

## Skate park upgrades draw crowd

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Chris Styler grew up in Salem-Keizer and was in high school when Carlson Skate Park opened. Unfortunately, even then, it didn't live up to his hopes and expectations.

"I was very excited in the beginning, but I was also a little disappointed. I know a lot of work and energy went into it, but I'd seen other skate parks and this just wasn't that," Styler said.

After moving away, Styler returned to the area five years ago and makes regular, almost daily, trips to Silverton and Newberg where the parks have a flow that Keizer and Salem's skate parks largely lack.

The city is hoping to remedy some of that pent up frustration by remodeling some of the most dilapidated areas of the park, the two bowls and the

halfpipe.

The owners of Dreamland Skate Parks, Mark and Danyel Scott, along with Keizer Parks Supervisor Robert Johnson, met with users of the parks on Wednesday, May 1, to discuss current plans and how they mesh with hopes of users. Almost 30 park users turned out to give feedback, making it was one of the largest gatherings for a city meeting in the past year.

Currently, the two bowls in the skate park are unused for the most part. Over time, the concrete at the lower portion of the walls — where riders would begin an ascent — has developed large cracks. There is essentially one path rider can take: down one wall, up and over the other side of the bowl and into the larger park.

One attendee at the meeting said the

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Keizer Parks Supervisor Robert Johnson (left) goes over planned upgrades with users of Carlson Skate Park at a public forum Wednesday, May 1.



### THE FORCE IS STRONG WITH THESE ONES

Stephanie and Brighton Hamil turned out with dozens of others at Free Comic Book Day on Saturday, May 4. For more photos see Page A4.

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

## What a city's budget reveals

### News and oddities arising from a 5-hour review

In a city like Keizer, where financial surpluses to do much of anything seem few and far between, budget committee meetings are spaces where the term "status quo" seems to echo endlessly as administrators join in a common refrain when they present their proposals.

Nevertheless, the meetings persisted over two days, April 30 and May 2, as the committee took a deep dive into the city's financial workings.

Keizertimes put the full pro-

posed budget up on its website, [www.keizertimes.com](http://www.keizertimes.com), but there were some takeaways as the meeting progressed that shed light into how the city works on a more granular level in departments ranging from human resources to law enforcement.

Here's some of what the committee and attendees learned:

#### Human resources

- The city has two human resources employees and most everything is being done by hand. This is because the budget doesn't have enough room for a \$15,000 human resources information system software

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## City, Rotary at impasse over rent

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

An issue of room rental is putting the city at odds with one of its most longstanding nonprofit groups.

In a letter to the Keizer City Council, the president of the Rotary Club of Keizer, AJ Nash, and the president of the Keizer Rotary Foundation, Marc Adams, take the city to

task over its insistence that it pay more to continue weekly usage of a conference room in the Keizer Civic Center.

"In the design phase, the Community Center was never intended to be a money-making enterprise for the city, and yet we find today it is ... and sadly, it seems, making money is the first priority," the letter

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## McNary cooks second to only one

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
Of the Keizertimes

The culinary team at McNary High School made up of Rebecca Hall, Dakota Smith, Madelyn Hurst and Isaac Mallery placed second at the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association Education Foundation ProStart Invitational on Saturday, March 18.

"It was a really big deal. We didn't think that we would place that well. We were excited to get second. It was a really cool moment," Hall said.

With the second place finish, these McNary students earned more than \$18,000 in scholarships from culinary schools across the country.

"Watching them grow and develop a passion for culinary arts has been really rewarding for me," McNary culinary instructor Wendy Bennett said. "I'm proud of each student. They were dedicated, took the feedback and the reward belongs to them. It was fun to

watch."

"This is something they will never forget for the rest of their life. They will think about it, they will talk about it, they will share it. It should be a very proud moment for them."

Along with Bennett, these McNary students were also instructed for months leading up to the competition by mentors Austin Stinson and Irina Bakun, who both bring a number of years in the culinary industry to the table.

"We're here to help them with execution and flavor," Stinson said.

The ProStart Invitational, which is similar to the Food Network show *Iron Chef*, requires students to create a unique and delicious three-course menu all in under an hour — which is one of the most difficult aspects of this competition.

"You definitely can't take your sweet time when you're

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Submitted McNary's culinary team of Isaac Mallery, Dakota Smith, Rebecca Hall and Madelyn Hurst took second place in the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association Education Foundation ProStart Invitational in March.



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Band members score medals  
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LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME  
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