Christopher was excited to get the award.

"My mom told me as a kid you're judged by the company you keep," she said. "I hope that's true. I hope that these people that are in front of you, the city council members that I've served with, and my fellow nominees, I hope I'm judged by those folks because there's none finer."

Other nominees for First Citizen were Rich Duncan, Richard Walsh, Don Conat and Mark Caillier. Other Merchant of the Year nominees were Keizertimes publisher Lyndon Zaitz, Scott and Kalynn White, Shelly Paddock and Larry Jackson. Other Service to Education nominees were JoAnne Beilke, Jim Taylor, Scott Coburn and John Honey.

A new addition this year was the opportunity for companies or organizations to sponsor one of the front tables and to recognize those making a difference and Rising to the Occasion, which was the theme for the banquet. There were 10 such tables.

Keizer Fire District recog-

nized retired fire board member Mike Hart, Oregon State Credit Union recognized Kevin and Danielle Dial, Sammies Pub recognized Keizer Thunder coach Jamie Gonzalez, Remodeling by Classic Homes recognized Lakepoint Community Church for its annual Servefest event, Chemeketa Community College recognized McNary High School's Rhonda Brattain, Walery's Premium Pizza honored the late Paul Koch, Saint Edward Catholic Church recognized Corky and Leitha Caron, Avamere recognized Margaret Murphy for her volunteering at Avamere Court, 1430 AM KYKN recognized the Distinguished Young Women of Keizer program and the Statesman Journal recognized the MHS basketball teams for raising funds to help classmate Payton Williams.

Mayor Cathy Clark, who took over Keizer's top spot from Christopher last month, ended the evening with a toast.

"I'm looking at a whole room of people who love Keizer," Clark said. "We will work diligently to serve you the way you serve each other."

Complete profiles of the main winners will be featured in upcoming issues of the Keizertimes.

Future for Keizer RadioShack unclear

By CRAIG MURPHY Of the Keizertimes

There were no clearance

sale banners on the outside. But speculation is heavy about the future of the Keizer RadioShack, as well as the chain overall.

According to a Bloomberg report Monday evening, RadioShack Corporation is preparing to shut down as part of a bankruptcy deal that would close about half of the stores and sell the other half to wireless carrier Sprint. A separate Bloomberg report stated Amazon could be looking at the retail spaces as well.

As of Tuesday, things didn't look much different at the Keizer RadioShack, located at 5410 River Road North in the Keizer Creekside Shopping Center. Unlike some RadioShack locations around the country, there were no big sale or going out of business banners on the windows.

Inside, there was plenty of open space and a number of empty shelves.

Katie Whelan, manager of the Keizer RadioShack, said she wasn't allowed to com-

ment on any of the speculation and referred the Keizertimes to the company's media relations people.

A RadioShack media relations spokesperson didn't have much information, ei-

"We don't have any specific information to share at this time regarding stores or markets," the spokesperson said in an e-mail. "We do not have any comments related to the ongoing speculation about the plans for the business as a whole."

The Texas-based retailer opened in 1921 and currently has about 4,000 stores, including the one in Keizer, three in Salem and one each in Woodburn and Silverton.

The future of the retailer has been hotly pondered for months as the brand has sought to reinvent itself numerous times in an attempt to stay relevant. Speculation ramped up Monday when the New York Stock Exchange suspended trading of RadioShack's stock immediately, after the company failed to submit a plan addressing its

Brackoshack

KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

There were no signs on the outside of the Keizer RadioShack on Tuesday morning to indicate things were out of the ordinary, but many shelves inside were bare.

lack of compliance with stock and 1980s thanks to CB ra-

exchange rules. According to one of the Bloomberg reports, Sprint is discussing the acquisition of 1,300 to 2,000 of RadioShack's 4,000-plus locations. RadioShack has lost 90 percent of its value during the past year, the report noted.

The company, which was in its heyday in the 1970s

HEARING

dios and the TRS-80 personal computer, has struggled in recent years.

According to Bloomberg, Amazon.com is interested in RadioShack retail locations as the online retail giant looks to bolster its brick-and-mortar operations, possibly using the stores as pickup and drop-off centers for online customers.

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