

Task force gets peek at Keizer's 'stable' budget

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer Long Range Planning Task Force got a preview of what is to come Monday, March 12, as the city prepares for the annual budgeting sessions that will begin in earnest this May.

"We're in a stable place in terms of fiscal capacity. This is an opportunity for a mid-year glimpse and to make sure there aren't any surprises," said City Manager Chris Eppley.

Most of the surprises were contained in Finance Director Tim Wood's handout showing a higher rate of growth throughout the city. In some cases, that is a good thing, not so much in others.

Keizer's population grew by about 2.2 percent or 840 people in the past year, up from 1.4 percent in the prior year.

Property values continue to climb. The increase since the beginning of the fiscal year on city-owned property is 4.8 percent, about \$120,000 more than previous year. Those numbers are following a trend of more than 4 percent growth over the past four fiscal years.

Keizer is also employing more people than ever (101), largely the result of parks and police fees that have given city hall

additional funding capacity. Keizer Police Department is hiring five additional officers and two additional employees have been added to the Keizer parks department.

Mayor Cathy Clark acknowledged the huge shift in priorities since just a year ago.

"This is the first year, that I can remember, that we haven't had to ask: How are we going to hire more officers?" Clark said.

The news that hit the heaviest was increases in Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) contributions by the city. Rates are increasing between 19.5 and 40.4 percent depending on what PERS level individual employees qualify for.

"It's a lot to stomach, said Wood. "Just from the change in the rates, it will impact about our budget by about \$120,000."

Wood added that PERS portfolios had a banner 2017 as a result of stock market surges. Unfortunately, the impact of those increases on Keizer's budget probably won't be felt for five or six years.

Keizer residents can expect the usual increases in their water and stormwater bills, about 4 percent in both cases. For stormwater, that is an increase of \$6.60 for the year. Water increases are dependent on

usage.

The capital generated through stormwater increases is used to survey, repair and replace segments of the stormwater system. The city inherited the system from Marion County and efforts are underway to film and document the entire network. The water system is mature and already well-documented, said Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works Director.

"Most of the (water) money goes toward replacing water mains," Lawyer said.


Ron Bersin, a member of the task force, asked whether the city planned to follow through on a look into the subsidy by single-family residential customers of commercial and multi-family water use.

Wood said a cost-of-service analysis is being planned for 2020. A review of that type costs about \$40,000, he said.

The new parks and police fees were still new enough to warrant their own graphics. While still in the nascent stages, Wood said the roll out is proceeding even better than planned. However, additional maintenance and employees costs will mean the rates might need to be adjusted for police in 2022-23, while the parks rate can probably forego an adjustment until 2023-24.

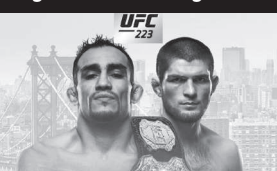
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SATURDAY, APRIL 7
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Live Fights at 5 pm – Tickets \$13
9 fights in all on the HUGE screen!
Reserved Seats Available Now Online

LIVE STAND UP COMEDY
Lights, Comedy, Laughs!
Saturday, April 14

KERMIT APIO AND JR BERARD will perform at 7pm and 9pm. Admission is only \$10. Ages 21 & over only. Reserved seating for this show. Purchase tickets at box office or at our website.

Saturday, APRIL 14, at 11:00 am
MOVIE: EARLY MAN [PG]
Sensory Sensitive Show ONLY \$4
Special showing for kids and adults with Autism or other sensory sensitivities.

Today in History

President Ronald Reagan is shot in the chest outside a Washington, D.C., hotel by John Hinckley Jr. The president was shot in the left lung, and the .22 caliber bullet just missed his heart.

— March 30, 1981

Food 4 Thought

"An obsession is where something will not leave your mind."
— Eric Clapton, born March 30, 1945

The Month Ahead

Friday, March 30

Avamere Court hosts a community Easter Egg Hunt at 3:30 p.m. Free for ages 6-10. In the second floor living room of Building 3 at 5210 River Road N.

Saturday, March 31

Easter Egg Hunt and Underwater Easter Egg Hunt at the Kroc Center, 1865 Bill Frey Drive NE. Regular hunt begins at 10 a.m., underwater hunt at 11 a.m. \$5.

Shangri-La's 4th Annual Accessible Egg Hunt, 11 a.m., at the Log house Gardens, 5655 Windsor Island Road N. Free for all ages for those with disabilities.

Awards presentation and artists' reception for the 27th annual Colored Pencil Society of America's Chapter 201 exhibit at Enid Joy Mount Gallery, 980 Chemawa Rd. NE. 2-4 p.m. keizerarts.com.

Keizer/Salem Area Seniors' Saturday Night Dance & Potluck. Featuring music by Lee Nicholas and Diane, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is \$5, 930 Plymouth Drive NE.

Easter egg hunt at The Village at Keizer Ridge, 2-3 p.m. Refreshments and a visit from the Easter Bunny. RSVP at activities@villageatkeizeridge.com

Cherry City Season 9, Bout 11: Dolls of Anarchy vs Thrill Kittens, 7 p.m. at The Mad House, 1335 Madison Street NE.

Sunday, April 1

Easter Brunch at The Oregon Garden, 10:30 to 3 p.m., in Silverton. Buffet options include Belgian waffles, artisan cheese, salad bar, carving station with tri-tip and baked ham, dessert bar, and more. Price: Adults - \$29.95 Seniors - \$25.95 Kids - \$13.95 Call for reservations: 503-874-2500.

Monday, April 2

Keizer City Council meeting, 7 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Tuesday, April 3

Town Hall with Sen. Kim Thatcher and State Rep. Bill Post hosted by Keizer Chamber of Commerce, 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the Keizer Fire Station Community Room. 661 Chemawa Road NE.

Future Freshman Night at McNary High School, 6 p.m. Incoming ninth graders, and their parents, are welcome to visit the school to hear from administrators and talk with representatives from athletics, clubs and other available programs.

Thursday, April 8

Southeast Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting, 6:30 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Saturday, April 7

Keizer Rotary Annual Benefit Raffle & Party, 5:30 to 9 p.m., social hour, auctions, dinner and entertainment. Tickets: \$50. Keizer Civic Center.

Sunday, April 8

Beginning Belly Dancing at Sacred Space, 211 Front St. NE, Salem. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$5 donation. For more information, contact Inge Hallman at 503-463-6438

Monday, April 9

Keizer City Council work session. 5:45 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Tuesday, April 10

Keizer Parks Advisory Board meeting, 6 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Thursday, April 8

Stormwater Advisory Committee meeting, 4 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Traffic Safety Committee meeting, 6 p.m. Keizer Civic Center.

Saturday, April 14

Cherry City Roller Derby Season 9, Bout 12: Panty Raiders vs Rydell Belles, 7 p.m. at The Mad House, 1335 Madison Street NE.

Saturday, April 27

Mid-Valley Literacy Center presents its annual Spotlight on Literacy Award Dinner, Creekside Golf Club 5-9 p.m.. Guest speaker is former governor Barbara Roberts. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$500 for a table. To purchase tickets visit midvalleyliteracycenter.org.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The City of Keizer will relax its restrictions on electronic message signs if the Keizer City Council adopts a raft of small but impactful changes approved by the Keizer Planning Commission at its meeting Wednesday, March 14.

If approved, all businesses and agencies with electronic signs could change their messaging every 15 seconds. The current code only allows for one change every 15 minutes and distinguishes between public and private agencies.

The details of the electronic message center (EMC) policy was one of two issues that dominated the meeting, the other significant portion was dedicated to rehasing plans for what to do about signage in windows.

Prior to last week's meeting, members of the commission had talked about a 60-second standard for EMCs, but further testimony by a representative of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (GAC) prompted another drop in the timing.

"We like that it reduces the current requirement," said Jonathan Thompson, speaking for the GAC. "We'd like to see it dropped even further to eight seconds. I don't know that you

would see a lot of changes. We don't see it as turning River Road into the Vegas strip."

Community Development Director Nate Brown urged caution in making drastic changes. While River Road may not have many EMCs right now, the price of investing in such technology will likely only get cheaper, Brown said.

A motion to drop the timing to eight seconds died in a 4-4 vote, but reducing the timing to every 15 seconds passed in a 4-2 vote. Commissioner Mike DeBlasi was absent during the meeting but submitted comments beforehand.

Commissioners cited the opportunity to engage the public through the EMCs as one reason for increasing message turnover. In 2017, the Keizer Police Department made effective use of EMCs and static readerboards along River Road North to draw attention to discussions the city had regarding a fee for police services.

The other main topic of the evening was window signs. At meetings in August and September 2017, members of the commission discussed some businesses use of in-window cling advertising that doubles as sun protection. At several businesses along River Road, and elsewhere, such signage takes up most of the windows. Ac-

ording to the existing code, the only signage allowed in windows are those that are hung or painted on the inside of the window. From a technical standpoint, the window clings have no legal establishment or prohibition.

When the notion of addressing window clings came up last year, some members of the commission advocated for reducing the allowable space to 50 percent of the window. The idea seemed to be aimed at reducing coverage of an entire wall of windows, but it was never explicitly stated as a per-window allowance. As a result, city staff came back with a proposal to reduce window cling allowances to 50 percent of the space in a single window.

When commissioners took a second look at the idea, they walked back on some of the previous conversation and pushed for 50 percent coverage of a business' entire "glazing," or window space.

Despite staff concerns about the aesthetics of wall-to-wall signage if business owners were given free-range, commissioners agreed to remove restric-

SKSB budget committee meets

By HERB SWETT
For the Keizertimes

Sheronne Blasi, a member of the Salem-Keizer School Board, was elected chairperson of the Salem-Keizer Public Schools budget committee March 20. Levi Herrera-Lopez was elected vice chairperson.

The committee consists of the seven board members and seven people from the community. Board members besides Blasi are Paul Kylo, Chuck Lee, Kathy Goss, Jim Green, Marty Heyen, and Jesse Lippold. Those from the community besides Herrera-Lopez are Marcia Atkinson, Mark Bateman, Rachel Dewey Thorsett, Kathleen Harder, Adam Kohler, and Virginia Stapleton.

Superintendent Christy Perry will deliver her budget message April 24. The next budget committee meeting will be May 8, and there will be an opportunity for public comment.

Holi in Salem

Experience the colors, music and flavors of Holi, the celebration of spring, without traveling to India noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 8, at the Oregon State Fairgrounds.

You might have seen color runs where powdered pigments fly. This is the cultural celebration that started it all, and everyone is invited to the

party.

The family-friendly event includes a Bollywood dance party with Miz La Fontaine and the Sundari Dance Group, small plates from India Palace, chai and lemonade, a color packet for throwing, parking and entry for \$15. Free for kids younger than five. Additional color packets are available for purchase. Come rain or shine because the fun is all indoors. Wear white clothes to maximize your color.

The Holi celebration is one of several cultural events organized by the Salem nonprofit INDUS, the Indo US Friendship Association.

For more information about INDUS or to purchase tickets, go to www.saleminidus.org/events/holi2018. If you have any questions, email indusoregon@gmail.com.



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THIS WEEK'S MOVIE TIMES

Early Man (PG) Sat 3:35, Sun 12:20

Greatest Showman (PG) Fri 12:10, 2:05, 5:20, Sat 12:20, 2:30, 4:25, Sun 11:45, 6:30

Post (PG-13) Fri 8:45, Sat 7:00, Sun 8:35

Star Wars: The Last Jedi (PG-13) Sat 5:25

Maze Runner: The Death Cure (PG-13) Fri 2:40, Sun 2:15

Darkest Hour (PG-13) Fri 4:25, 9:10, Sat 4:40, 8:20, Sun 7:15

Paddington 2 (PG) Fri 12:35, Sat 11:30, Sun 4:00

Ferdinand (PG) Fri 2:20, Sat 1:30, Sun 1:55

1517 To Paris (PG-13) Fri 6:50, Sat 9:10, Sun 4:55, 8:45

Jumanji (PG-13) Fri 11:45, 4:10, 6:30, 8:55, Sat 11:45, 2:05, 6:30, Sun 1:50, 4:10

Lady Bird (R) Fri 7:20, Sat 8:50, Sun 12:00, 6:50

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sudoku

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

7	8		1	9			4	
4	2	6				9		
		1			8			3
	7		9				6	
				7				
	6			4			2	
2			7			1		
		8				4	3	7
	5			3	1		8	9

looking back in the KT

5 YEARS AGO
White pride rally causes stir

A small group of people holding signs and posting banners held a sidewalk rally calling for a white pride at the entrance to Keizer Station March 23. The purpose of the rally was to mark White Pride Worldwide Day.

10 YEARS AGO
Obama appeals to Oregon

Presidential candidate Barack Obama swept through Oregon; stopping in Portland, Eugene, Salem, and Medford.

15 YEARS AGO
Sisters find mission in helping others

Keizerites Nicole and Lindsay Hunter share a passion for helping people and are taking those interests to great heights. Nicole left Monday to serve two years with the Peace Corps in Namibia, a country in south Africa, and Lindsay serves with the National Evangelical Team in Moree, a town in Australia.

20 YEARS AGO
Celtics win first two on diamond

The McNary baseball team got off to an impressive start last week - winnings its first two games of the season by a combined score of 18-6.

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