

WYDEN,

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Right to Know Before You Go Act, which would provide new tools for comparing colleges and universities on measures such as total cost, likelihood of graduating and potential earnings.

On the wildfire front, Wyden and Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) have introduced the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act that would end borrowing from fire prevention funds to fight ongoing blazes and leaving prevention efforts underfunded.

On healthcare, Wyden and Sen. Orrin Hatch introduced the Keeping Kids Insurance Dependable and Secure Act that would extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for five years. CHIP coverage provides specific funding for functional family therapy that has been proven to cut re-arrests in half and multi-systemic therapy, which has been shown to cut violent felony arrests by 75 percent.

About 70 area residents

turned out for the town hall held at McNary High School, many of them from Keizer. In an effort to cover as much of the meeting as possible, *Keizertimes* is presenting Wyden's mostly unedited answers on numerous topics

he talked about.

On the rising costs of college education:

"The first thing to do is not make things worse for working families. The House republican tax bill is hard on working families

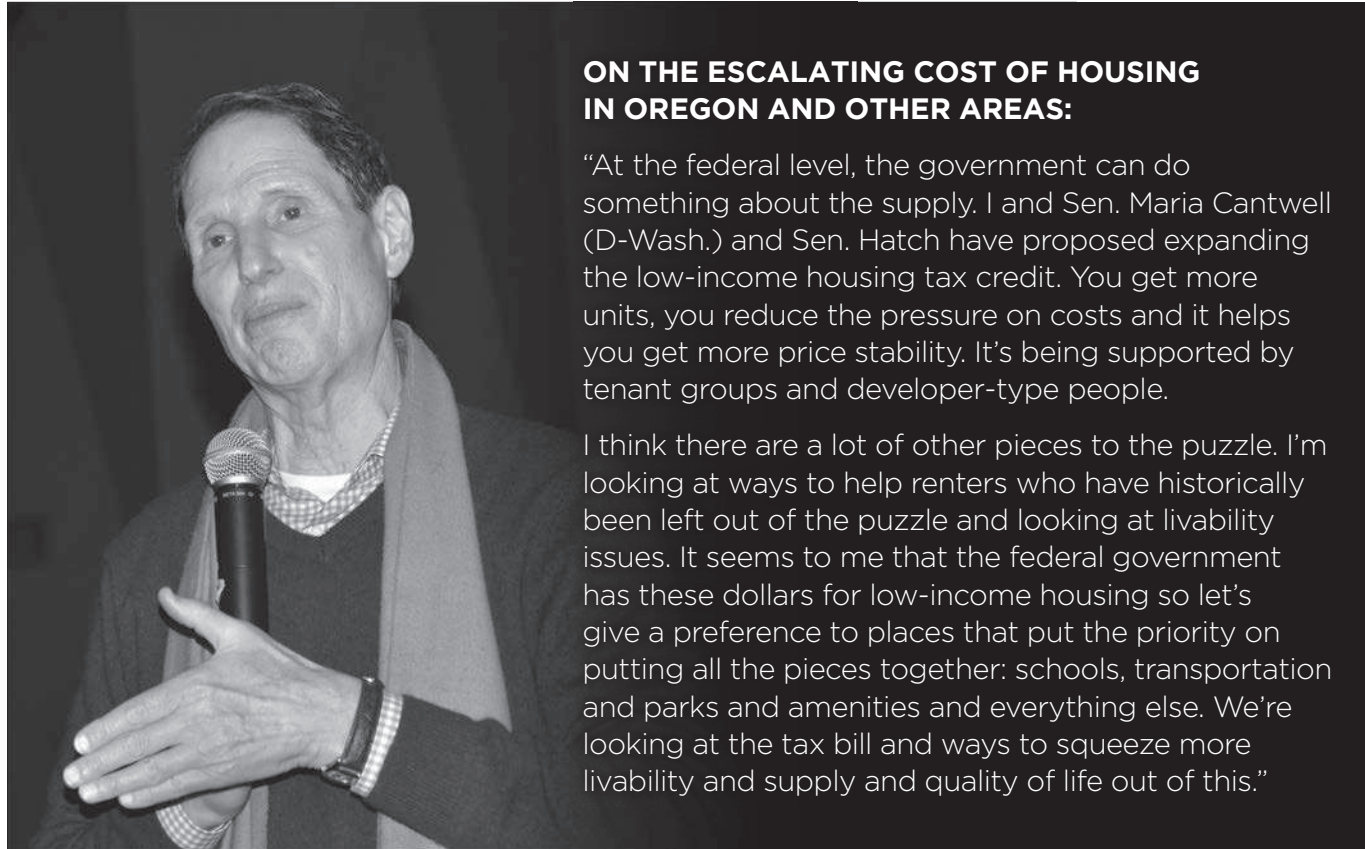
and students. If you get out of school with debt, you can deduct the interest you pay on that debt. Under the new proposal, you would no longer be able to deduct. If you are a multinational corporation shipping jobs

overseas and you rack up some debt doing that, you get a write-off. There have been a lot of people who have been told they are going to get manna from Heaven. The No. 1 example used this week was that a family that

makes \$59,000 would get 1,100 back. On a perfect day, that couple might get a little sliver, but if they have medical expenses or student expenses or they get hit by a wildfire, they are going into a hole. For older people who might rack up big medical bills, they will lose their medical deductions. There's going to be an effort to move this bill very fast and as the ranking democrat, I'm not going to stand by and let Grinch steal the middle class Christmas. I'm going to spend a whole lot of time between now and the end of the year trying to hold off a badly-flawed tax bill which basically gives the vast majority of the money to folks at the top and sticks it to middle class people."

On bringing jobs back to America:

"We have to get rid of tax deferral. There's about \$2.3 to \$3.1 trillion parked overseas because of flawed tax policies. It's an enormous sum and the reason for it is that you can park it over there and not pay any taxes. I would like a policy to repatriate that money and a significant portion of it to go toward transportation. Unless



ON THE ESCALATING COST OF HOUSING IN OREGON AND OTHER AREAS:

"At the federal level, the government can do something about the supply. I and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Sen. Hatch have proposed expanding the low-income housing tax credit. You get more units, you reduce the pressure on costs and it helps you get more price stability. It's being supported by tenant groups and developer-type people.

I think there are a lot of other pieces to the puzzle. I'm looking at ways to help renters who have historically been left out of the puzzle and looking at livability issues. It seems to me that the federal government has these dollars for low-income housing so let's give a preference to places that put the priority on putting all the pieces together: schools, transportation and parks and amenities and everything else. We're looking at the tax bill and ways to squeeze more livability and supply and quality of life out of this."

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From left: Maribel Mora-Martinez, Jill Tachell, Eric Wilborn, Richard Walsh, Naomi Krokenberger, June Glisson

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The firm is a member of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, and has been a regular supporter of Keizer community efforts including the Big Toy project. Richard Walsh served on the Keizer City Council for 10 years, and has participated on many city committees and task forces to help make Keizer a better place for everyone.

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