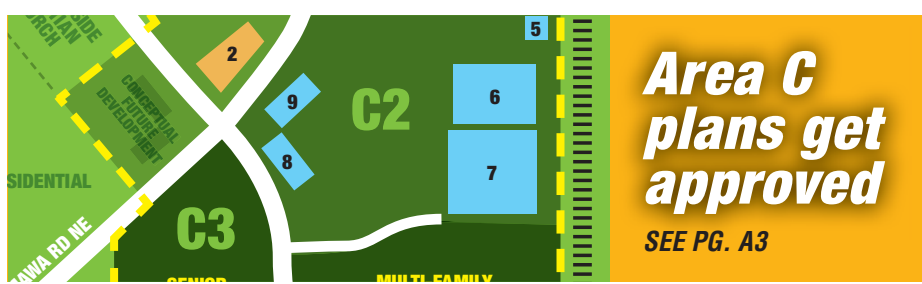


# Keizertimes



**Area C plans get approved**  
SEE PG. A3



**A look at McNary's CNN**  
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SECTION A

FEBRUARY 20, 2015

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## Keizer lawmakers react to resignation

inside

Egli discusses being Merchant of the Year (Page A5)

Keizer Florist to reopen soon (Page A6)

MHS wrestlers set for districts (Page A10)

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

As Gov. John Kitzhaber announced his resignation Feb. 13, state Sen. Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer) had her hands full.

With her 2-year-old grandson, that is.

Yes, as an Oregon governor resigned under pressure for the first time in state history, Thatcher wasn't at the capitol.

"I wasn't here on Friday," said Thatcher, who moved over to the Senate this year after 10 years in the House of Representatives. "The Senate doesn't hold meetings on Friday, so there was no reason to be here. Plus I had agreed to watch my grandson, so I was up to my eyeballs starting on Thursday night with a 2-year-old. I was not hanging onto every Facebook post and tweet."

Thatcher didn't know the news until seeing a message from her brother-in-law, at which point she checked the news.

Kitzhaber had come under increasing pressure from leaders on both sides of the aisle to resign, due to issues surrounding how fiancée Cylvia Hayes got state contracts as well as criminal investigations into Kitzhaber's actions.

"I have always had the deepest respect for the remarkable institution that is the Oregon Legislature; and

for the office of the governor," Kitzhaber's statement read in part. "And I cannot in good conscience continue to be the element that undermines it. I have always tried to do the right thing and now the right thing to do is to step aside."

At the same time, Kitzhaber displayed a defiance.

"I must also say that it is deeply troubling to me to realize that we have come to a place in the history of this great state of ours where a person can be charged, tried, convicted and sentenced by the media with no due process and no independent verification of the allegations involved," Kitzhaber said later. "But even more troubling — and on a very personal level as someone who has given 35 years of public service to Oregon — is that so many of my former allies in common cause have been willing to simply accept this judgment at its face value."

Secretary of State Kate Brown was sworn in as Oregon's new governor on Wednesday morning at the state capitol.

Rep. Bill Post (R-Keizer), who took over Thatcher's former seat, was in the capitol last week when the resignation news came out.

"Here's what I was struck by, being in this building: it was historic first of all," Post



Thatcher

said. "Wednesday through Friday the air was so thick you could cut it with a knife. I kept thinking, 'This is the term I was elected, when this event takes place?' Whether a person likes or doesn't like what the governor did, it was without a doubt a historic moment and those of us in the building will be forever imprinted on Oregon history. I am very hopeful that Gov. Kate Brown will be willing to work with both sides of the aisle to make Oregon a better place for all of us."

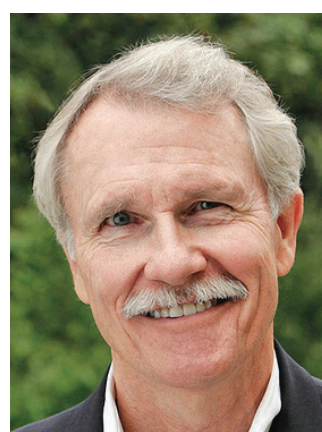
Thatcher noted things were business as normal — as much as could be, at least — last Thursday.

"On Thursday, the Senate president (Peter Courtney) told us he requested Kitzhaber to resign," Thatcher said. "He told us he had done that. There was a lengthy discus-



Post

sion about how it was distracting. It was sort of a distraction and a distraction with the media as well. Legislation like automatic voter registration was dwarfed, with concerns not brought up in the media. We're still holding meetings, but what's happening there is



Kitzhaber

being put on the backburner as far as letting the public know what's going on."

Speaking for herself, Thatcher said her nose was buried in her job, not the news.

Please see REACT, Page A7



## Abbas a merit finalist



McNary High School senior Zach Abbas was recently named a National Merit Finalist, one of just 15,000 such students around the country.

Submitted

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Of all the high school students in the country, McNary High School senior Zach Abbas has an honor few others can claim: National Merit Finalist.

"I wasn't expecting to be a semifinalist. I was completely blown away. Then hearing that I was a finalist ... it was just crazy," Abbas said.

Abbas qualified as a semifinalist based on his PSAT

scores as a junior, then submitted an application and essay to achieve his finalist status. He's one of 15,000 finalists in the U.S. — the only one from McNary — and about half of those will receive scholarships.

"Zack is not only very intelligent, he is one of the kindest, most compassionate, hardworking young men I have ever worked with," said Stephanie Hanson, Abbas's counselor at McNary.

Please see ABBAS, Page A7

## Cheaper surface means Big Toy budget trimmed

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Expenses for the Big Toy have been chopped by a quarter.

A motion was approved at the Feb. 10 Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to hold off on getting a top-line surface for the play structure at Keizer Rapids Park.

A similar motion was ap-

proved the week before at the Community Build Task Force meeting.

Plans now call for a poured-in rubber surface to be pursued for later, if grants can be secured. In place of the poured-in surface, engineered wood fiber is now the choice.

The impact on the budget is notable.

The Big Toy budget lists expenses as being \$416,509.80,

including \$105,000 for rubber surface materials.

Mark Caillier, general coordinator for the project scheduled to be built by community volunteers in a five-day span from June 10 to 14, said the \$105,000 was on top of \$45,000 already part of the \$191,119 listed for construction materials.

Please see BIG TOY, Page A7



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy  
Jim Nardi (right) handed over control of Uptown Music to Paul Elliott (left) last year and is preparing to leave the business at the end of the month.

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

You can tell Jim Nardi and Paul Elliott have worked in a music store a long time.

How? In normal conversations, music-related words just pop up, with no puns intended.

For example, here is Nardi

talking about Elliott's impact on Uptown Music over the years.

"He's been instrumental to our growth," Nardi said.

Last year Nardi sold the business he started in 1991 to Elliott. How does Elliott feel about that?

"I'm pretty jazzed about it,"

Elliott said.

Late last March Elliott took over as president of the business. Nardi stayed on board, helping his longtime employee — Elliott worked for Nardi for 17 years — get through the transition.

Please see UPTOWN, Page A9

## Moonrise, sunset...



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy  
On a recent sunny afternoon in Keizer, the moon was high in the sky over Keizer Station while, at the same time, a beautiful sunset could be seen in the other direction.

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