

COUNCIL,

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playground on the site.

“Seeing that happen and how they use it, and still use it, for what they do was awesome and I hope it lasts them for a while,” Juran said.

If elected, Juran is most excited to continue work that began on growth strategies during his time on the planning commission. Keizer is out of space to grow and Juran was part of the group that oversaw and made recommendations on the potential ways Keizer might grow.

“As we were having those discussions, I was frustrated when it moved slowly, but there were times when we brought people into the meetings and got to hear perspectives from all over the map,” Juran said. “Even if I didn’t agree with someone’s perspective, those conversations helped us find the middle ground.”

A new development of River Road North, near Sonic Drive-In, will be the first to capitalize on some of the changes instituted during Ju-

ran’s time on the planning commission. The new space will incorporate both housing and commercial spaces, the first of its kind in Keizer.

Juran said he was excited to see it happening, but hopes that Keizer doesn’t change too quickly. He thinks that the city can continue to preserve its small town feel through slow expansion of the city’s Urban Growth Boundary to the north.

“My initial thinking is that we grow outward while building little community centers of business and recreation and that is what will preserve the small town feel,” he said.

Parsons said her largest accomplishments on the council were The Big Toy in Keizer Rapids Park, which was her first major assignment as a city councilor, and putting forth a new draft of the city charter to voters.

“I wanted to change the charter since I was first elected,” Parsons said, speaking of a section of the city’s founding document that marginalizes LGBTQ+ residents. She hopes that Keizer voters find

LET THE RACES BEGIN

When elections come around in November, three city councilors positions are up for grabs as well as that of Keizer’s Mayor. Councilors Marlene Parsons and Kim Freeman have already announced they will not be seeking additional terms in office. Councilor Laura Reid is up for re-election.

Candidates have until August 25 to file.

To qualify as a candidate, registrants must be registered voters in the City of Keizer and resided within the city for the 12 months preceding the election. Candidates must also collect 120 signatures of registered Keizer voters before being certified for the ballot.

Contact Tracy Davis at 503-856-3412 or via email at davist@keizer.org for additional information or for an election information packet.

it in their hearts to support the change when it arrives on ballots this November.

She said the hardest decisions were ones that she was legally required to support even when her heart leaned in other directions. She referenced a decision to allow land use changes which will likely lead to the cow pasture in the center of town being redeveloped as apartments.

“That was probably one of the hardest decisions because, at first, it got to voted down and we had good reason for it.

Then the owners came back with changes that addressed those concerns. Those decisions tear at your heart,” she said.

When her final term ends in January, Parsons plans to spend more time traveling and with her grandchildren, but she doesn’t plan on leaving Keizer for good.

“I would never move from this town. I have a passion to do everything for this town. Kyle has that same passion and it’s why I’m endorsing him,” she said.

Mrs. America hits all the right notes

By TJ REID
For the Keizertimes

I sincerely believe that social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook are some of the most harmful inventions of the 21st Century. Sure, they let you keep up with family and friends and make it easier to share clips of cats doing stupid things, but the detrimental aspects are legion as well—disinformation, depression-causing comparisons and cyberbullying, to name a few. The most insidious feature of social media, however, is the minimization of people and complicated issues into bite-sized bits. 280 characters are not enough to contain an entire person, nor can they convey every facet of a complicated issue. We are, simply put, reduced to the most rudimentary forms of the stances we take. But while social media has certainly exacerbated this practice, it by no means invented it—historians have done this too often as well. *Mrs. America*, a new FX miniseries and Hulu exclusive, attempts to subvert such oversimplified approaches by exploring one such complex issue, the 1970s strug-



Submitted
Cate Blanchett stars in the FX/Hulu drama leads the luminous female ensemble of *Mrs. America*.

gle to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, as thoroughly as it can. The resulting nine hours is a superbly acted explosion of style that is not only guaranteed to entertain, but also enlighten.

The perpetually incredible Cate Blanchett leads the equally wonderful ensemble as Phyllis Schlafly, famous conservative spokeswoman and the ERA’s staunchest opponent in the 1970s. Blanchett presents Schlafly as much more than her beliefs, however, and gives the real-life historical figure the nuance that all real-life peo-

ple deserve. When interviewed by *People Magazine*, Blanchett stated that her “function was not to judge [Schlafly], it was to place her as well roundly as [she] could, so that she could be a foil for the other people and that you get a sense of what it is to be a female in the 1970s or 2020.” In this, the entire cast succeeds, as there is not a single weak link in the acting to be found. Perhaps more importantly, the show itself does not pick sides—instead of taking the easy route of casting one group as the heroes and the

other group as the villains, it illustrates the good and bad on both sides of the issue and lets the viewer come to their own conclusions. This is important, as the topics explored are some that are still relevant and hotly debated today—gender roles, abortion, and the role of family in society, to name a few—and understanding opposing viewpoints is vital to civilized debate. Schlafly and Gloria Steinem (here played by Rose Byrne) are presented as more than 280 characters.

Accompanying the excellent acting is a whole lot of style. *Mrs. America* pops with vintage visuals and authentic ‘70s tunes, giving the admittedly slow-burn story a lot of personality. I would be a liar if I said that I understood all the political speak and maneuvering, but I was also never bored. For a mini-series all about politics, this is an impressive feat.

So log off of Facebook, put down your phone, and pick up your phone again to watch *Mrs. America*. Empowerment awaits.

Mrs. America is now available on Hulu.

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