



9 WINNERS ONLY

City will offer business grants, but disappointment will reign

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

There are roughly 250 businesses registered in the 97303 zip code according to the Oregon Secretary of State. Only nine of them will be selected to receive \$5,000 grants the city plans to offer to assist local business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At its meeting Monday, April 20, the Keizer City Council approved a plan to disburse \$45,000 in economic development funds it is receiving from Marion County as grants to support small businesses in the city. The plan is akin to the payroll protection loans being

offered federally by the Small Business Administration.

The process for applying for the grants and the qualifications for eligible businesses are still being hashed out by city officials.

City Manager Chris Eppley said offering the grants was one of a number of possibilities, but it quickly rose to the top of the list as city staff discussed how to use the money.

"It won't go a long way but it will help nine small businesses. The best use of these funds would be to get them back out into the community as soon as possible. Instead of creating

jobs we want to maintain jobs," Eppley said.

In January, prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and massive economic shutdowns, the city agreed to accept \$15,000 a year from Marion County over the next three years. Part of the agreement was determining how the money, which is coming from the Oregon Lottery, would be used. Numerous possibilities were mentioned, but all fell to the wayside in the wake of COVID-19's spread.

"There was no doubt in my mind that this was the best use for these resources.

We know that it is (business) retention and growth here at home that has the most impact," said Mayor Cathy Clark.

Eppley said the hard part would be getting the word out once the program parameters are established. He said the Keizer Chamber of Commerce would likely be a main outlet and floated the possibility of having the Chamber involved in deciding which businesses receive grants.

Councilor Roland Herrera cautioned against relying too heavily on the Chamber of Commerce.

Please see GRANTS, Page A8

Chicken broods can grow

Ducks added to the mix of backyard birds



By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Members of the Keizer City Council approved an increase to the number of backyard chickens permitted in Keizer, and added ducks to the mix, at its meeting Monday, April 20.

The decision to relax development code restraints on backyard fowl was not without its detractors however.

Councilor Marlene Parsons was the sole vote against it.

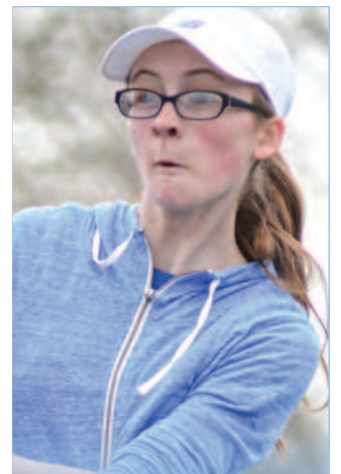
"I don't think we should raise the limit because they are not very neighbor friendly. I will not vote for six and I will not vote for ducks. Ducks quack and dogs bark and it's a constant nightmare," Parsons said.

In addition to raising the number of allowable birds, the action on the part of the council also did away with a permitting system. The permits were free and largely a way for city officials to gauge the interest in urban chicken ownership. Roosters are still banned.

A handful of enthusiasts turned out to advocate for raising the limits, and including ducks, at a Keizer Planning Commission in March.

"Duck eggs are bigger and more nutritious and they keep up production through the winter," said resident Erica Arcibal at the planning commission meeting. Adding drakes also isn't the noise problem that roosters can become while offering protection for the females, she added.

Please see BIRDS, Page A8



Tennis star shakes off loss of season

PAGE A12



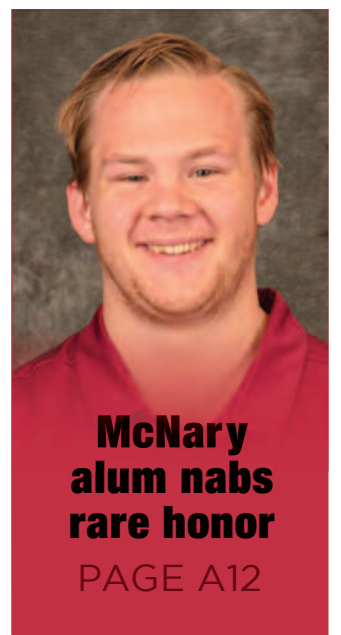
Celebrating despite a pandemic

PAGE A2



Latinx scholars recognized

PAGE A4



McNary alum nabs rare honor

PAGE A12

Keizertimes VOTER GUIDE

Next week, Keizer voters will begin receiving their ballots for the March elections and primaries. All elections matter and, rather than regurgitating talking points, Keizertimes is looking at the types of decisions made at each level of government as a reminder that each vote can have lasting effects.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Marion County's Board of Commissioners provides leadership on issues ranging from public health and safety to economic development and emergency preparedness to transportation and land management. Recent issues reviewed and taken by commissioners included establishing an emergency economic stimulus fund; setting priorities for maintaining Detroit Lake;

oversight of land use and urban growth boundaries; advocating for Marion County in the Oregon Legislature.

Candidates (Position 3): Danielle Bethell (Republican) and Dan Norton and Ashley Carson Cottingham (Democrats)

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Oregon's House of Representatives consists of 60 members that serve two-year terms. Keizer is in the 25th District. The House of Representatives duties include passing bills on public policy

matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes.

Candidates (25th District): Ramiro Navarro Jr. (Democrat) and Bill Post (Republican)

MARION COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR

Marion County Tax Assessor is a nonpartisan office responsible for assessing all properties in Marion County. This includes commercial, industrial, residential, farm, forest, manufactured structures and business personal property. Candidate: Tom Roling

LOCAL MEASURES

Marion County Fire District No. 1 is seeking

Please see GUIDE, Page A6

Distance learning shifts into full gear at schools

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

Salem-Keizer School District educators are just finishing up their second week of distance teaching. Even though it can be a daily challenge, elementary school teachers across Keizer are continuing to find ways to teach and interact with their young students.

"The biggest challenge I've had has been connecting with every family, individually. It was so worth it, though. The conversations we have had have been so important," said Hailee Young, a teacher at Forest Ridge Elementary.

Elementary teachers have been using Google Meet for face-to-face instruction, sending out invitations or finishing up their second week of distance teaching.

Classroom to their students to participate.

"Some of the highlights have been seeing the students' excitement to see and interact with each other on Google Meets, seeing the students' independence and creativity sprout up as they figure things out too, and the support and camaraderie with colleagues as we navigate this ship," said Cummings.

Please see SCHOOL, Page A8

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