

GROWTH, continued from Page A1

consideration, but look at the larger development picture.

“Do we want development that encourages cars and parking or do we want development that encourages people to get out of their car? Do we want compact urban development? I think people have the myopic view that any development will lead to more traffic. It doesn't have to be a bad thing, it depends on how you set it up to grow,” DeBlasi said.

To expand the city limits, Keizer would have to get approval from state authorities to realign the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The UGB limits the amount of sprawl a city can have. Keizer's shares its UGB with Salem and it is the heart of any expansion talk.

“As far as the UGB, Keizer can only go north and there's a lot of arguments that could be made because it's agricultural. The area I think would be most ripe is the Perkins Road area and it's in another school district,” said Commissioner Hersch Sangster.

Aside from the school district issues, moving forward on

the issue would either mean coming to an agreement with Salem — which hasn't been forthcoming on the issue — and then approaching state authorities with an ask, or finding a way to separate the two municipalities. Regardless, expansion in either instance would mean redeveloping prime agricultural land and that might mean a long, uphill battle.

“When cities try bringing in farmland can take 10 years. The Legislature makes it difficult to bring in farm-zoned land and we will document what that takes as part of our report,” Bolen said

Several commissioners also touched on the issue of affordability. Crystal Wilson, one on the newest commissioners, said she and her family tried for a year to move into an apartment in Keizer before saving up to purchase a home.

“We pursued a rental twice and it didn't happen,” Wilson said. “I do love Keizer, but it is hard to get here. If you are looking to expand it would be reasonable to look at more affordable housing.”

Bolen said Keizer is out-of-sync with cities of similar size. Only about 30 percent of the housing options are multifamily units. Many urban areas of

the state are closer to 50 percent multifamily.

Wilson also lamented the lack of entertainment options and the ease of accessing different parts of the city.

“When you want to bring newer younger families in there has to be entertainment other than shopping or food,” she said. “I have heard and feel that there isn't a lot to do here. We bought a gym membership for my stepson, but we don't feel comfortable with him walking or riding his bike along River Road.”

Commissioner Matt Lawyer added that he would be priced out of his own neighborhood today and he only bought his home three years ago.

Part of the reason for the steep increase in housing prices in Keizer is that refugees from the Portland housing market are moving further and further away and then commuting to jobs in the metro area. City Councilor Marlene Parsons, the council liaison to the committee, said she and her husband are the only ones on her street that work locally.

“If we encourage industry or commercial development with family-wage, high-skilled jobs it will encourage people to work closer to home,” Parsons

said. “(Keizer) is a great place to live, but a hard place to work.”

Commissioner Garry Whalen said that before the UGB is expanded the city needs to take a long, hard look at how the current space is being used.

“We need to make a conscientious effort to redevelop areas of the city where the housing stock is significantly older and where a lot of improvements to the streets — sidewalks, curbs, drainage — have not happened yet,” Whalen said.

COFFEE, continued from Page A1

He also had an outstanding felony warrant stemming from a Polk County arrest.

Herriges has had run-ins with Marion County law enforcement officers dating back to 2002. Charges range from driving infractions to possession of methamphetamine to forgery.

Anyone having additional information about the crimes can contact Det. Tim Lathrop at 503-856-3481. Tips can also be emailed to Tips@keizer.org, individuals who provide times can remain anonymous.

ROB, continued from Page A1

robbed her and fled the business with an undisclosed amount of cash, a second male, also armed with a handgun, emerged from the back of the business, approached the victim and demanded money. After telling the second suspect she had already been robbed by the first suspect, the second man appeared to become confused and then fled the business.

The second suspect was described as a white male adult who was “skinny” approximately 5-foot-9, and he was also under 30 years old. He was wearing a dark coat, a light-colored baseball cap and he had a red bandana or handkerchief covering most of his face.

Police believe the two men were working together despite the lack of communication.

Keizer police officers responded to the area along with a K-9 unit from the Salem Police Department who conducted a search, but neither suspect was located.

At Shari's, two men pushed a manager to the ground before making off with one of the business' cash drawers on

Dec. 7.

The incident occurred about 8 p.m. and officers from the Keizer Police Department responded to the restaurant at 4998 River Road N.

Witnesses told police that two males entered the restaurant and pushed the manager to the ground before grabbing the drawer from a cash register and fleeing the business. The amount stolen was not disclosed.

Police are not yet releasing descriptions of the suspects and are continuing to investigate the case.

Using physical force to overcome the manager meant the incident was classified as a robbery instead of a theft.

Anyone having any information about the incident at Good Times is asked to contact Keizer Police Department Det. Ben Howden at 503-856-3525. Investigators ask anyone who resides or has a business with security or surveillance cameras in the immediate vicinity of the Good Times Grill to review their recordings to see if either suspect can be seen. Reference Keizer Police Department incident no. 17-5115 for the Good Times robbery or incident no. 17-5076 for the Shari's robbery.

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