part of the team!
masterrecycler.net

Marion County Master Recyclers

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Oregon State Credit Union invites you to get ready to shred

Join us for a free community Shred Day event and food drive:

Saturday, Sept 10
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Corner of Chemawa and River Road North, Keizer

Secure, convenient shredding
Bring up to three boxes of outdated documents to our Shred Day for hassle-free, no-cost shredding. Just drive up and drop your documents at the Keizer branch on September 10 until 1 p.m. or until the shred truck is full. Open to the community.

What to bring
Old checks, charge receipts, credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, monthly statements (financial and utility) and more.

Bring a nonperishable food item to donate to our food drive.

Visit oregonstatecu.com/shred-day for more information.

Oregon State Credit Union

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2016 FREE Summer Concert Series

Saturday, September 10th

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Please no outside food or beverages and no pets allowed inside the amphitheater
Gates open at 5:00 Shows at 6:30
At Keizer Rapids Park * 1900 Chemawa Rd. N www.kraorg.com