

Meth dealer off hook in murder



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Brett Pearson speaks during his sentencing in front of Judge Dale Penn on Sept. 23.

Surprise! Haggen closes quietly



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
The Keizer Haggen closed last weekend; this is how the vacant store looked on Monday morning.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer Haggen was here only a short time, but it was a memorable time.

Not necessarily for the best of reasons, however.

In the span of several months, the Washington-based grocery chain went from 18 stores to announcing plans for 146 new stores (including Keizer), opening those stores, announcing the closing of most of those stores, getting into a bitter legal battle with Albertsons and finally announcing the chain will only keep 37 total stores.

The former Albertsons at 5450 River Road North in the Keizer Creekside Shopping Center was converted to a Haggen in less than 48 hours in late April.

In mid-August, however, the Keizer Haggen was one of

27 stores on a closure list. No final date was listed, with the store slated to close within 60 days. Company officials didn't respond to multiple requests from the *Keizertimes* for an exact date.

Apparently the date was last Sunday, Sept. 27. When the *Keizertimes* went by the store on Sept. 24, signs indicated the store was closing in four days. When a reporter stopped by the store again on Monday, Sept. 28, not only was the store closed, shelves were empty and some of the shelves were gone altogether.

Anthony Marin of Keizer was among those caught surprised by the closure. He stopped by Monday morning in hopes of getting great closeout deals, only to be greeted by a locked door.

Please see HAGGEN, Page A9

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

So what about the drug dealer?

Last week, Brett A. Pearson and friend Robert D. Miller II were sentenced to life in prison for the murder of Brett's mom Michelle and the attempted murder of his father, Wilfred "Bill" Pearson. The two teens will be eligible for parole after 40 years.

For some neighbors, however, a lingering question was left unanswered: what about the person who got the teens hooked on methamphetamine?

No one disputes the teens were on methamphetamine on the night of March 5, 2014. Both Brett and Miller acknowledged in court documents they had done meth leading up to the incident, in-

cluding on the night in question. Both acknowledge Michelle died of a single gunshot from Miller, who also fired multiple shots at Bill. Brett then picked up the gun and shot his father twice. Bill recovered from the shots.

Shortly after the *Keizertimes* posted a picture on Facebook of Brett Pearson at his Sept. 23 sentencing, neighbor Nancy Baldwin made a post.

"I have known him since he (was) 3 years old," Baldwin posted. "Sad for everyone. The main culprit behind all this was never arrested. And that hurts."

When asked who the main culprit was, Baldwin's son James posted it was "the meth dealer" who was not charged in the case.

"The reason he's not involved is because he turned

informant," James posted. "I hope (the Keizer Police Department) caught the bigger fish they were looking for."

In an interview Monday with the *Keizertimes*, Baldwin didn't name the meth dealer but believes a deal was made.

"He turned snitch and walked away," Baldwin said. "Why (the police) didn't follow up, I don't know."

Brendan Murphy, the Marion County Deputy District Attorney who tried the case, said there's a reason the dealer was never charged.

"There is no reason to think there is any other involvement from anybody else with criminal culpability in this case," Murphy said. "We have no reason to believe anyone else had knowledge of what was going to happen."

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By LYNDON ZAITZ
Of the Keizertimes

The telephone call came out of the blue.

Late one evening in September Mike Smedema received a call from the family that had bought his house elsewhere in Keizer. The caller said they had been visited by a Japanese man with a bicycle looking for the Smedema family.

The man was 21-year-old Masaki Takisawa. The Smedema family hosted him as an exchange student in 2012 as part of a program to help Japanese kids affected by the tsunami. The young man got to the Smedema's previous house

by memory. After a 2,900-mile bicycle ride. Across the United States. Alone.

The reunion of Masaki (who goes by Masa) and the Smedema family was emotional and joyous.

Masa wanted to find adventure and challenge himself and he wanted to see the United States. He decided to start his trek in Charleston, South Carolina and ride west. He chose to start on the east coast because for more than 100 years immigrants to America landed in the east and made their way westward.

Working part-time in his home town Iwate Prefecture on the northern end of

Honshu Island, Masa raised about \$5,000 for his six-week journey. He is also currently a university student studying to become a teacher.

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Stories We Like

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Saluting the people that make us proud of our community

capitolauto.com

Harboring Doubt



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Linda Baker as Sister Aloysius and Claire Clubb as Mrs. Muller in dress rehearsals for Keizer Homegrown Theatre's *Doubt*, which opens Oct. 9. See the full story on Page A5.

Man killed on Chemawa

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

A 68-year-old pedestrian was killed while attempting to cross Chemawa Road last Friday, Sept. 25.

Keizer resident James Alton was crossing Chemawa at Newberg Drive North when he was struck by an eastbound 1999 Ford Ranger pickup shortly after 7:30 a.m. Chemawa was closed from Delight Street to Crater Street for nearly three hours as law enforcement personnel investigated the incident.

The 49-year-old Salem female driving the Ranger was not arrested or charged by Keizer Police Department officers and fully cooperated with officers during the investigation.

"An older gentleman was crossing the road and walked right in front of the pickup,"



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
A 68-year-old Keizer man was killed Sept. 25 when he attempted to cross Chemawa Road and was struck by the pickup seen on the left.

Lt. Andrew Copeland with the KPD said from the scene. "There was nothing criminal in nature. The guy didn't make it."

Medics from the Keizer Fire District transported Alton to Salem Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

Assisting the KPD were personnel from the Marion County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police. Accord-

ing to Copeland, the driver of the Ranger indicated she did not see Alton as he crossed the road.

Items seen on the roadway after the incident included a shoe and a partially empty bottle of pop. The incident happened about a block west of the intersection of Delight and Chemawa, which has a signal and crosswalk.

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Area C math figured out
PAGE A2



Barbershop is all aces
PAGE A6



Masaki Takisawa (center) poses with the Smedema family: Gunner, 11, Jessica, Gage, 9 and Mike.

KEIZERTIMES/
Lyndon A. Zaitz



Lady Celts on a roll
PAGE A10

McKay upsets McNary
PAGE A11



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