

THIS IS IMPORTANT

Keizer is deciding how to grow. You should be part of the conversation.

You might have established your home in Keizer because no other place would do. You might have arrived in the city because circumstances led you here. You might even view Keizer as a way-point in bigger plans or dreams.

Whatever brought you to Keizer – and regardless of how long you are planning to stay – you should be part of the conversation about how Keizer will grow. There will be many opportunities to make your voice heard over the coming months and years, but a big one is slated for Wednesday, May 29, and Keizer residents shouldn't let it pass them by.

Beginning at 6 p.m., at the Keizer Civic Center, the city's planning department will host the final public input

meeting related to housing needs in the city.

The heart of the issue is this: Keizer is out of room to grow. The city cannot expand the city's boundaries without a lengthy and costly process that involves courting the regional partners and state officials. The other option is increasing the number of households within the current boundary.

Doing nothing may sound like an appealing option, but ask just about anyone paying rent in city limits how long they'll last under the current conditions – more than 50 percent of renters and a quarter of homeowners are paying more than a third of their income

in monthly rent. Nearly every family making less than \$35,000 annually in Keizer is rent-burdened in this way, and it includes elderly residents facing rising costs in manufactured home communities throughout the city as well as young residents trying to make a good start.

There are things the city can do to reclaim some space within the existing limits such as reducing parking requirements and lot sizes, allowing for tiny homes and doing what it can to encourage housing developers to meet needs in "the missing middle."

KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson

The missing middle, in terms of the current market, means more townhomes, triplexes, duplexes, quadplexes and

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OUR OPINION:

It's not sexy or scandalous, but it may be the most important conversation Keizer will have since declaring its independence almost 40 years ago.

Bethell unseats Lee on school board

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Danielle Bethell's bid to oust long-serving Salem-Keizer School Board director Chuck Lee appeared to have paid off according to unofficial results with all precincts accounted for in the election Tuesday, May 21.



D. Bethell

Bethell was leading with 52 percent of the vote to Chuck Lee's 45 percent in Zone 6. Bethell, who is also executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, will serve a four-year term beginning in July. Lee has served on the board since 2007.

In Zone 4, Satya Chandrigiri and David Salinas vied for the seat being vacated by Jim Green. Chandrigiri, who ran on a largely single-issue platform of suicide prevention, was leading Salinas with 51 percent

of the vote to 46 percent.

Marty Heyen, director for Zone 2, fended off challenger Raul Marquez. Heyen led in the unofficial results with 52 percent of the vote to Marquez's 45 percent.

Diane Watson retained her seat on the Chemeketa Community College Board of Directors in Zone 6. Watson faced a challenge from Art Witkowski. Watson won with 43 percent of the vote to Witkowski's 34 percent, but more than 22 percent of returned ballots didn't have a selection in this race.

Three Keizer Fire District board members – Chet Patterson, Greg Ego and Betty Hart – ran unopposed to retain their seats at the table.

Only slightly more than 19 percent of registered voters returned ballots in the election.

KeizerFest was here



KEIZERTIMES/Hunter C. Bomar

Kendra Jackson and her pal Sally make their way down River Road North as part of the Mayor's Pet Parade Saturday, May 18. For more photos from all of KeizerFEST, check out our four-page coverage starting on Page B1.

City, Rotary nearing accord on room rental

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Rotary Club of Keizer and city officials appear to be nearing a deal for continued use of a room inside the Keizer Civic Center to host the club's weekly meetings.

The Keizer City Council addressed the dispute at a meeting Monday, May 20. The council voted unanimously to approve a version of Rotary's preferred agreement, but negotiations are continuing.

In a letter sent to the council earlier this month, Rotary President AJ Nash and Rotary Foundation President Marc Adams took the city to task for demanding \$10,000 a year for continued use of civic center spaces.

"We do not believe we are properly using the funds entrusted to us by paying rent to the city for improvements ... which now primarily

benefit other government agencies," the letter stated.

As an alternative, Rotary was willing to pledge \$10,000 a year toward projects directly benefitting the city and 700 verifiable hours of community service.

In addition to the letter, Adams had since submitted an accounting of the financial donations since 2006. The figure was more than half-a-million dollars and covered projects ranging from park and school improvements to Keizer Police Department efforts and support of other local and international non-profits.

A memo prepared by City Attorney Shannon Johnson stated the Rotary proposal to use the rooms without direct payment could be seen as preferential treatment of Rotary over other non-profits

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Submitted

Eighteen McNary High School seniors received \$200 each in scholarship money from the Latino Action Committee.

Latino scholars honored

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

The second annual Latino Graduation Scholarship Celebration took place on Thursday, May 9 at Keizer City Hall with 18 students from McNary High School receiving scholarship recognition.

The recipients were: Ivan Alarcon, Rafael Garcia Andrade, Francisco Ivan Rios Berna, Jesus Lopez Bravo, Jose Luis Bravo Bravo, Javanie U. Bravo Bravo, Miguel Bravo, Osiris Alvarez Carlos, Yoelin Sanchez Chavira, Yobani Espinoza Diaz, Lorena Arellano Franco, Aracely Plata Gonzalez, Tania Ceja Marquez, Keith Cardoza Nolasco, Eduardo Guadalupe Gomez

Rodriguez, Karen Lozoya Salas, Jose Zamudio and Ugo Chavez.

Each student received \$200 in scholarship money from the Latino Action Committee (LAC); a group founded by Keizer City Councilor Roland Herrera, Rev. Jose Dominguez and other Latino leaders from Keizer.

While \$200 is by no means an astronomical amount, the LAC is happy with what the contribution represents and that there are people and businesses in the Keizer community that are willing to step up and making a difference for Latino students.

"Many years ago, I received a scholarship

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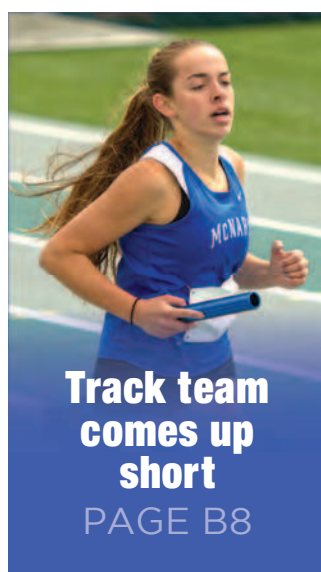
Lady Celts pull off a nail-biter
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Walking, riding and rolling at Kennedy
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Change is coming at MHS
PAGE A6



Track team comes up short
PAGE B8



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