

# VIDEO: 'I like Keizer. Keizer's been good to me.'

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location but could go as low as about 4,000 square feet and still have room for both the videos as well as the yogurt machines.

"The plan was they were tearing my building down," Ricker said. "So I would have to move. They talked about moving me to a back place (in Schoolhouse Square), but there's less space there. I don't know what I will do. I've looked at other places, but they are not big enough for LimeBerry and the video store. There's not enough room for all the stuff we'd need to do."

According to Ricker, the rent amount per square foot of the proposed new building

shell would be too much for him to pay.

"I got a good deal with this building," he said. "It was empty for a couple of years. I put in a bathroom and then the plumbing for LimeBerry."

Ricker said the new building shell plans were a surprise.

"It was a shock," he said. "It was just a shock the place was sold. They didn't inform us. I did realize the landlord had plans for a new building, but that shocked us. I had three more one-year options. I had planned to do those and hopefully more. I realize (Bloch) has to cover costs, but I'm being forced out."

"I'm not happy about it," Ricker added. "I'm extremely

worried. If we weren't here, the nearest video store would be in Woodburn."

If possible, Ricker would like to find a new location in Keizer with room for videos as well as LimeBerry.

"I don't know if we'd be viable if we were just video," he said. "LimeBerry covers us in the summer months when video is down, and video covers us in the winter when LimeBerry is down."

Ricker has been involved with various community events and wants to continue supporting schools and others.

"I'm a little scared," he said. "I like Keizer. Keizer's been good to me. I don't want to move from here. Hopefully we won't go."



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

The five businesses located in the small strip mall next to Nancy's Burgers and Fries along River Road had to come up with alternative plans recently, as the current building is being torn down and a new Starbucks is being put up. Business owners say they were told they had to be out by Monday, April 4.

## Keizer Rotary seeks host families

After a four year hiatus, the Rotary Club of Keizer is once again starting up its Youth Exchange program.

There will be an informational meeting for interested students and potential host families on April 7 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the McNary High School library.

Beginning fall 2016, the Rotary Club of Keizer and the community will host a foreign exchange student during the school year. Three host families are needed. This provides the student with a variety of home experiences and requires less of a commitment for each family. You need not have children of high school age or even children at home to host.

All host families are interviewed and everyone 18 and

older must pass a background check. These are volunteer positions, though a stipend is provided by the club to cover a student's cell phone and lunch expenses.

As former club president Vickie Jackson noted, "I hosted for six years when my kids were in elementary school. It was a great experience for my kids and the exchange students."

This spring Rotary members are recruiting a Keizer freshman student to live and attend school abroad in 2017. Outbound Keizer exchange students apply in their freshman year to travel abroad in their junior year of high school. Students attend three Rotary training events over their sophomore year to prepare them for the 10 months away from

home. Expenses for an out-bound student's family range from \$2,500 to \$4,000 which covers training, health insurance and airfare.

More than 80 countries and 8,000 students each year participate in the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program, which is administered at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary clubs. Participating as a student or host family in Rotary Youth Exchange could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Come to the informational meeting, go to <http://www.youthexchange5100.org/> or contact Chuck Fisher at [chuckfisher@comcast.net](mailto:chuckfisher@comcast.net) or Pam Vorachek at [Pam.vorachek@antiquepowerland.com](mailto:Pam.vorachek@antiquepowerland.com).

## DISPLACE, continued from Page A1

"Eventually we'll be reopening in the pretty near future," she said. "It would be nice to still be on the main road. I'm not sure if we will be able to find a place in Keizer."

Gonzalo Cervantes with Pronto Signs of Oregon knows he won't be staying in Keizer, though he hopes to return down the road. Cervantes has signed a year-long lease to be at 1665 Silverton Road NE in Salem.

"We are hoping to be there April 1," Cervantes said last week. "We will close here March 31. We might finish the week out here, but we have until April 4 to be out of here."

Cervantes said he got a call about the changes in mid-

February and never saw the letter he was supposedly sent in early February. The Keizer lease had started on April 1, 2004.

"This was a 12-year gift," Cervantes said. "Business was good. We can't complain."

Like others, Cervantes was caught off-guard by the news of the change.

"I was very surprised," he said. "It has affected my life. I've lived here 30 years and consider myself part of this community. Being forced to move like this...wow."

Cervantes originally thought he had a new space in the same business complex as Keizer Computer Annex, with a signed lease and a signed check, only to be told he couldn't have the space. That led him to finding a place in Salem.

"I hope to be back in

Keizer," he said. "We hope to build on a property in Keizer within the year."

An employee at Oscar's Salon said the business would be closing on April 4, with hopes of reopening elsewhere in the future.

Employees at New Age Psychic Center could not be reached, but the business posted on Facebook March 14 the center will be relocating to 329 State Street in Salem on April 5.

"I just want to say thank you to everyone and thank you to the city of Keizer for the love and support you have all shown the business over the years," the post read in part. "We look forward to seeing you soon at our new location in downtown Salem and we will be returning to Keizer very soon with a new location!"

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