

Keizer RadioShack on closure list

New owners at Keizer Florist

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

A number of RadioShack stores across the country will indeed be closing, including the one in Keizer.

When asked last week by the *Keizertimes* about the rumored closures, both the store manager in Keizer and a company spokesperson declined having any knowledge of company plans.

“We don’t have any specific information to share at this time regarding stores or markets,” the spokesperson said in an e-mail Feb. 3. “We do not have any comments related to the ongoing speculation about the plans for the business as a whole.”

The company’s stance has changed since then.

The Texas-based company, started in 1921, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware on Feb. 5.

According to a news release from the company, RadioShack has signed an agreement with Standard General for the latter to acquire be-

tween 1,500 and 2,400 of the U.S. RadioShack stores. In turn, General Wireless has agreed to establish a “store within a store” Sprint mobile phone retail presence in up to 1,750 of the acquired stores, pending court approval.

RadioShack currently has about 4,000 company-owned stores in the U.S. Stores out-closed of this country are not covered by the agreement.

Company leaders announced 1,784 stores are expected to be closed by the end of March, with closures set to happen in three waves.

The Keizer store, located in the Keizer Creekside Shopping Center at 5410 River Road, is among the 17 Oregon stores making the list for closures. The Keizer store is part of the second wave, meaning it will close by Feb. 28, though an exact closing date has not been listed yet.

The RadioShack in Salem’s Lancaster Mall is among the 162 stores in the first wave, scheduled to be closed by Feb. 17. The second wave includes 986 stores. A third wave of stores, 636 in total, is



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Keizer’s RadioShack location is expected to close by the end of the month.

expected to be closed by the end of March.

The news saddened some shoppers at the Keizer RadioShack on Tuesday.

“I’m disappointed,” said Dorene Standish, a RadioShack shopper of 35 years. “They had served the community well.”

Doris Ditter is also a long-time shopper.

“I’m sorry to see it close,” she said. “People here are always helpful and they know what they’re talking about.

We’ve lived here for 30 years and this is where we come for help.”

In a FAQ on the company website, the company indicated it has asked the court to honor all returns and exchanges, as well as customer warranties.

“These steps are the culmination of a thorough process intended to drive maximum value for our stakeholders,” RadioShack CEO Joe Mag-nacca said in a statement.

Keizer couple Lisa and Rich Vasquez have bought Keizer Florist.

The new owners got the key to the shop on Feb. 5 but will not reopen the retail space again until March 2.

Lisa is an independent Information Technology consultant while her husband of 33 years, Rich, is retired and has been a Keizer Florist customer since 1996.

The new owners plan to hire back many of the previ-

ous employees who were let go on Christmas Eve.

The previous owner was Julie Wallace, who had taken over Keizer Florist in the fall of 2012. Lisa first heard about the opportunity via an ad on Craigslist.

Keizer Florist will continue to offer a variety of flowers, gifts, greeting cards, house plants and balloon bouquets. The shop will continue to be located at 631 Chemawa Road NE.

Taking pre-orders for Keizer book

The Keizer Heritage Museum is taking early orders for *Images of America: Keizer*, a book chronicling Keizer’s history through the early 1960s. The book will be published by Arcadia Publishing which has printed hundreds of similar books for small towns and downtowns across the country.

The Keizer book was headed up Tammy Wild as a project for the museum. Dozens of photographs from the museum’s collection as well as photos submitted by the public paint a picture of the history of Keizer from the late 19th century to the early 1960s. Though the book will not be available until April Keizerites can order copies early for \$20. Only 90 pre-sold books will be available. Contact the Keizer Heritage Museum at 503-393-9660 or visit the museum 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday or 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

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