

# Keizertimes

SECTION A

OCTOBER 7, 2016

\$1.00

## Saber-rattling Target sole holdout on hotel parking

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

When it comes to grievances about Keizer Station, parking availability rarely tops the list.

However, Target is now the sole holdout preventing the construction of a new hotel in the area and its issue is parking.

“The only reason Target has given for denying its approval is that they will not approve the amendment until they get an agreement on an amendment that contains their request of an additional 10,000 to 20,000 square feet of retail space,” said Mark O’Donnell, an attorney for Cheo Fong Tzeo, the owner of the property that has long been envisioned as a space for a hotel.

At issue is a condition of an Operation and Easement Agreement (OEA) that



Construction on a planned hotel at Keizer Station may be nearing a standstill unless Target agrees to an amendment allowing for fewer parking spaces.

would require the hotel to have 235 parking spaces. The language was adopted to cover the parking needed for retail space, but there were no exceptions made for a business as vastly different as a hotel. Even if

there were space available to accommodate the sky-high parking requirement, Keizer city code would forbid it. City officials could only approve 120 parking spaces. Tzeo is only requesting 83 parking spaces, or a little more than

one space per room in the hotel.

To alter the OEA allowing for fewer parking spaces, Target, Lowe’s and Donahue Schriber Realty Group all have to sign off on the changes.

Keizer Community Development Director Nate Brown was acting as an intermediary in July, but negotiations broke down and now O’Donnell is threatening a lawsuit to get Target to budge.

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## Council denies heritage designation

# Speaking for the tree

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

When Roberta Schmechel spotted one of her neighborhood trees in the Keizertimes last week, she felt compelled to speak on its behalf at a Keizer City Council meeting Monday, Oct. 3.

“We look up the street at this tree and it’s a beautiful, symmetrical tree,” Schmechel said. “When the leaves are off the other trees, that one is magnificent. I think it is worth being called a heritage tree.”

Schmechel wasn’t the only Lorax in the audience. Keizer resident Cathy Philbrick also pleaded the case for the protecting the tree.

“I really care deeply about the living environment. We have a tall eastern white pine in our yard that was causing trouble for a neighbor, but we worked together and consulted with an arborist

who was able to prune the tree without damaging it. This tree should be a heritage tree and I feel strongly it should be preserved.”

The owners of the tree applied to have the tree

“The tree didn’t choose the tax lot, the tax lot chose the tree, and the neighbor has the right to ensure their health and safety.”

— Cathy Clark, Keizer Mayor

designated as a heritage tree by the city council. The designation would have prevented any type of pruning or other significant change to the look of the tree without written permission of the city,

but the council unanimously denied the petition.

The giant sequoia on Dennis Lane Northeast is approximately 100 feet tall and has become a point of irritation for the neighbors of the owners. A significant portion of the tree is growing into their yard and depositing debris there.

The owners hoped to have the city designate it as a heritage tree to protect it from their neighbors’ hopes to prune it.

The tree fell short of meeting the criteria for such a designation, however.

“It’s not of botanical interest, was not a commemorative planting and is not historically significant,” said Bill Lawyer,



A giant sequoia on Dennis Lane North was denied heritage status by the Keizer City Council.

Keizer Public Works director.

As far as anyone on city staff could remember, it was the first time an application for a heritage tree designation was handed in to the city. Even then, the portion of city

ordinance which talks about heritage trees seemed to have been an afterthought to a more pressing issue concerning trees in the right-of-way.

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## Keizer man victim of fatal crash in Hillsboro

Speeding is believed to have been a factor in the death of a Keizer man in a head-on collision in Washington County Friday, Sept. 30.

According to officials with the Washington County Sheriff’s Office, Paul Douglas Ingraham II, 32, was driving a 2002 Mazda Protege and traveled across the center line colliding with a 2016 Toyota Highlander driven by Caryn Jean Jennings, 54, of Poulsboro, Wash. The crash occurred near the intersection of Southwest



Paul Ingraham and wife Erika

Schools Ferry Road and Southwest Rainbow Lane in Hillsboro.

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## Sheriffs and police chiefs: Defelonize drug possession

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

The movement to defelonize drug possession has garnered a pair of big-named allies.

In a joint statement released last week, members of the Oregon State Sheriffs’ Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) said they are willing to work with other justice system partners, the Oregon Legislature and the governor’s office to “craft a more thoughtful approach

to drug possession when it is the only crime committed.”

Currently, user-amount drug possession charges are a felony and the OSSA and OACP suggest making it a misdemeanor.

“Unfortunately, felony convictions in these cases also include unintended and collateral consequences including barriers to housing and employment and a disparate impact on minority communities,” the statement read.

Keizer Police Chief John Teague, in his role as first vice

president of the OACP, is one of two people taking the lead in the coming discussion. The other is Marion county Sheriff Jason Myers.

Teague said there are two answers to how such a change would affect Keizer police officers.

“On one hand, not much, because all our officers are doing is laying a charge on these individuals,” Teague said. “The other answer is that it will, we predict, keep

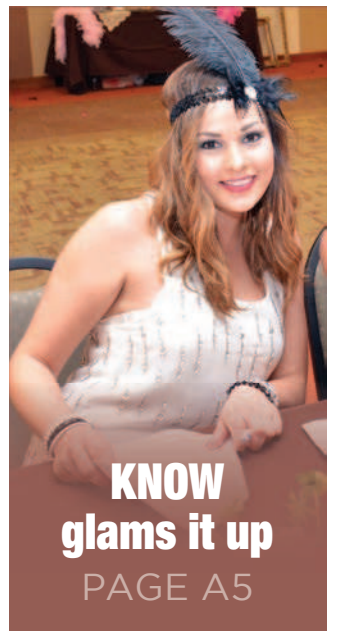
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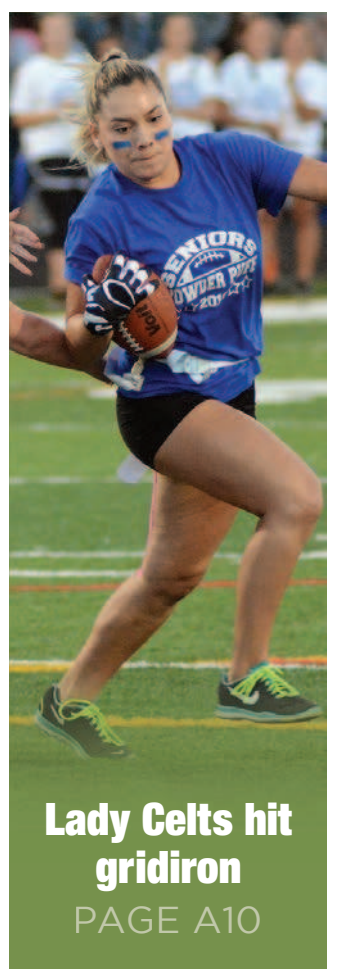
Attic fire on Sunset Avenue  
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SKSD nurses fare better than most  
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KNOW glams it up  
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Lady Celts hit gridiron  
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