

# Keizertimes

SECTION A

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# LIGHTS OUT!

## No more Christmas parade

By **CRAIG MURPHY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Last December marked the 25th year for the Festival of Lights Holiday Parade.

Turns out, it also marked the last parade.

Cheryl and Bob Mitchell, who have volunteered with the parade for 23 years and been in charge since 1999, announced Monday they are retiring and thus concluding the parade, which started in Salem in 1990 and moved to Keizer in 2011.

“We are very excited for our retirement,” said Cheryl Mitchell, the CEO of the parade. “Bob and I were in our late 30s and early 40s when

we started with this wonderful event. Now we are in our late 50s and early 60s. It's time for Bob and I to start enjoying our retirement. Our awesome Board of Directors and operations team have decided to pursue other passions of business and personal interests as well.”

Mitchell thanked all who have sponsored, viewed and participated in the parade.

“The parade has been a very special, magical and exciting event that has been bringing families, businesses and our non-profit community together for the past 25 years,” she

“We looked for someone and no one took it... We met with big and small companies.”

— Cheryl Mitchell  
CEO, Festival of Lights Holiday Parade

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The Festival of Lights Holiday Parade celebrated its 25th anniversary last year, but is now being disbanded. File photo

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## New Starbucks coming soon

By **CRAIG MURPHY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

A new Starbucks is coming to River Road in Keizer.

Yes, there is already a Starbucks at the corner of River and Chemawa Roads, in Schoolhouse Square.

This will take the place of that location.

The new location will be at 4943 River Road N, a small strip mall currently home to Keizer Computer Annex, Pronto Signs, Now & Then Mercantile, New Age Psychic Center and Oscar's Salon.

It's not known yet when the change will happen, but Keizer Computer Annex opened at its new location of 4120 River Road NE No. B last week.

“We're in the very early stages of relocating our store at 5001 River Road to 4943 River Road,” a Starbucks spokeswoman told the Keizertimes recently. Keizer City Manager Chris Eppley confirmed the move in a recent e-mail update.

“New Starbucks building at 4943 River Road,” Eppley wrote. “This will be a new location for the Starbucks currently in Schoolhouse Square as (they) are moving their location.”

Two permits associated



with the change were submitted in January. On Jan. 8, a permit calling for demolition of existing

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## Big Town Hero closing Keizer retail location

By **CRAIG MURPHY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

It's been a big year so far for Scott White and his family. In January, White won the Merchant of the Year award at the annual Keizer Chamber of Commerce First Citizens Award banquet for his family-run Big Town Hero Keizer location.

On Tuesday, White announced he is closing his Schoolhouse Square retail location at 5099 River Road N.

White's family has helped out at the restaurant he bought five years ago. Daughter Kalyann White has served as manager while also running K's Catering.

Big Town Hero and K's Catering will now combine their menus to offer an expanded catering service. The family is building a commercial kitchen at their home and will run the operations from there.

“We sat down as a family and reviewed our business plan, goals and upcoming challenges,” White said. “To include increases to minimum wage compensation and employee sick leave will have a significant impact on our bottom line. We feel like it will compromise our ability to provide the same level of service and quality products at the retail location.”

The River Road location will close on Friday, March 25 at 2 p.m. The family will be hosting a community day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day, serving free sandwiches.

Big Town Hero will continue to deliver individual lunches to businesses and schools from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, with 24 hours notice required for six or more lunches, sandwich platters or six-foot long subs.

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# Iron Glory

Keizer Public Arts Commission member Jessi Long watches as son Dylan, 4, studies the new Iron Glory sculpture in front of Copper Creek Mercantile Feb. 29. For more photos, please see page A3.

KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

## Seven Celtic scribes pen One Act Festival

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

McNary High School senior Morgan Hoag gives the perfect reason why anyone should make sure they're in the seats for the annual One Act Festival.

“It's the one time you can come to a McNary play and the playwright is going to be in the audience with you,” Hoag said.

Hoag is one of seven Celtic writers who produced a microplay for the festival that takes the stage March 10, 11 and 12. Curtain time is 7 p.m. and tickets are \$5.

In addition to being

completely written by students for the first time, each one act is directed by another McNary student and features freshmen and sophomore actors. Each of the plays also ties into the drama department's theme for the year: the many faces of love.

Seniors Alex deMeurers and Krystin Morrell opted to take on two roles in the production. Each wrote one of the one acts and each is directing the play written by

the other. deMeurers' play is titled *The Little Things*.

“It's a play about a couple at a coffee shop and the light fades up on them at different times in their relationship. It's basically about watching them fall apart,” he said.

deMeurers enrolled in McNary's playwriting class the past two years and said he found it easier to get words on the page this time around.

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RIGHT: Playwrights Alex deMeurers, Raina Hickman, Jaida Watson, David Henderson, Krystin Morrell, Abrianna Feinauer and Morgan Hoag all wrote one acts for McNary's upcoming festival.

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald



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