

Keizertimes

SECTION A

SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

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Pearson gets 40 years to life



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Brett Pearson (right), flanked by attorney John Storkel, tears up while listening to a family member speak during his sentencing hearing on Wednesday morning.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM – Keizer teenager Brett Angus Pearson was sentenced to life behind bars with the possibility of parole after 40 years on Wednesday for his involvement in a shooting that killed his mom and injured his dad.

Brett, who turns 19 on Oct. 7, pleaded guilty to several charges in the spring in connection to the March 5, 2014 shooting at his family's home. Marion County Circuit Court Judge Dale Penn read the sentence in a courtroom filled with family members, including Brett's father Wilfred "Bill" Pearson, who recovered from the shooting that left his

wife Michelle dead.

Brett was charged with aggravated murder, attempted murder with a firearm and conspiracy to commit aggravated murder.

Miller entered a guilty plea last week and had his sentencing later on Wednesday. He received the same sentence as Brett.

The main question for Brett Pearson was if Penn would have the 10 years for the attempted aggravated murder charge run concurrently or consecutive to the 30 years for the aggravated murder charge. Penn ultimately went with consecutive, meaning Brett won't be eligible for parole until after 40 years.

There was no additional time for the conspiracy charge, as it was merged into the attempted aggravated charge.

"This is a heavy sentence, but this is a heavy crime," Penn said to the teenager. "I hope as you leave the courtroom the words from your family members will continue to move through your head. I have no doubt your mother would forgive you if she were here today."

Deputy District Attorney Brendan Murphy said the real Brett Pearson was "the one that walks through his mother's blood without any emotion at all" and thus deserved the extra time.

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Keizer Chamber, others against transit payroll tax



Submitted
The Keizer Chamber of Commerce has been pushing against a proposed payroll tax to pay for improved transit service.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

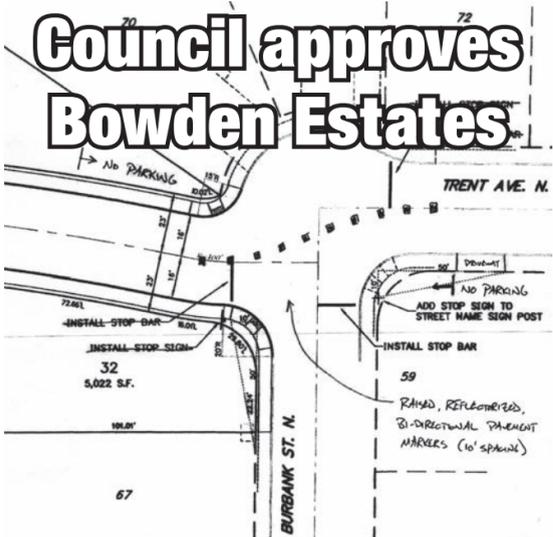
What's not to like about expanded local transit service? Well, the added cost, for one.

That is indeed the case with the Salem-Keizer Transit District's proposed business payroll tax, which will be on the Nov. 3 ballot. As proposed, the tax would levy .21 percent of a business' annual payroll which would bring in an estimated \$5 million a year. That revenue from Measure 24-388 would pay for weekend transit service, expanded evening

hours, holiday service and a student bus pass program.

Both the Salem and Keizer Chambers of Commerce have come out strongly against the tax. The Keizer Chamber is holding a Community Conversation on Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Keizer Quality Inn and Suites to discuss the issue. Chamber leadership is encouraging business owners to pick up "Stop the employer tax" signs and to visit www.stopemployertax.com.

Please see TAX, Page A11



Submitted
The revised intersection of Burbank Street and Trent Avenue.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Look at what's coming around the corner.

More houses – 32, to be exact – are coming after Keizer City Councilors reversed a Hearings Officer decision and approved plans for the houses to go in at Burbank Street and Trent Avenue.

Last month, Keizer Hearings Officer Cynthia Domas denied the plans submitted by Mark Farrow on behalf of Trademark Enterprises LLC for property owned by Robert Bowden and Doug Harner on behalf of JDC Homes LLC to build the homes on 5.73

acres of land.

The key reason for the denial last month was concerns about compromised sight lines at the intersection of Trent and Burbank.

Since then, an alternative design of the intersection was proposed that entailed adding a stop sign at Burbank Street, no parking along two sections of Trent Avenue at the intersection and raised reflective bi-directional placement markers through the intersection. The denial was appealed by Mark Grenz of Multi-Tech Engineering.

Please see BOWDEN, Page A11

Adopting with faith



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
The Krahn family of Keizer (from left: daughter Avery, father Matt, mother Breea and daughter Paisley) is looking forward to adopting a young boy from Ethiopia. The family still needs to raise about \$30,000 but has faith God will provide.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Avery and Paisley Drahn can't wait to meet their baby brother.

The 7- and 4-year-old sisters don't know exactly when the newest addition to the family is coming, what he'll look like or his name.

But they are still excited. "We're sharing bunk beds," Avery proclaimed with a big smile. "I'm going to be on the top one. We're going to play with him."

Paisley was likewise happy to hear the news.

"I was really excited," the younger and more shy sister said.

Parents Matt and Breea Drahn are excited as well. Even though there are obstacles, they cling to their faith.

"We've had friends who have adopted," Breea said. "It was something we didn't feel we were called to do. We

thought it was a great thing, but we didn't feel called in that particular area until a year ago. Matt and I wanted to have another child. I was sitting to read the Bible one day. God just broke me. I was emotional. I was almost grieved and upset."

Breea, 27, met with two close girlfriends who are also her accountability partners. They introduced her to the book "Kisses from Katie," about a woman who moved to Uganda and adopted 13 girls, following God's direction.

"It was so inspiring," Breea said. "I couldn't put the book down. I told my husband God really wanted us to adopt and maybe that was why I was broken."

Matt's reaction surprised her.

"For the first time ever, I said, 'Yeah, I think you're right about this,'" recalled Matt,

33. "God totally opened our hearts and placed such a burden for the fatherless."

The Drahn's are working through Christian organization America World Adoption Agency to adopt a boy between the ages of 2 and 5, if not younger. Ethiopia has the largest population of orphans in the world, with 4.6 million children needing homes. One in six children in Ethiopia die before the age of 5, while more than half of the children have stunted growth and development.

On average, an Ethiopian adoption costs between \$35,000 and \$40,000. The Drahn's have raised about \$10,000 so far and estimate they still need about \$30,000. A [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com/drahnadoption) account (<https://www.gofundme.com/drahnadoption>) has been set up, with \$445 raised as of Tuesday afternoon.

Please see ADOPT, Page A11

Willing to serve...



Bill Bowman (left) and Shawn Stevens help repair bicycles during the annual ServeFest put on by Lakepoint Community Church last Sunday, Sept. 20 at Keizer Civic Center. For more photos, see page A12 and also check out our gallery on Facebook.

KEIZERTIMES/
Andrew Jackson



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