

# In the circle

The McNary High School annual wrestling camp drew about three dozen young wrestlers the past few weeks. About a third of the participants this year were girls.



A: Josie Wampler and Kate Endler.  
B: Cody Vancoevering and Moseley Willis.  
C: A pair of the youngest campers.  
D: Solomon Barela and Damian Rodriguez.  
E: Tia Vincent and Caylie Bemrose.



## WINCO, continued from Page A1

John Morgan, Keizer's first Community Development director who served in that capacity from 1990 to 1998, posted on Nov. 12 that pushing city leaders to lobby for a particular store isn't the correct approach. Morgan's post is a guest column on page A4 of this week's *Keizertimes*.

"If the people of Keizer want to influence the decision that's great," Morgan posted in part. "But the interest must be focused on the potential tenants, not on city hall. Continue to pour letters and phone calls into WinCo and other desirable retailers. Find out who owns the property and ask that person if and how the community can help."

Marion County Assessor's property records show Haggen Property North LLC bought the 40,821 square foot building at 5450 River Road North on May 1 for \$2,227,342.

Late last year, Haggen acquired a number of stores being sold by Albertsons and Safeway due to their merger. Haggen quickly went from 18 to 164 stores, but has since closed many of the new locations. Several Haggen properties were sold in auctions last week, including four in Oregon. However, the Keizer location was not one of them.

Keizer City Councilor Marlene Parsons, who has connections in the grocery industry, noted Albertsons could not buy back the Keizer location because it's within one mile of Safeway, which would be a violation of the Federal Trade Commission rules.

On Nov. 11, Keizer resident Pam Getty posted on Nextdoor about WinCo.

"Today I had the pleasure of meeting Steve Goddard, the CEO of WinCo Foods," Getty wrote. "He told me that WinCo very, very much wants to come to Keizer (in the Albertsons store). He said there are some political issues and that Albertsons may not want to give up the space. He told me they have been working on getting WinCo in Keizer for some

time. He also said it would be a smaller store. It would be the size of their beginning stores, but would have WinCo's great prices, bulk section, fresh meat, seafood, produce and all the other items, just smaller."

Getty did not return messages from the *Keizertimes* seeking comment.

Messages left for Goddard at WinCo headquarters were not returned, but company spokesperson Michael Read did talk.

"We don't have anything presently going in Keizer," Read said. "I'm not aware of any statement the company has made about coming. That's not to say it couldn't be possible down the road."

Read said the company looks at various factors before deciding to open a store somewhere.

"I can't say there is one particular thing we look at," he said. "There are a variety of economic and demographic things. The big thing is how close our nearest location is. We also look at the demographics of a community, traffic patterns, visibility, just dozens and dozens of factors. We continue to look at locations in states we currently do business in."

Read said most WinCo stores are 85,000 square feet and larger, though the company has recently opened smaller ones in the 55,000 to 60,000 square foot range. The company has converted previous Costcos and HomeBase locations.

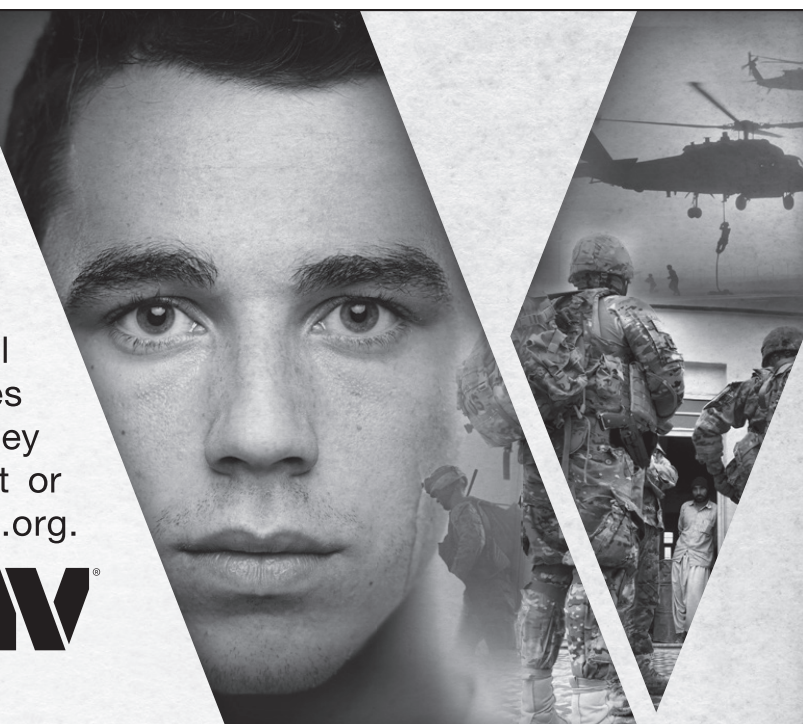
"We have certainly done plenty of that," Read said. "We mostly build our own stores, but if it's sufficient size, we have converted. We look at both opportunities."

Mayor Cathy Clark brought up the topic near the end of Monday's Keizer City Council meeting.

"The Haggen issue is in the courts, a clash of the titans," she said. "What's going to happen is in the courts. I encourage people to use social media to contact companies. Retailers are smart and are looking to see if people are interested. They will start counting up comments and realize Keizer is a good place to be. I know people are concerned. We'll see how this turns out."

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