

Keizertimes

SECTION A

MAY 4, 2018

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Keizer's gentrified future?

City is becoming more affluent, older

By ERIC A HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Gentrification – the process by which urban or blighted areas are gradually reshaped to more middle-class tastes, and push out lower-income families – is generally thought of as a big city problem, but a draft report prepared to inform the revitalization of River Road North depicts something like gentrification already happening in Keizer.

The city has drafts of the current study, which focuses on River Road North posted on its website, www.keizer.org, but information included in the reports cover various aspects of the city as a whole and show how Keizer is becoming a more affluent place and a less attainable address than it was in the past.

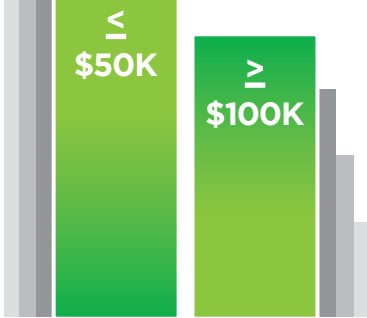
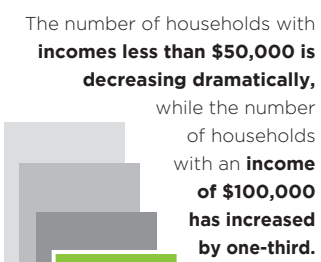
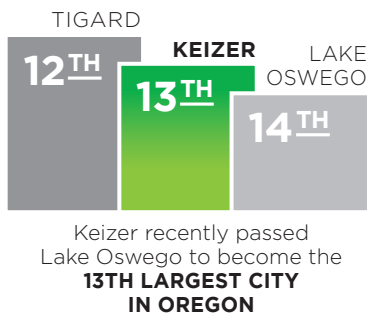
Keizer recently surpassed Lake Oswego to become Oregon's 13th most populous city. Its growth in the past 18 years is roughly equal to that experienced in Salem and Marion County as

a whole. However, Keizer has far outpaced all the surrounding areas in terms of income growth. The median income of a Keizer household is \$52,000 compared to \$43,500 in Salem and \$45,600 in Marion County. The data is based off the 2010 U.S. Census with updates using other inputs. Portland-based Otak and Angelo Planning Group are compiling the statistics.

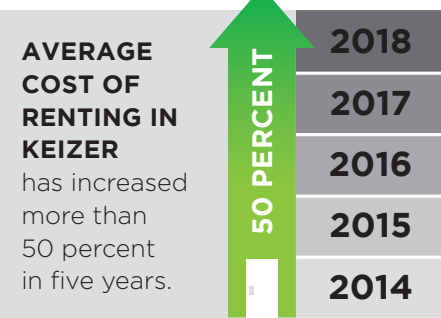
The number of households making less than \$25,000 has dropped 5 percent since 2000, and the number of even moderate-income households is decreasing steadily. In the past 18 years, the number of households making less than \$75,000 is declining rapidly while the growth of households making \$100,000 or more is steadily increasing. Both trends are projected to continue for at least the next five years.

The housing market is also being strained as a result of skewed growth. Lower-income families typically are only finding residences in the southeastern portions of the city where more rental properties are found. Coupled with meteoric rises in rental

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LOWER INCOME HOUSEHOLDS are concentrated in south and southeast Keizer where renter-occupied homes are most prevalent.



Herrera to run for 2nd council term

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Roland Herrera will be seeking another term in Position 4 on the Keizer City Council.

Herrera was first elected in 2014 and will be back on the ballot this November. City councilors serve four-year terms.

Aside from policy achievements like supporting a fee to add police officers, Herrera said his proudest moments have been inviting others into the fold of municipal government.

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Lessons in food will last a lifetime



Yusof Khodatars-Alcala, a seventh grader at Claggett Creek Middle, and principal Aaron Persons dump out a load of dirt from Highway Fuel into a bed in the school's new garden.

KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Jim Taylor's mom used to joke that he would grow up to be a singing chef.

With his latest endeavor, Taylor is on his way.

After a dozen years as a choir teacher at McNary High School, Taylor now teaches food classes at Claggett Creek Middle.

"I did all my singing first, now I'm a chef," said Taylor, who came to Claggett Creek last year to provide more elective opportunities for students. After teaching video production, drama and foods for a school year, Taylor now teaches a full load of food classes.

Food is a passion of Taylor's, particularity growing it.

Three years ago, he created a food forest at his home in

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Fox on the Fairway premieres



Wendy Braun lays a big kiss on Jordan Reid in a scene from *The Fox on the Fairway*, debuting at Keizer Homegrown Theatre on Friday, May 4.

KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

When Linda Baker, founder of Keizer Homegrown Theatre, read *The Fox on the Fairway*, a farce by Ken Ludwig, she knew just the man to direct it—2005 McNary graduate Kevin Strausbaugh.

"When I was at McNary, I did a bunch of directing classes and she (Baker) always said I had a natural talent for directing," Strausbaugh said. "She saw this show and how ridiculous and silly and farcical it is and knew that I would bring this show justice."

Strausbaugh calls Mel Brooks one of his biggest influences. "I'm a very eccentric person," Strausbaugh said. "I love this kind of humor. I actually have a few little bits in here that are from Mel Brooks movies. Anyone who is also a Mel Brooks fan, like myself, will get them, but if they don't, it's still funny."

The Fox on the Fairway opens Friday, May 4 at 7 p.m. at Keizer Homegrown Theatre, 980 Chemawa Rd. NE. with additional shows May 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. and May 6, 13 and 20 at 2 p.m.

"It's just a constant punch line, line after line after line of punch lines," Strausbaugh said.

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Lego thief busted

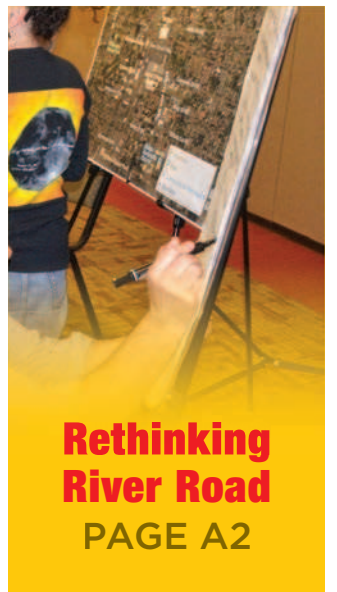
A suspected thief who burglarized a Lego-themed Keizer store was caught and arrested as he tried to sell the goods to another store in Oregon City later the same day.

Keizer police officers responded to an alarm at Bricks and Minifigs at 5:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24. The store is located at 3670 River Road N.

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Golfers qualify for state
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Rethinking River Road
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Band accolades
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Celts take Titans down a notch
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