

Being a citizen BEGINS WITH... *being informed*

INFORMATION IS WHAT WE DO

Local elections



For the first time in decades, Keizer had contested races in multiple races for city council.

We featured all the candidates in the paper when they registered to represent Keizer residents. As the election neared, we hosted 90-minute conversations with each pair of candidates.

No other media outlet offered such in-depth coverage of the races.

On election night, we were here to let you know who was leading and which races were too close to call.

There's no substitute for our paper when it comes to knowing the right questions to ask about the issues that affect everyday life in Keizer.

Compost facility eyes Keizer site

Late last fall, a Minnesota-based composting company asked the city to expand its development code to include compost facilities.

The recently-approved change will permit the city to continue the discussions regarding the in-container compost operation to continue. There is still a lot that needs to happen before setting up shop east of the Gubser neighborhood.

Aside from conforming

to all state regulations for such a facility and mitigating any concerns from the city, there will need to be a public meeting on the potential environmental impacts. There will also be numerous opportunities to voice support and opposition to the project at future planning commission and city council meetings.

Keizertimes will keep you posted on those opportunities and the newest developments.

NATIONAL NEWS, KEIZER IMPACTS

A court decision 3,000 miles away may appear insignificant at first, but two U.S. Supreme Court decisions had real impacts for Keizer residents last year.

In June the court ordered restoration of that a program benefiting undocumented people who arrived in America as children.

Keizer resident Itzel Hernandez, a dental assistant now volunteering at the same clinic she benefited from, took advantage of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and

spoke about what the decision meant for her and her peers.

"We were pretty sure we were going to lose everything. If we had lost, we were focused on having people contact their Congress members and forming emotional support groups. We also had lawyers working on new drafts of DACA so that it could continue."

Proving her worth in the United States is a revolving two-year process that could still come to an abrupt end, the court decision provided only a temporary reprieve.

A month later, members of the court potentially reversed the trajectory of Indian rights throughout the country.

The court determined that tribes had far broader rights related to criminal jurisdiction. It's a decision that could force Congress to reconsider honoring tribal rights promised in treaties.

Keizerite Dee Pigsley, chairman of the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz, spoke with us about what the decision meant to her and may mean

for the regional tribes.

"What it might do is speed up some of the other understandings of Indian law, tribal governments and tribal sovereignty," Pigsley said. "We have tribes in Oregon that have won their lawsuits and still don't have access to water. We want to decide what's good for us," said Pigsley, a active member of the tribal council going for almost three decades and leader of a group that successfully fought for recognition of the Siletz people after experiencing termination by federal authorities.

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